

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 13, 2024

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, beginning at 4:02 p.m. at JATC South (Board Conference Room), 12723 S. Park Avenue (2080 West), Riverton, Utah. The sessions were also provided electronically via YouTube.

STUDY SESSION

Those recognized or signed in as present:

Tracy J. Miller, Board President
Niki George, Board First Vice President
Darrell Robinson, Board Second Vice President, arrived at 4:09 p.m.
Brian W. Barnett, Board Member
Lisa Dean, Board Member
Bryce Dunford, Board Member
Marilyn Richards, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
April Gaydosh, Administrator of Schools
Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching & Learning
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Travis Hamblin, Director of Student Services
Melissa Flores, General Counsel
Scott Festin, Consultant in Planning & Enrollment
Caleb Olsen, Consultant in Planning & Enrollment
Lauren Schulten, Education Elements Consultant, via electronic connection
Lisa LeStarge, Administrative Assistant
Janet Sanders, President, Jordan Education Association

President Miller presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a study session to discuss the following:

A. Portrait of a Graduate and Strategic Plan Update

Lauren Schulten, Education Elements consultant, gave an update on the progress of creating the Portrait and Strategic Plan and Board members commented on what they hope it says about Jordan District, namely: the District provides opportunities for all students, it listens to and communicates well with the community, and District students will finish public education with skills for a bright and successful future.

Darrell Robinson arrived at 4:09 p.m. and joined the meeting in progress.

Ms. Schulten reviewed the project timeline, shared community survey statistics, and requested additional feedback from Board members on what they like or wish to change. She explained the current draft mission to provide exceptional educational opportunities for every student and introduced the draft vision which aligns with Dr. Godfreys slogan: be curious, be intentional, and be united. She said community feedback identified the following values: opportunity, curiosity, connection, support and growth and she explained pillars to guide the District in upholding those values.

Ms. Schulten discussed next steps in the launch phase, noting more revisions will be made to align with feedback and the content will be sent to the designer in February. A plan will be developed for sharing

the information with District employees and the community and implementation will begin in late spring and summer of 2024.

Bryce Dunford speculated a revision of Board policies will be required to align with the completed Portrait and Strategic Plan and Board members agreed. President Miller said the final draft will come back to the March 19, 2024 Board meeting for a vote. Board members expressed appreciation for Ms. Schulten and her team as well as the District Steering Committee.

B. Review of Proposed Administrative Policy on Service Animals

Dr. Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent, introduced the need for a new policy on service animals, explaining that although the District adheres to federal and state law on these matters, there has never been a District policy regarding domesticated and service animals before. He introduced Melissa Flores, General Counsel, and invited her to explain the drafted policy.

Ms. Flores said the policy is intended to: 1) clarify District position on emotional support animals, 2) clarify the process for service animals brought by employees or students, and 3) outline when or how animals can be approved for instructional purposes. She recommended requiring copies of city ordinances to assure the dog (or miniature horse) is properly licensed and vaccinated. She also recommended documenting the presence of District-approved service animals for emergency purposes.

Ms. Flores explained the procedure for service animals requires a student or parent to meet with her and provide the license, vaccination record and signed agreement outlining his/her responsibility and District responsibility. Students would be responsible to pick up after the animal, insure they have water and food, insure they are harnessed, and that they are well-behaved. The District would be responsible to permit that animal in all areas, including buses, unless there is a safety issue. Should there be allergy issues, accommodations will be made for the individual with the allergy.

Employees can be allowed to use an animal for educational purposes if it is tied to a pedagogical purpose and approved by the building Administrator. She explained the difference between emotional support and service animals and noted the District does not permit emotional support animals in schools.

Board members recommended a few wording changes and adding a link to Utah law. President Miller said the policy will be brought back to the March 12, 2024 Board meeting with the recommended changes.

C. Naming the New Elementary School in Herriman

Brian Barnett, Board member representing District 2, reported an initial survey was sent to the Herriman community, Herriman city, and Board members to obtain suggestions for a name for the new elementary school in Herriman. There were 113 responses and over 400 names were submitted. He noted the top five names and asked for input.

April Gaydosh, Administrator of Schools, reviewed the process of naming a new school, recommending a subsequent survey, including the top selected names, be sent on February 15, 2024. This survey could be open for one week to collect responses.

