

Jordan School District  
**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
September 10, 2024

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, September 10, 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, arrived at 4:03 p.m.  
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  
Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching & Learning  
Lisa Robinson, Administrator of Schools  
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services  
Travis Hamblin, Director, Student Services  
Kim Lloyd, Director, Special Education  
Michelle Love-Day, Director, Language & Culture Services  
Ian Roberts, Capital Outlay Manager, New Construction  
Amanda Bollinger, Staff Assistant, Teaching & Learning  
Melanie Dawson, Principal, River's Edge School  
Brandee Burgum, Consultant, Teaching & Learning  
Brian King, Staff Assistant, Special Education  
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. Jordan School District Participation in Salt Lake County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services, introduced Capital Outlay Manager Ian Roberts, who assists the department with special projects and in-house inspections.

Niki George arrived at 4:03 p.m. and joined the meeting in progress.

Mr. Roberts said the department was approached by the Utah Department of Emergency Management and told that in order to be eligible for post-disaster federal grants, Jordan must have an active mitigation plan. He said there were three options for this plan: 1) developing and maintaining the District's own plan 2) participating in an update led by the local jurisdiction, and 3) annexing into an existing plan.

Mr. Roberts said Salt Lake County is in the process of updating its own mitigation plan and has invited the District to sign a letter of commitment ensuring active participation and involvement in the planning process. He asked for the Board's approval to move forward with this request.

Mr. Roberts said it would be a very cumbersome and time-consuming process to create a District plan and Business Administrator John Larsen agreed, saying partnering with another entity would allow Jordan to receive additional emergency response services. Mr. Thomas added that Salt Lake, Canyons, Granite and Murray Districts have already agreed to partner with the County on the mitigation plan.

Board members were in agreement on moving forward with signing the letter of commitment with Salt Lake County for disaster mitigation.

**B. Renewal of Universal Reading Screener for Grades 7-12**

Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching and Learning, explained this item is being brought to the Board as part of the approval process the Board requires for curriculum. She said the District's current universal screening program contract is expiring and the vendor used since 2008 no longer exists, thus creating the need for an RFP process to establish a new vendor contract.

Ms. Gough said the new intended vendor has been chosen and requested permission to move forward with public open houses, opportunity for public comment in a Board meeting, and seeking final Board approval for purchasing a 5-year contract for the secondary universal screener.

Ms. Gough said open houses could be in-person or virtual and specified the product is an assessment, not curriculum. Brandee Burgum, Consultant in Teaching and Learning, added that assessment questions and passages are aligned with State core ELA standards.

Board members agreed with moving forward in notifying parents about opportunities to review the product and give feedback. In addition, this item will be on a future agenda for public comment and possible vote.

**C. Proposed Changes to Administrative Policy AA440 *Library Media Selection and Review***

Dr. Michael Anderson said the Board voted to table this item during the August 27, 2024 Board meeting as members expressed the desire for further revisions. President Miller invited Ms. Dean to discuss changes she proposed in a recent email to Board members.

Lisa Dean suggested wording changes, specification regarding who can serve on the review committee, and "age-appropriateness" added as an additional consideration in deciding whether materials are subjective. She recommended members of the Review Committee read challenged books in their entirety and adding a non-disclosure on procedure documents for committee members.

The following policy revisions were discussed and approved by Board members:

- 1) Removing wording in section E1 to more clearly designate what is sensitive material
- 2) Adding an item F that excludes the person who challenged materials from serving on the review committee due to potential bias
- 3) Changing the title in G6 to add "age appropriateness" and adding additional information about material being challenged for this reason
- 4) Including instructions In Review Committee procedures (not policy) about members reading challenged books in their entirety
- 5) Adding "the District will take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of committee members" to the policy

The policy will be revised according to these suggestions and brought back to the September 24, 2024 general session for a potential vote.

**D. Overview of District Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Efforts**

Dr. Godfrey expressed appreciation for the MTSS team and invited them to discuss the foundation, framework, and training provided with this District program.

Amanda Bollinger, Staff Assistant in Teaching & Learning, introduced her fellow team members: Travis Hamblin, Director of Student Services; Melanie Dawson, Principal at River's Edge School and Program Administrator of Behavior; Brian King, Staff Assistant of Special Education; McKinley Withers, Health and Wellness Consultant; and Michelle Love-Day, Director of Language and Culture Services. She explained that the MTSS program is "an evidence-based framework for effectively integrating multiple systems and services to address students' academic achievement, behavior, and social-emotional well-being." She gave a presentation highlighting the following information:

- 80 to 85 percent of students benefit from Tier 1 High-Quality Instruction and Screening.
- Tier 2 and Tier 3 Targeted and Intensive Interventions add to the Tier 1 foundation and are used to meet critical, targeted needs for a small percentage of students.
- The biggest benefits of MTSS are that it increases safety and improves learning for students.
- The focus areas for MTSS are academics, behavior, social & emotional wellbeing, and family engagement.

Dr. Bollinger identified systems of support and explained that training for teachers is being offered Districtwide on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) coupled with MTSS. Dr. Dawson further specified that three PBIS workshops are being offered for Year 2 cohort groups, and 17 schools will participate in Year 1 Cohort PBIS training. She discussed the Effective Teacher Training (ETT) classroom management course that was offered this summer and reported 316 teachers have completed it thus far.

Mr. Hamblin said efforts to keep schools safe by providing a sense of belonging and a consistent schoolwide Multi-Tiered System of Support supports student learning. He said the MTSS program requires school support, high quality professional development, careful implementation, and accountability to be successful.

