Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 11, 2025

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study, closed and special business sessions on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, beginning at 4:04 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:
Niki George, Board President
Bryce Dunford, First Vice President
Brian W. Barnett, Second Vice President
Erin Barrow, Board Member
Lisa Dean, Board Member
Darrell Robinson, Board Member
Suzanne Wood, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools
Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching & Learning
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Michelle Lovell, Consultant, Elementary Language Arts
Kaye Rizutto, Consultant, Dual Immersion
Lisa LeStarge, Administrative Assistant

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

A. **Discussion on Administrative Policy DE501 *Curriculum Adoption and Review Committee***

Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching and Learning, gave a brief explanation of the Curriculum Adoption and Review Committee which is comprised of twenty-one individuals including patrons, administrators, and teachers. She said a recent meeting resulted in a proposal to adopt two new curricula districtwide: social studies for kindergarten through sixth grades, and a new phonics program for kindergarten through second grade. She invited Kaye Rizzuto, Dual Immersion Consultant, to share more information.

Ms. Rizutto explained the state recently updated social studies standards, unique to Utah. They invited Jordan School District to create new statewide curriculum materials tied to those standards. She highlighted the fact that the curriculum comes at no cost to the District, with an abundance of teacher resources, and with an opportunity for parents and teachers to view materials and ask questions prior to implementation in fall 2025. Ms. Rizutto hopes the new curriculum will be usable for up to ten years. Dr. Godfrey noted it is a honor for Jordan to be involved on the state level with this project.

Ms. Gough explained the current phonics program used districtwide will expire in June 2025. Michelle Lovell, Elementary Language Arts Consultant, explained Jordan’s intent to see continued growth and proficiency with a new proposed tier 1 phonics program called UFLI. The research and evidence-based program has a one-time cost of $90 per teacher for a teacher-edition lesson book and includes free online resources. It is a non-contract program that requires a three hour training for teachers and information will be given to parents and teachers at upcoming open houses.

Ms. Gough added that there is ongoing funding to assist schools with continuing the current reading program until they are ready to transition to UFLI.

Mr. Barnett asked about using staff to create curriculum rather than purchasing commercial programs and Dr. Godfrey explained this is done, where feasible. However, there is also a need for programs that are more comprehensive and data based.

Ms. Gough said principals are encouraged to work with teachers on the timeline for implementing the new program. She informed the Board there will be multiple open houses and two opportunities for patron comment prior to voted Board approval on the UFLI phonics curriculum.

B. **2025 Graduation Speaking Assignments**

Administrator of Schools Brad Sorensen asked Board members to decide the school(s) at which they would like to speak and/or attend for this year's graduation exercises. Graduation for all high schools, except Valley and Kings Peak High Schools, will be held at Utah Valley University this year and going forward.

Board members discussed the assignments and provided Mr. Sorensen with the information he requested. Mr. Sorensen stated that he would send a copy of the finalized list of assignments to each Board member and he would also inform principals and school personnel of the assignments so graduation program preparation can proceed.

Mr. Sorensen added that schools will provide gowns to Board members if the school has chosen this attire for dignitaries at the graduation ceremony.

C. **Fee Schedule for 2025-26**

Brad Sorensen and Cody Curtis, Administrators of Schools, presented the School Fee Schedule for the 2025-26 school year. They noted that beginning in 2025-26 fees may not be charged for school equipment or any core class content areas. They reviewed the fee process, explaining that principals must still approve Spend Plan Class Fee and Extracurricular Fee forms and send them to the district for additional review by Administrators of Schools before being added to the website.

Mr. Sorensen gave a proposed timeline for the 2025-26 school year, but Dr. Anderson announced the state extended the deadline for finalizing fee schedules to July 1, 2025. President George recommended moving forward with the proposed timeline if possible.

Mr. Sorensen said the maximum total aggregate fee per student remains at $7,000, but recommended increasing this amount to $10,000 based on data showing approximately 10 to 15 students approaching the aggregate limit last year.

Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Curtis explained that fundraisers are optional and fees charged must total the same or less than what is spent.

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to increase the maximum total aggregate per student to $10,000 per year.

