



San Juan Unified School District Curriculum and Standards Committee

☐ Mariya Babiychuk*
☒ 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, April 8, 2026
Choices Charter School, Room 15 at 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The April 8 meeting was called to order by the co-chair, Patsy McGavock at 6:35pm. Each committee member shared which instructional material they remember as being exceptional when they were a student.

II. Visitors' Comments

The April 8 meeting did not have any visitors.

III. Business Items:

Instructional Technology Update (R/D)

Program Specialist for Instructional Technology and World Languages, Nicole Naditz, provided the committee with an update on instructional technology, focusing on core technologies, professional learning, technology-based enrichment, and next steps.

Core technologies must be robust, secure, and include accessibility features. While the district has purchased AI tools, these tools do not replace teachers or student thinking. Kami, originally purchased during distance learning, allows students to complete assignments using interactive tools. Since 2020, Kami has added features such as text-to-speech, highlighting, and shape tools to help students organize their ideas. Teachers can customize these features to make instruction more accessible.

MagicSchool, an AI platform purchased for the 2024–25 school year, is available to all staff, including support staff. Usage has doubled between February 2025 and February 2026. The platform includes more than 80 education-trained tools, and staff report that it supports them throughout the instructional cycle. MagicStudent, a component of MagicSchool, provides students with access to AI tools in a protected, teacher-controlled environment. Teachers can create AI rooms and enable only the tools students need to succeed academically. Chatbots are the most enabled feature. Training is available for staff to use MagicSchool. San Juan Unified is

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the top user of MagicSchool and MagicStudent in the state. Teachers report that students are learning to use AI for collaboration rather than cheating and are independently revising and improving their work before submission.

Professional learning opportunities for teachers are grounded in strong teaching and learning practices. These practices are emphasized before demonstrating how instructional technology can enhance instruction. Sessions are organized by grade level and designed to support teachers in meeting the needs of all students. Additional opportunities for teachers to learn about generative AI will be offered during the summer and throughout the upcoming school year. Next steps will focus on partnering with schools to further support teaching and learning.

Ms. Naditz also shared how technology is used to provide enriched learning opportunities for students. Elementary schools check out Osmo and Dash Robot kits, which allow students to practice math, early literacy decoding skills, and science concepts. Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) offerings continue as before and after-school clubs, where students use technology to learn and create. Examples include 3D printing and acrylic etching, Sphero RVR robots, LittleBits, and esports. This year, a new program—indoor drone racing—was introduced. Students learn to program and control drones while working both independently and collaboratively to problem-solve.

New Instructional Materials (R/D/A)

Staff Liaison Nicole Kukral introduced the Professional Learning and Curriculum Innovation (PLI) team, who presented new instructional materials proposed for board approval. She explained that TK–8 curriculum adoption is guided by state requirements, with math materials originally adopted in 2023 and formally approved by the State Board of Education in November 2025. Due to the age of the current materials, the PLI team began the six-week pilot process early. While high school curriculum is not state adopted, the same review process is used to ensure high-quality materials.

The PLI team shared the curriculum selection criteria and described community outreach efforts, including phone calls, district newsletters, presentations to committees, and social media posts. Community feedback has been positive. Small adoptions were defined as limited purchases, such as materials used for a single class.

All teachers will receive professional development from publishers during the summer and early fall. For the TK–8 math adoption, additional support will be provided through site-based Curriculum Ambassadors, along with monthly leadership support, math meetups, and family outreach. Family engagement will be prioritized through strong communication efforts, school-based Math Nights, and short videos highlighting instructional changes and student successes. Most new materials include digital components and online learning platforms. For TK students, learning is play-based rather than paper-based, a feature included in *Thinking Math!*, one of the materials recommended for board approval.

Motion: Ms. McIntyre made a motion to approve the new instructional materials.

Second: Ms. Schwalbach seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention.

IV. Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2026 (A)

A motion to approve March 4 minutes was made by Ms. Zimmer and seconded by Ms. Medin. The motion passed with 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention. Motion carried.

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

The Co-Chair, Patsy McGavock, shared that the committee plays an important role by listening to staff presentations on key topics. She thanked members for their participation and encouraged them to share what they have learned, highlight successes, and provide community feedback during committee meetings.

Reports to be Heard (R)

Board Liaison Pam Costa echoed Ms. McGavock's sentiments, emphasizing that the committee's thoughtful questions and discussions make a meaningful impact on the district's work. She also shared that she attended the *You Light the Way* Awards event and encouraged members to attend if possible. The event, now in its 37th

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year, recognizes individuals who make a difference in the lives of Special Education students and received 100 nominations this year. The event is open to the public and takes place annually in April. Ms. Costa will share the date in advance for members who are interested in attending.

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, shared that she has so much gratitude for the committee members because their commitment helps the PLI team improve.

Cabinet Liaison Kristan Schnepf thanked the committee for their thoughtful discussion.

VI. Future Agenda Items (D)

Staff Liaison Nicole Kukral informed the committee that the board-adopted sexual health curriculum must be revised to ensure compliance and return to the board for approval. The materials are age-appropriate for students in grades 5 through high school. These revisions will be added to the committee agenda in May prior to board consideration. She invited committee members to contact Paula Baucom, Program Specialist for Science, to schedule a review of the curriculum.

VII. Adjournment

At 8:58 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Ms. McGavock.

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