



San Juan Unified School District Curriculum and Standards Committee

☒ Mariya Babychuk*
☒ Maggie Cooper
☒ Patsy McGavock**
☐ Veronica Schwalbach
☐ Catrayel Wood

☒ Taylor Brown
☐ Kathleen Gately
☐ Mindy McIntyre
☐ Open
☒ Susan Zimmer

☒ Vincenzo Cerruti
☒ Georgia Klostrakis
☐ Open
☐ Open

We believe that:

- Every person is unique and has equal worth.
- Everyone can and will learn.
- People learn in different ways and at varied paces.
- Education is the shared responsibility of students, families, teachers, staff, and community.
- Quality education expands opportunities throughout a person's life.
- Challenging people to meet high expectations leads to exceptional learning and remarkable results.
- Nurturing relationships and healthy environments are necessary for individuals to thrive.
- Diversity is a valuable asset that strengthens and enriches our community.
- Personal development and community well-being depend on individual responsibility.
- Everyone benefits when people willingly contribute to the well-being of others.
- Honesty and integrity are essential to build trusting relationships.

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
District Office Board Room at 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The September 17 meeting was called to order by the chair, Mariya Babychuk at 6:34pm. Each committee member introduced themselves and shared their favorite quiet activity.

II. Visitors' Comments

Caroline Digman, a parent and a second grade teacher, introduced San Juan Reads & Writes, a new literacy-focused club.

III. Business Items:

Literacy Resolution (R/D)

Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum Innovation, Nicole Kukral, provided an overview of the Literacy Resolution for San Juan Unified. She shared that the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) initiated a similar resolution in September 2024, which sparked interest from the San Juan Unified Board of Education to adopt one as well. In collaboration with labor partners, district leaders developed a resolution that will be presented to the Board on September 23, 2025. The resolution highlights the district's ongoing efforts to support literacy, including the promotion of the science of reading, effective assessment practices, and the use of high-quality instructional materials. Board approval strengthens the district's ability to engage in future discussions about literacy funding. The district will also work on strategies to communicate the resolution to the public and ensure that its language is accessible and easily understood by all. In addition, there was a robust discussion during the committee meeting around the idea that the resolution is a starting point with supporting literacy and that more work needs to be done.

English Language Arts Update (R/D)

Program Specialist for English Language Arts and History Social Science, Heather Brandt, provided an update on English Language Arts. A few of the highlights of her presentation include the implementation of LETRS, a professional development course for teachers to teach early readers, focusing on Volume 1, which emphasize decoding skills. Data indicates that students taught by LETRS-trained educators show notable improvements in reading proficiency. Since 2016, the district has adopted various reading materials, and schools such as Sierra Oaks and Coyle are currently piloting new resources. Dyer-Kelly served as a model for

A = Action; R = Report; D = Discussion

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Howe's reading program, which is now being considered for district-wide expansion. Howe is in the second year of a three-year grant, initially funded by Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) grant money. Assessment tools such as mCLASS and DIBELS for grades K-2 are being used to monitor student progress. Grades 3–5 may use paper versions of DIBELS, while some sites have adopted other materials to support these students. Over 500 teachers have been trained in mCLASS, covering approximately 95% of K–2 educators. The committee is seeking more information on student retention, which is a frequent concern among the public. Currently, retention decisions are discussed during parent-teacher conferences.

Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2025 (A)

A change was made to the September 3 minutes regarding the spelling of Ms. Babiychuk's last name in Item V, paragraph 2. A motion to approve the September 3 minutes with the change was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Zimmer. The motion passed with 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. Chairperson's Comments/Committee Business (R)

The Chair, Mariya Babiychuk, thanked everyone for the relaxed discussion today. She suggested that future agendas might allow additional time for addressing hot topics.

V. Reports to be Heard (R)

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, expressed Board Liaison, Pam Costa's regret for not being able to attend the meeting today. She misses everyone.

Cabinet Liaison, Amberlee Townsend-Snider – no report today.

VI. Future Agenda Items (D)

The committee raised several questions regarding upcoming agenda items. Ms. Kukral will consult with Chief of Staff, Trent Allen, to explore ways to structure committee meetings for greater effectiveness and efficiency and provide additional resources for the committee.

- What is the actual impact of these discussions?
- What more can we do to be an advisory to the board and the district?
- What type of questions do we ask after a report?
- What processes can be streamlined to be a more effective group with the new & returning committee members?
- What is the C&S Committee role in curriculum?

Questions about Ethnic Studies courses were addressed. These courses, last reviewed in May, will not appear on future agendas. Some approved courses will have new curriculum, while elective courses will not have adopted curriculum. Report 1s are scheduled for November, when the PLI team will present pending curriculum adoptions, the adoption process, piloted materials, and community involvement.

VII. Adjournment

At 8:11 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ms. Babiychuk.

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