Suzanne Wood and Lisa Dean advocated for increasing the aggregate to a higher amount to avoid the District paying for the excess if students exceed the amount allowed. Mr. Barnett agreed with increasing the aggregate amount beyond the proposed amount.

Ms. Wood suggested a study of increased fees from 2020 until the present.

Mr. Dunford called the question and all agreed to vote on the motion. The motion failed with a vote of four to three as follows:

Lisa Dean	No
Suzanne Wood	No
Darrell Robinson	Yes
Erin Barrow	No
Bryce Dunford	Yes
Niki George	Yes
Brian Barnett	No

MOTION: It was moved by Brian Barnett and seconded by Lisa Dean to increase the maximum total aggregate per student to $25,000 per year.

Board members discussed setting the aggregate to a higher level versus keeping it at the $10,000 limit and the purpose of having an aggregate requirement. Mr. Larsen surmised the State mandated the aggregate limit to encourage less spending, not an increase in fees.

President George called for a vote on the current motion. The motion failed with a vote of two to six. Ms. Dean and Mr. Barnett cast the affirmative votes.

After further discussion on the study of fee increases, it was pointed out that data had already been collected and analyzed, prompting the recommendation of increasing the aggregate amount. Some Board members agreed to reconsider the former recommendation and Ms. Wood made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Erin Barrow to set the maximum total aggregate for the 2025-26 school year at $10,000 per student. The motion passed with a vote of six to one. Mr. Barnett cast the dissenting vote.

It was decided there will be an opportunity for public comment on the proposed 2025-26 fee schedule at the March 25, 2025 business meeting and the April 8, 2025 Board study session prior to ratification.

D. **Review of Administrative Policy DP304 *NEG Teacher Transfers***

Dr. Godfrey said he worked with the Jordan Education Association on changes to Administrative Policy DP304 to revise the deadline for involuntary teacher transfers. The proposal is to move the date from April 1 to May 15 each year to add flexibility in order to solve unique placement issues. Dr. Godfrey said the Association was supportive of this change.

Mr. Dunford suggested removing any deadline from the policy to increase overall flexibility. Dr. Godfrey said he will bring this proposal back to the JEA and return with their feedback to a future study session.

E. **Legislative Impact Discussion**

Dr. Anderson shared a presentation that gave a brief summary of bills that passed in the House and Senate that will likely have an impact in Jordan District. He also presented proposed state funding for education as follows:

- $50 million - $1,446 salary increase for teachers
- $50 million - $1,000 bonus for educator support staff
- $178 million – 4 percent WPU increase
- $77.7 million – Educator 32 hours professional time
- $14.3 million – up to $500 Teachers' supplies and materials
- $12.4 million – Stipends for Future Educators grants for student teachers

Dr. Anderson highlighted House Bill 42 that increases funding for districts with a growing English Language Learner population, noting that over half of Jordan's schools will qualify for this emergency funding. Other bills of impact include:

HB40 – School safety
HB77 – Display of flags in public places
HB100 – Food security, provides free lunch for students receiving reduced-price lunches
HB104 – Firearm safety in schools
HB110 – Minimum basic tax rate reduction
HB191 – High School Credits/packets, approval
HB233 – School Curriculum
HB267 – Prohibiting Public Labor Unions
HB281 – Health Curriculum & Procedures, notification requirements
HB244 – School fees
HB381 – Civics Education
SB37 – Min. Basic Tax Rate
SB102 – Public Education Funding
SB178 – Devices in Public Schools, or cellphone bill
SB223 – Public Education Bullying, revised definition

Board members and administration expressed concern about the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) increase and Dr. Godfrey noted there may not be any gain for Jordan, as there are offset costs associated with this funding.

Mr. Robinson encouraged Board members to continue dialogue with legislators regarding education priorities.

F. **Purpose Statements for Licensed Employee Advisory Committee (LEAC) and Jordan Parent Advisory Committee (JPAC)**

Bryce Dunford shared draft purpose statements for LEAC and JPAC as requested by Board members in a previous study session. Discussion ensued about compensation, consecutive years of service, and setting meeting agendas. President George clarified unlike other Board committees, LEAC and JPAC are public outreach opportunities and should be committed to receiving feedback from committee members.