After discussion to select the top name recommendations, it was decided to send the next survey to the Herriman community and city officials. It will include the following three names to be considered for the new Herriman elementary school: Juniper, Sentinel, and Beacon Ridge. Survey results will be brought to the February 27, 2024 Board meeting.

D. Boundary Update

Dr. Michael Anderson gave a brief update on the boundary process, explaining the Board previously approved construction of the new elementary school in the Daybreak Village 9 area and notice was given to neighboring communities as required by law. He asked if the Board's priorities for boundaries, established in 2020, were still consistent with the Board's expectation for current boundary options.

Mr. Dunford suggested adding unique community considerations to the list of priorities. Board members agreed with adding a consideration for multi-level learners speaking Spanish at home to the list of priorities for this new school and boundary only.

Dr. Anderson shared maps of boundaries and expressed the desire to include Butterfield Canyon Elementary School in boundary discussions. He said notice would need to be given to that community immediately to comply with state law. Board members agreed with sending notice to the Butterfield Canyon community of a potential boundary change.

President Miller called for a motion to go into closed session.

MOTION: At 7:01 p.m., it was moved by Marilyn Richards and seconded by Brian Barnett to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Those recognized or signed in as present:

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Darrell Robinson, Board Second Vice President
Brian W. Barnett, Board Member
Lisa Dean, Board Member
Bryce Dunford, Board Member
Marilyn Richards, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law

President Miller presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. The closed session discussion was recorded and archived.

MOTION: At 7:19 p.m., it was moved by Marilyn Richards and seconded by Lisa Dean to leave closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the study session resumed at 7:21 p.m.

STUDY SESSION

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Bryce Dunford, Board Member
Marilyn Richards, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools

Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Travis Hamblin, Director of Student Services
Melissa Flores, General Counsel
Scott Festin, Consultant in Planning & Enrollment
Caleb Olsen, Consultant in Planning & Enrollment
Lisa LeStarge, Administrative Assistant
Janet Sanders, President, Jordan Education Association

E. Professional Development Days 2024-25 Calendar Change

Dr. Michael Anderson, said the State Board of Education is allowing Jordan to use the Health & Wellness Day as an instructional day rather than a professional day, thereby freeing up another date to be used for professional development. He proposed using September 17, 2024 as elementary, and October 4, 2024 as secondary, Professional Development Days.

President Miller suggested notifying families of any change and Mr. Van Komen recommended adding this item to the consent agenda for the February 27, 2024 Board meeting. Caleb Olsen and Mike Anderson said the calendar could be updated tomorrow and communication sent to families once the change is made.

The Board took action on the 2024-25 Calendar Change with the following motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Marilyn Richards to instruct staff to move forward with the proposed professional development calendar change immediately and to send out notification as soon as possible. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

F. Copper Hills High School Permit Request

Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools, said Copper Hills High School, which is a “closed permit” school, has requested to open 35 seats for those that applied during the open enrollment window prior to December 31, 2023. He said the estimated enrollment has gone from 2,948 to 2,868 this year and that the majority of the requests were outside the District.

Mr. Dunford emphasized the school is below current use capacity enrollment and the Board agreed with granting the 35 permit seats.

G. Review of Local Professional Improvement Committee (LPIC) Sabbatical Recommendations

Dr. Godfrey reported that in adherence to Policy DP333 *Sabbatical Leave*, one individual is applying for a sabbatical opportunity. Although it came after the deadline, the LPIC committee felt it was a reasonable request.

The Board agreed with the Sabbatical request.

H. Fee Schedule for 2024-25

Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools, briefly reviewed the fee schedule for 2024-25, highlighting the approval process, forms, and notification required for all school fee assessments. He explained “spend plans” are kept at each school which parents can view if they have questions and said reminders from USBE were added to the website. He noted the certificate of compliance is no longer required and there is no charge for textbooks, except for advanced level classes. Mr. Sorensen added that all fees must be identified on the website and are “fee waivable.”

The proposed timeline for fees was presented and it was noted there must be two opportunities for public comment. It was recommended public comment be taken at the February 27, 2024 Board meeting and possibly March 12, 2024 to meet the March 19, 2024 state deadline.

