



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
☒ Roxanne Stellmacher
☒ Susan Zimmer

☐ Vincenzo Cerruti
☒ Georgia Klostrakis
☐ Diana Noori
☒ Anmarie Medin

*Chair, **Co-Chair

Our Core Values:

- **Belonging:** We create a community that cultivates welcoming and inclusive environments with genuine respect for our diversity of cultures, identities and abilities.
- **Relevance:** We design experiences and environments where each learner can explore and apply skills and knowledge that align with evolving careers and workplaces.
- **Voice:** We honor and affirm all voices of our school community and encourage them to share their perspectives to help improve and shape what we do and how we do it.
- **Social and Emotional Intelligence:** We build a culture that teaches, models and applies social and emotional intelligence in all interactions with each other.
- **Resilience:** We create nurturing schools and programs that inspire each learner to continue to persevere, gain strength and develop confidence to excel beyond challenges.
- **Championing:** We support and advocate for those in our San Juan Unified community who are disproportionately impacted or marginalized by circumstances beyond their control.
- **Innovation:** Embracing and encouraging creative thinking and learning environments that transform ideas into actionable solutions.

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

District Office Boardroom at 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The March 4 meeting was called to order by the chair, Mariya Babychuk at 6:34pm. Each committee member shared if they were a student again, would they prefer homework or no homework.

II. Visitors' Comments

The March 4 meeting did not have any visitors.

III. Business Items:

New Courses (R/D/A)

Staff Liaison Nicole Kukral presented the new course approval process, including a newly added community-feedback component. Initial feedback centered on the Superintendent's Parental Advisory Committee (SPAC), and the C&S Committee identified additional methods for gathering input moving forward.

The committee reviewed eight proposed new courses: five music courses, Personal Finance, Project Management, and Philosophy.

Additional details about the music courses were provided by Santiago Sabado, a music teacher at Bella Vista High School. Mr. Sabado developed the proposed courses on behalf of high school music teachers, drawing on his experience writing the Ethnic Studies Music course. At Bella Vista, new course ideas are often introduced first as clubs to generate student interest before being proposed as districtwide courses. The committee discussed that several of these new music courses may qualify as Career Technical Education (CTE) options. Bringing them forward to the board expands opportunities for students to engage in music and the arts.

The Project Management course was presented by Scott Evans, a counselor at Meraki, an independent-study, project-based school. This one-year course gives students exposure to a range of career fields and will be offered

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to all Meraki students annually, with updated content building on prior curriculum. Meraki staff also expressed interest in partnering with other schools that wish to integrate this course into their master schedules.

Philosophy was presented by Andrew Jones, an English teacher at Del Campo High School. This course is offered as an elective because it is not aligned to English standards. It emphasizes argumentative writing, with students maintaining a writing portfolio and reflecting on previous topics. The committee discussed credential requirements for teaching electives and confirmed that any single-subject credential qualifies. They also clarified that this Philosophy course differs from the Naviance option that awards English credit; any course offering different credit must be submitted to the board for approval.

Personal Finance was presented by Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral. The course is being proposed as an elective for next school year and must be offered at all high schools by 2027–28, becoming a graduation requirement for the class of 2031. Bringing it to the board now allows time for curriculum adoption before it becomes mandatory. The course will waive the Economics requirement but will count only as Personal Finance credit. It is also distinct from Financial Math, which was rewritten as a math course aligned with post-IM2 standards. The committee recommended incorporating Tech Services content to help educate students on consumer protection, and the Staff Liaison will consult with the Program Specialist to determine whether this is included in the course.

Motion: Roxanne Stellmacher made a motion to approve the new courses.

Second: Georgia Klostrakis seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 9 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention.

Tech Services Update (R/D)

Senior Director of Technology Services, Peter Skibitzki, provided an update on his department, emphasizing that customer service is central to their work and guided by principles in *The Fred Factor*. He shared an overview of his team, noting their strong survey results: a 98% satisfaction rate and live responses to 90% of incoming calls. Board Liaison, Pam Costa, commented that she's never had a single complaint from the community regarding the Tech Services department and she has received excellent service from the technicians at the help desk.

The department supports more than 100,000 devices each year on a budget of under \$14 million. Most funding comes from E-rate, a federal program that provides the district with an 80% discount—one the district has never been denied.

This year, the department introduced multi-factor authentication (MFA) for students. MFA does not require a cell phone; students simply select an image to authenticate their device. The initiative is currently being piloted at San Juan High School, with plans to meet with high school principals in mid-March and expand to all high schools by the end of April. Feedback from the pilot has been positive, with no reported student issues. Teachers also have access to tools that allow them to assist students with MFA resets.

Mr. Skibitzki emphasized that cyber threats occur daily. The department stays updated through 24/7 security services, disaster recovery planning, spear-phishing campaigns, and student training efforts; however, the district currently does not have an approved cybersecurity curriculum for students.

The team manages 40,000 Chromebooks of varying ages and conditions. A plan is in place to replace 18,000 of them over the next five years, at a cost of \$420 per device. Staff receive new computers every five years, and any additional technology purchases must be covered by site or department funds. Due to rising component costs driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Chromebook prices are expected to continue increasing. The next major refresh cycle is scheduled for 2034–35, when 20,000 Chromebooks will need replacement.

Additional technology integrations include pocket translators and interactive panels. The department has deployed 350 pocket translators across more than 33 sites to support communication among students, staff, and families who speak different languages. Their use has helped reduce spending on Language Line services. Interactive panels have been delivered to 50 schools and are now included in school modernization plans.

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The department is also exploring cost-saving strategies, such as recycling Chromebooks, negotiating hotspot pricing for unduplicated students, and reducing the number of Chromebooks maintained at school sites.

Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2026 (A)

A motion to approve February 11 minutes was made by Ms. Zimmer and seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed with 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention. Motion carried.

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

The Chair, Mariya Babychuk, shared that she looks forward to seeing the new courses move through the approval process and is glad to have been part of the discussion.

Reports to be Heard (R)

Board Liaison, Pam Costa, shared a sincere thank you to the committee for their thoughtful questions this evening.

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, deferred the time to Cabinet Liaison, Amberlee Townsend-Snider to comment on the exciting news on the iReady data.

Cabinet Liaison Amberlee Townsend-Snider said she loved the opening introductory question and thanked Mariya for her creativity. She shared that, during today's principal meeting, data showed the district met its goal of a 1% increase in English Language Arts and Math. Districtwide early literacy scores rose by 2.77%, and Math scores increased by 0.9%. While more progress is needed in Math, Ms. Townsend-Snider expressed pride in the staff and families supporting this work.

She noted that the team continues to celebrate every success while improving how they review data. They are comparing last winter's test results with the current winter's scores, with plans to extend this deeper analysis to CAASPP results. They are working with site administrators to understand what contributed to score increases, including whether tools like the mCLASS screener or new instructional practices are driving improvement.

V. Future Agenda Items (D)

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, reminded the committee that the April 8 meeting will be held at Choices Charter School in Room 15. She emphasized the importance of having a quorum of at least eight members, as the agenda includes an action item for new instructional materials. Without a quorum, the timeline for bringing this item to the board would be delayed.

VI. Adjournment

At 8:40 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ms. Babychuk.

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