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to approve proposed LEAC and JPAC purpose statements, with the addition of excluding current building representatives on LEAC.

Mr. Dunford requested Ms. Dean work with administration on wording and sending committee information out to schools.

Mr. Barnett suggested including the following: 1) agenda items for the meetings should be approved by the Board, and 2) these two committees are public-facing and represent the Board.

Ms. Barrow encouraged teachers to volunteer to serve a 2-year term on LEAC.

After making small revisions to the LEAC statement specifying that current "building reps" may not serve on the Committee, Mr. Dunford made the following substitute motion:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Erin Barrow to formalize the LEAC and JPAC documents into Board archives.

President George said the final documents will be added to the webpage appendix and Mr. Dunford recommended the contents of the Board appendix be considered for modification.

President George called for a vote on the substitute motion and the motion carried with a unanimous vote. She recommended moving forward with the selection process for committee members and setting meeting dates for both groups.

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

Lisa Dean gave examples of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Jordan District and emphasized the importance of focusing on positive aspects of DEI.

Brian Barnett, Facilities Committee Chair, shared minutes of their recent meeting that focused on trigger points for boundary changes. Ms. Barrow said the committee arranged an upcoming tour for her to view the remodel recently completed at Bingham High School and similar plans for the remodel of West Jordan High School. She encouraged other Board members to join her on March 17, 2025 if they have interest.

Bryce Dunford, Finance Committee Chair, shared minutes from a meeting held earlier today, which included links for Board training that must be completed soon.

Suzanne Wood, Government Relations Chair, said the committee will be meeting tomorrow and they are making plans for building partnerships with legislators.

Mr. Dunford reported on Utah High School Activities, noting the meeting next week will include a review of bylaws and their constitution. He will bring back a report to a future study session.

Lisa Dean, LEAC Chair, expressed and received ideas for agenda topics for future meetings. Dr. Godfrey said LEAC is not a means of informing teachers, but for gathering feedback. He cautioned not to ask for feedback on issues, like Utah law, where the Board does not have flexibility. Ms. Dean said she will bring a possible meeting date and agenda back to the next study session.

JPAC Chair Erin Barrow, also suggested topic ideas for an upcoming JPAC meeting and was encouraged to choose discussion items where feedback could be gathered. Board members suggested discussing how to increase attendance and recent curriculum changes. Ms. Barrow will bring a proposed meeting date back to the next study session.

Lisa Dean reported on recent Outstanding Educator Award visits by the Jordan Education Foundation and encouraged Board members to join the “award bus day” on March 20, 2025.

Darrell Robinson reported on the Salt Lake Academy Board, announcing the Academy recently petitioned to acquire Athlos Academy. A second hearing on the issue will be held March 20, 2025. If accepted, this would dissolve Jordan’s charter and Salt Lake Academy would then charter with the state.

Niki George and Brian Barnett recently met with the Portrait of a Graduate Committee and said they will be finalizing documents, including proficiency scales, March 26 and 27, 2025. April 8, 2025 will be a virtual meeting and the Portrait is intended to be launched in August. They asked Board members if they would participate in an introductory video for staff and all agreed.

Niki George gave a reminder of the March 12, 2025 USBA spring meeting, and NSBA which will be held April 2, 2025. She informed Board members of items the Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) is interested in discussing with legislators and asked for additional Board member suggestions. Funding for crossing guards and special education funding were mentioned.

President George asked for suggestions of topics to be included in the upcoming Board Bulletin. The following ideas were proposed: new curriculum, changes in fees, and a possible tax increase due to recent legislation (including Board decisions on how to manage the impact).

Dr. Godfrey said he has had a great time visiting schools with the Foundation to honor outstanding educators.

MOTION: At 10:14 p.m., it was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Erin Barrow to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Those recognized or signed-in as present:
Niki George, Board President
Bryce Dunford, First Vice President
Brian W. Barnett, Second Vice President
Erin Barrow, Board Member
Lisa Dean, Board Member
Darrell Robinson, Board Member
Suzanne Wood, 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 George 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 10.59 p.m., it was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Brian Barnett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/ll