Mr. Sorensen recommended the total aggregate cost per student remain at \$7000. He shared the website and noted resources include fee waiver and fund raiser policies, and the current fee schedule.

Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools, said all proposed fee schedules have been posted at proposedfees.jordandistrict.org. Mr. Curtis shared examples of class fees in middle schools, noting changes this year.

Bryce Dunford asked about the reduction of registration fees and if the amount the Board approved has proven to be the right amount. Mr. Larsen said he is pleased with school balances and remarked that Jordan has led out in this regard. He agreed to analyze registration fees and bring this information to the February 27, 2024 study session.

Darrell Robinson asked about proposed legislation regarding school fees and Dr. Anderson said HB415, the school fees bill sponsored by Representative Strong, is the same as last year but includes a one-year extension for implementation. The District would need to fund \$5 million and the bill would eliminate all curricular fees.

It was decided the 2024-25 fee schedule will be on the February 27, 2024 Board agenda with an opportunity for public comment.

I. Discussion on Administrative Policy DP358 *Employee Discrimination and Harassment*

President Miller said revisions were made to the draft policy per Board input, namely: minor wording changes, changing the time allowed to file a complaint, and removing the word "reprisal."

Mr. Van Komen said there will be a separate sexual harassment policy and reference could be included in Policy DP358 to that policy.

President Miller recommended adding the District non-compliance website as an additional complaint reporting mechanism to item D. Dr. Godfrey said the effectiveness of a discrimination or harassment report investigation would be dependent on the breadth of the information the District receives. Board members suggested this caveat be added.

It was decided to further revise Policy DP358 and bring it back to the February 27, 2024 Board meeting for discussion and a potential vote.

J. Discussion on Administrative Policy DP305 *Placement and Assignment of Personnel*

President Miller shared a revised draft of Policy DP305 that includes the phrase "without undue personal bias" in regards to assignments of teachers. It was clarified that if an employee believes this policy was not followed properly they may file a grievance according to policy DP315 *NEG Grievance- Licensed*.

It was agreed to bring this policy to the February 27, 2024 Board meeting for a vote.

K. Seismic Study Update

Tracy Miller gave a brief update about the seismic study grant, noting that the District was awarded the grant, but due to a clerical error, never received the funds. A "last ditch" effort was made to obtain the funds and the Board previously directed staff to move forward if the grant was received.

Scott Thomas reported the grant has been received and staff is moving forward as directed. The Facilities Committee used the RFP process to obtain cost proposals for the work and has awarded the contract to BHB Structural Design and Engineering, which will be indicated on the February 27, 2024 Board agenda. Mr. Thomas said the team is working to complete the enhanced tier II evaluations. The final report explaining deficiencies, rehabilitation concepts for mitigation, and the full evaluation will be provided to the Board in August.

Mr. Thomas said eight or nine schools identified in a public release will be included in the study and he requested another school be included: West Jordan High School. The grant will not cover the seismic study for this school, but he said is recommended. He said the total fee proposal from BHB was \$160,800 of which the District's portion would be about \$40,000.

Bryce Dunford requested an update on the West Jordan Elementary School property. Mr. Thomas said demolition was completed and fences have been removed.

L. Legislative Review

Niki George thanked those who attended the recent legislative Day on the Hill and said it was well attended.

Dr. Michael Anderson added there were caucus meetings that day, but he was able to meet with Representative Strong and had a great discussion about school fees. He said HB415 passed unanimously and explained the following about funding:

- It was recommended from Public Ed Appropriations to hold harmless digital Teaching & Learning and Dual Language Immersion.
- Beverly Taylor Arts programs were funded with one-time \$3 million allocation, but with an increase in programs statewide this amount could decrease.

