



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

☐ Open
☒ Georgia Klostrakis
☐ Open
☐ 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, June 3, 2026
District Boardroom at 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The June 3 meeting was called to order by the chair, Mariya Babiychuk at 6:34pm. Each member shared their summer plans with the committee.

II. Visitors' Comments

The June 3 meeting did not have any visitors.

III. Business Items:

Science Update (R/D)

Program Specialist for Science and Health Paula Baucom updated the committee on TK–12 science. With no adoptions this year, the team continues supporting elementary and secondary teachers using the current curriculum.

In elementary, the teacher leadership group is completing its third year. The 17 teachers, representing 15 schools, meet for four full days annually and actively share best practices with colleagues. Future goals include expanding to include more teachers from other sites and grade levels. The team also hosts monthly virtual sessions, "Making Time for Science," where teachers can learn practical strategies.

TWIG Science supports TK–5 instruction. Teachers can customize TWIG refill kits, ordered in February and delivered in May for the following school year. To ease lesson preparation, the science team offers "TWIG Bin Dig Ins," meeting with site-based teachers for 1–2 hours after school to organize materials and build confidence in lesson planning.

A = Action; R = Report; D = Discussion

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Teachers can also attend five virtual sessions focused on helping students succeed on the California Science Test (CAST), given in grades 5, 8, and 11. The grade 5 test assesses concepts from grades 3–5; the grade 8 test covers grades 6–8; and the high school test focuses on biology, chemistry, and physics.

With an increase in new secondary teachers, the science team introduced full-day release sessions focused on engagement strategies and support for English language learners. Additionally, six high school teachers attended a regional event led by science leaders from local districts, where they analyzed assessments and student performance data to better understand the California Science Test and be in alignment with Check For Understanding (CFU). More opportunities like this are planned for the 2026–2027 school year.

Many teachers have expressed interest in additional consumables to enhance hands-on learning. In response, the science team allocated \$100 per science class for each teacher, allowing them to purchase needed materials directly at their sites.

Safety is a top priority. Schools are regularly inspected by Sacramento County to ensure annual hazardous materials training and compliance with required protocols for use, storage, and disposal. The science team collaborated with Risk Management and Maintenance and Operations to update the district's Chemical Hygiene Plan. This includes appointing a Site Designated Chemical Hygiene Associate (SDCHA) at each middle school, high school, and some K–8 sites. Each SDCHA receives up to four hours of monthly compensation to support colleagues with science safety needs.

Sixteen sites offer before- and after-school science clubs funded by the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP). These clubs provide engaging activities such as LEGO-based projects, hands-on “Nature Learning” kits, and the Zoey and Sassafras science book club. In the book club, each student receives a copy of the book, and facilitators are given materials to recreate the experiments featured in the stories. The club has been highly popular this year, with very positive feedback from sites.

Committee discussion included expanding these programs to all sites and developing lesson plans using the Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) strategy. This represents a shift for many veteran teachers. The science team is supporting this transition, recognizing that scientists must write, publish, and communicate their findings—skills that require strong literacy.

Reflection and Celebration (D)

Chairperson, Mariya Babiychuk, reflected on the committee's work this year, expressing appreciation for their thoughtful engagement and positive impact on students. She thanked Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, for turning committee feedback into a clear overview to help both new and returning members understand their role.

She also shared her pride in the collaborative culture the committee has built, where ideas and perspectives are openly shared and valued. She encouraged members to continue contributing ideas, questions, and feedback, emphasizing that every voice matters.

Co-chairperson, Patsy McGavock, spoke about the committee's purpose and its role in connecting the community with board members, noting the importance of keeping the community and the board informed.

Committee member, Susan Zimmer, shared that the curriculum support has reenergized her passion for education. She praised the presenters' preparation, the support for teachers, and the team's responsiveness to challenges, noting the committee is moving in the right direction.

Board Liaison, Pam Costa, asked how often members connect with their board representatives after meetings, emphasizing the value of follow-up for engagement and feedback. She also expressed appreciation for student member, Georgia Klostrakis, and encouraged her to help identify another Mira Loma student to represent student perspectives.

Committee member, Roxanne Stellmacher, noted that the discussions help her think more as a parent than as a former educator, and she values hearing community input.

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Student committee member, Georgia Klostrakis, shared that she often hears peers express concerns about the district and encourages them to voice their opinion. She added a highlight from being on the committee with learning about the Pocket Talk Translator that was implemented at her school site and provides support to English language learners.

IV. Approval of Minutes – May 6, 2026 (A)

A motion was made to amend the minutes to include committee member comments during the Cabinet Liaison report. These additions include discussion of how district math goals were established, as well as concerns about lower math performance among African American students, students in special education, and foster youth.

Motion: Ms. Stellmacher made a motion to amend May 6 minutes.

Second: Ms. Cooper seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 7 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention.

A motion was made to approve the May 6 minutes as amended.

Motion: Ms. McGavock made a motion to approve the amended May 6 minutes.

Second: Miss Klostrakis seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 7 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention.

During review of the May 6 minutes, it was found that a page was missing from the printed handouts. A motion was made to rescind the previously approved minutes in order to review the missing page and amend an additional section.

Ms. McGavock also requested adding a note that a QR code will be included in the parent Comprehensive Sexual Health letter, directing families to the district website for additional resources.

Motion: Ms. McGavock made a motion to rescind the approved May 6 minutes with amendment.

Second: Ms. Zimmer seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention.

The motion to include additional information from the Cabinet Liaison's comments was reintroduced.

Motion: Ms. Stellmacher made a motion to amend May 6 minutes.

Second: Ms. Schwalbach seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention.

A motion was made to approve the May 6 minutes with the amended items.

Motion: Ms. Cooper made a motion to approve May 6 minutes with both amendments.

Second: Ms. Schwalbach seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention.

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

Chair, Mariya Babychuk, shared her comments in the Reflection and Celebration business item.

Reports to be Heard (R)

Board Liaison, Pam Costa, expressed appreciation for everyone's time, input, and commitment to the committee's work.

Cabinet Liaison, Kristan Schnepf, shared that the district is reviewing its goals at the end-of-year leadership summit, reporting that the ambitious goals were successfully met. She noted that new goals are being

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developed for next year, particularly around the new math adoption, and she looks forward to sharing updates with the committee.

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, thanked the committee for their thoughtful discussion and feedback. She expressed appreciation for Mariya and Patsy's leadership, as well as the support of Amberlee, Kristan, and Pam. She also recognized Georgia for her contributions and shared excitement in celebrating her upcoming graduation.

VI. Future Agenda Items (D)

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, informed the committee that the 2026-2027 agenda items will be determined and communicated on October 7, 2026.

VII. Adjournment

At 8:04 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ms. Babiychuk.

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