Brian Barnett expressed appreciation for the information, but requested more specifics on how teachers are trained to address critical behavior issues in classrooms. Dr. Dawson briefly explained other programs specifically targeted to address difficult behavior problems with special education students: Aspen and Mandt. Mr. Barnett asked for access to PBIS training materials and Mr. Hamblin invited Board members to attend any of the behavior trainings. Dr. Godfrey also agreed to give all Board members access to these materials.

Niki George asked if there have been enough behavior specialists hired to address Districtwide needs. Dr. Dawson said it would be preferable to have more Tier 1 specialists and Mr. Hamblin added that the department would like to be able to provide MTSS and PBIS training for more personnel, but this would require additional support.

President Miller asked about ETT training and Dr. Dawson said the class enrollment is limited because of the rigorous workload for those involved. Dr. Godfrey said this is an effective program that helps teachers avoid and address issues when they arise.

#### **E. Cell Phone Policy**

President Miller said the current Cell Phone Policy draft includes points with which the entire Board concurs. She mentioned that since the last Board meeting, a few Board members visited Granger High School in Granite School District to see cell phone restrictions being enforced with the use of pouches. She asked for feedback on Jordan's current draft policy.

Board members discussed the following: including information on exceptions for students with IEPs and 504 plans, aligning the consequences for secondary students with those for elementary students, and including a phrase that specifies personal electronic devices be stored out of sight.

It was suggested parents of students with specifications about cell phone use in IEP and 504 plans could be contacted preemptively to be assured the plans will still be accommodated. It was decided to change the language about exceptions to say they “may be granted” with approval of school principal in consultation with their Administrator of Schools.

The Board also discussed the process and ramifications of schools being more restrictive than what the policy allows. It was decided to add a phrase that specifies if a school wants to be more restrictive in either the length of time they are cell phone free or in consequences for misuse, they would need the support of the School Community Council, in consultation from their Administrator of Schools, and must notify the Board.

It was also agreed to add a phrase to specify personal electronic devices must be silenced and remain out of sight during the school day (for elementary) and class time (for secondary).

President Miller asked about next steps for the Cell Phone Policy and advocated for an education piece for parents and it was decided to add this item to the September 24, 2024 study session agenda. The policy will then be brought to the general session for an opportunity for public comment and possible vote.

Marilyn Richards asked that it be noted she is still very much in favor of a bell-to-bell ban on all levels.

Board members agreed that implementation of the Cell Phone Policy will begin October 29, 2024 after fall break. Changes will be made to the draft according to tonight’s recommendations and staff will send the final draft to Board members as soon as it is ready to share with others as they see fit.

In regards to the education piece, it was suggested to include information in the Board Bulletin, District website, and possibly a Supercast. Board members requested a Parent University with an informational video presentation and it was decided this will be held October 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Pilot programs were discussed for implementation of the Cell Phone Policy and it was decided that one high school and one middle school will pilot a pouch storage system with a bell-to-bell ban. In addition, it will be determined at the next Board meeting if other schools will respectively be chosen to pilot locking pouch storage for class time violations or a locker storage device during class time. It was agreed the volunteer pilot schools will be chosen by staff with consideration of school demographics and the pilot program will begin at the start of the second school semester.

It was decided to bring back sample pouches, with pricing, to the September 24, 2024 study session for the Board to determine which will be used for the pilot schools.

#### **F. School Garden Program**

Bryce Dunford requested to make a motion to table agenda Item F as he wasn’t feeling well.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Brian Barnett to table item F. *School Garden Program* until the September 24, 2024 Board meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **G. Board Member, Committee, and Superintendent Reports and Comments**

Niki George, Government Relations chair, said the committee is contacting legislators to invite them to Legislator Day in the Classroom on September 26, 2024. She said once they confirm their attendance, she will reach out to Board members within corresponding jurisdictions.

Jordan Ethnic Advisory Committee liaison Lisa Dean reported that the Language and Cultural Services department is offering Spanish classes to teachers and ESPs to facilitate better communication with students. They had overwhelming interest of over 300 people and were able to begin the first class with 90 people enrolled. Ms. Dean said this department's Fall Family Fair was a great success.

Board members discussed the Board Bulletin, suggesting the following items be considered for the next edition: the new District cell phone policy, Portrait of a Graduate, and the opening of Juniper Elementary School. It was decided the Communications department will begin working on a draft to be shared with the Board.

President Miller said the Jordan Education Foundation will hold a kickoff meeting Thursday, September 12, 2024 where new JEF Board members will be introduced.

Darrell Robinson requested the Salt Lake Academy Board be invited to an upcoming Board meeting to discuss enrollment and President Miller said she will add this to a future agenda.

Marilyn Richards reported that the Utah High School Activities Association is beginning re-alignment. She said she will bring more information back after the committee has met in the next few weeks.

**MOTION:** At 9:03 p.m., it was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Niki George to go into closed session. Mr. Dunford abstained from voting as he needed to leave the meeting, however the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

#### **CLOSED 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  
Brian W. Barnett, Board Member  
Lisa Dean, Board Member  
Bryce Dunford, Board Member, excused  
Marilyn Richards, Board Member  
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent  
John Larsen, Business Administrator  
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent  
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law  
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services

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; property, potential litigation, negotiations, and security measures. The closed session discussion was recorded and archived.

**MOTION:** At 10:00 p.m., it was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Brian Barnett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.