Dr. Anderson reported on the following bills per Board members' requests:

- HB 161 and HB 173 referendum bills - both passed out of committee. The bills ask LEAs to fund more things through local efforts, but allow more mechanisms for referendum.
- HB 084 regarding school safety – passed in the House and is moving to the Senate Committee. There is concern about lack of funding.
- HB 221 regarding stipends for future educators - passed. This creates a paid grant to assist student teachers.
- SB 86 lease revenue bond bill – amended to give a cap of \$90 million per LEA per year. There is also an inflationary adjustment built in.
- HB 029 sensitive materials bill - passed in the House. The bill gives guidelines regarding subjective and objective material.
- HB 303 school curriculum requirements bill - prohibits school employees from wearing specific clothing intended to endorse, promote, or disparage religious, political or social beliefs. If passed, it would go into effect in July, 2024.
- HB 529 Utah Fits All Scholarship bill - expanding this year. It is proposed to add a \$50 million which is an equivalent of a 1.2% WPU increase, however this amount is subject to change.

President Miller said the Joint Legislative Committee discussed the possibility of the Utah State School Board taking a position on HJR10, a bill that would remove the earmark on using income tax exclusively for education. It would also include the removal of the state portion of the food tax.

Dr. Anderson said last year the legislature created an education stabilization account that gives a yearly automatic inflationary adjustment and would result in a possible 1% increase in the WPU this year.

After further discussion, President Miller asked the Board for feedback on how they would vote on supporting USBA in their campaign to remove the tax earmark. She took a straw poll, which had mixed results.

Dr. Godfrey said 80 percent of the funding the District received last year was restricted. He expressed frustration with unfunded mandates impacting our larger district more than more rural districts.

M. Resolution Regarding Utah State Board of Education Member Natalie Cline

President Miller said due to recent public action by Utah State Board of Education member Natalie Cline, the Board Executive Committee decided it was necessary to compose a statement calling for her resignation. Ms. Miller read the resolution and asked for input.

President Miller called for a motion on the resolution regarding USBE member Natalie Cline.

MOTION: It was moved by Niki George and seconded by Darrell Robinson to approve the resolution regarding Utah State Board of Education member Natalie Cline as it is written.

Brian Barnett said he is in favor of the statement with the exception of the portion calling for Ms. Cline's resignation. For this reason, he said he will be voting against it.

President Miller called for a vote. The motion passed with a roll call vote of six to one. Mr. Barnett cast the dissenting vote. Ms. Miller said the statement will be made available publicly for anyone who requests it.

A copy of the Resolution Regarding USBE Member Natalie Cline is attached at the conclusion of these minutes (Attachment 1)

N. Board Member, Committee, and Superintendent Reports and Comments

Marilyn Richards, Facilities Committee Chair, said the committee met last Tuesday and received an update on the Village 9 school. She said summer capital projects will be brought to the February 27, 2024 Board meeting for discussion.

Bryce Dunford announced there will be a Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2024.

Niki George, Government Relations Committee Chair, gave a reminder of the virtual meeting held before the Joint Legislative Committee meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. where brief information is given on proposed legislation.

Darrell Robinson reported on the recent meeting with the Jordan Parent Advisory Committee, noting Artificial Intelligence (AI) and proposed legislative bills were discussed. He said there will be another meeting on April 2, 2024 and Lisa Dean suggested including training on how to engage with elected officials.

Bryce Dunford said the Licensed Employee Advisory Committee would like to move forward with a meeting in April and discuss Portrait of a Graduate, asking for input on implementation. President Miller recommended consulting the Education Elements project committee about this and aligning with their timeline.

The Board Bulletin was discussed and Board members suggested the following items be included in the next edition: the new elementary in Herriman and a Wellness Day report.

Lisa Dean, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation representative, announced that the West Jordan Library will be hosting an open house for their organization on February 22, 2024. She mentioned their director, Martin Jensen, is leaving and she expressed appreciation for his "legacy": the All-County Pass.

Ms. Dean also announced two District events: Joel P. Jensen Middle School will be hosting a 40th birthday party to celebrate their building anniversary on February 15, 2024; and the District Battle of the Bands will be held March 8, 2024 at Herriman High School.

President Miller announced the Utah School Board Association will be holding a meeting on March 6, 2024. She said the Chamber of Commerce is also holding a Legislative Roundup on February 24, 2024 at Jordan Valley Hospital.

Dr. Godfrey reported that the Health & Wellness day was a tremendous success and he expressed appreciation to the Board for supporting this important day.

MOTION: At 9:31 p.m., it was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Marilyn Richards to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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MOTION: At 11:38 p.m., it was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Brian Barnett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.