

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 13, 2025

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study, closed and special business sessions on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, beginning at 4:01 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, arrived at 4:03 p.m.
Bryce Dunford, First Vice President
Brian W. Barnett, Second Vice President
Erin Barrow, Board Member
Lisa Dean, Board Member
Darrell Robinson, Board Member, via electronic connection
Suzanne Wood, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
April Gaydosh, Administrator, Human Resources
Brent Burge, Administrator, Human Resources
Carolyn Gough, Administrator, Teaching & Learning
Travis Hamblin, Director, Student Services
Kim Lloyd, Director of Special Education
Stacey Worthen, Secondary Counseling Consultant, Student Services
Kristy Whiteside, Coordinator, Child Development Center
Rochelle Waite, Principal, Riverton High School, arrived at 8:21 p.m.
Lisa LeStarge, Administrative Assistant

Vice President Dunford conducted until President George arrived shortly after the meeting began. President George presided and conducted the remainder of the meeting. The Board of Education met in a study session to discuss the following:

A. Comprehensive Guidance Report

Stacey Worthen, secondary counseling consultant in Student Services, presented the annual report on the Comprehensive Guidance Program in the District. Ms. Worthen shared statistics that highlighted a 96 percent decrease in senior credit deficiencies in 2024 as well as an increase in student to counselor interactions at both elementary and secondary levels. She noted the number of student counseling sessions held, the types of visits for each level, and the corresponding Portrait of a Graduate pillars addressed with these interactions. Ms. Worthen noted there were 184,061 elementary and 173,038 secondary school counseling interactions so far this year, with a focus on school-based mental health for elementary students and career advising for secondary students.

Mr. Barnett expressed concern with the increase of counseling visits, speculating they should decline as students learn to be more self-sufficient. Ms. Worthen explained these visits not only support students' social-emotional wellness, but are also used to address scheduling issues, evaluate graduation readiness, and inform students of career and college scholarship opportunities.

Ms. Worthen mentioned the training given to school counselors and explained the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) used to address students' needs at all levels.

Suzanne Wood requested additional data in the future on how goals are being reached and yearly trends. In addition, Mr. Dunford asked what counseling needs still could be addressed. Ms. Worthen

agreed to bring back more data as requested and she expressed the desire for elementary schools to have the same student-to-counselor ratio as secondary schools, namely 1 to 350.

B. Discussion on Adoption of Preschool Curriculum Frog Street Press as per Administrative Policy DE501 Curriculum Adoption and Review Committee

Lisa Robinson, Elementary Administrator of Schools, invited Kristy Whiteside, coordinator of the Child Development Center, to discuss a new preschool curriculum being recommended by the Curriculum Review Committee. She said this would apply to special education preschools offered in Jordan elementary schools.

Ms. Whiteside explained the Curriculum Review Committee and evaluation process, noting that the Frog Street curriculum was selected as the best fit and highest rated program aligning with Utah Core State Standards for Early Learning. She said in-person and online public open houses have been scheduled and all households with preschool students will receive information on open house dates by ParentSquare email. A final report on the curriculum will be presented at the May 27, 2025 Board meeting.

C. Review of Administrative Policy DP380 Maternity/Parent Leave

April Gaydosh, administrator of Human Resources, said Administrative Policy DP380 has been revised to comply with revised Utah code. She shared documents highlighting policy changes and invited Brent Burge, Human Resources administrator, to explain the revisions.

Mr. Burge said Jordan was a leader in making changes to maternity and parent leave for employees. He shared a usage report for maternity/parent leave from 2022 through 2025 and a policy modification comparison. He highlighted the differences between the current and revised policies, noting the biggest changes include the following:

- Reasons for leave - now include adoption of a child; and legal guardianship of a child or incapacitated adult.
- Leave available – maternity leave is split between postpartum recovery and parental leave for the mother, and an increase from two to three weeks of parental leave for the father.
- Leave usage – parent leave must be used within six months of qualifying event and must be used consecutively.
- Repayment – employees are no longer required to repay leave if they quit in the same contract year.

Board Attorney Paul Van Komen recommended item D4 be revised to more clearly align with Utah Code language regarding an intermittent leave being necessary due to a “serious health need of a child.” Board members agreed with making this change and bringing the revised policy to the May 27, 2025 business meeting for a vote.

D. Presentation on Administrative Policy AA419 Student Conduct, Dress, and Appearance

Dr. Anderson gave a brief history of Policy AA419, noting it was most recently revised in 2021. He said administration met with principals recently to get their feedback and most agreed the policy has improved in clarity and balances the need for enforcement with maintaining students’ dignity.

Board members asked about altering graduation attire and it was mentioned any additions should allow the student to remain recognizable while being recognized.

Discussion ensued about enforcement, guidelines, and teachers following dress code policy. Suzanne Wood suggested student body officers set the example of following the dress code.

Dr. Godfrey agreed to send out a reminder about dress code to the community after July 24, 2025 as parents prepare to send their children back to school. It was also decided to bring back the following for further discussion in the fall: 1) employee dress and conduct, 2) inappropriate student language, and 3) another review of policy AA419.

E. Discussion on Secondary Boundaries within Midas Creek Elementary School Boundaries

Bryce Dunford said he attended a meeting at Midas Creek Elementary School after hearing a concern from a parent about that area's boundaries at the April 2025 Board meeting. He said the school community had done an informal survey which showed an interest in changing school boundaries. The intent was to allow those elementary students to all attend the same middle and high school, rather than three of each secondary schools between which they are currently split.

Mr. Dunford asked if there is interest in doing a more formal survey about a boundary change for the Midas Creek area. Considering enrollment trends, Mr. Dunford speculated students would best be accommodated at Oquirrh Hills Middle School and Riverton High School and suggested this information be included on a possible survey.

Board members discussed busing impacts, balancing school enrollment, the extent of boundary changes, and timing. Brian Barnett said the Facilities Committee, per Board request, is working on revising a document identifying Board priorities for boundary changes. It includes formulas for calculating growth and capacity, and identifies portable thresholds.

Mr. Dunford suggested a phased approach for boundaries in the Midas Creek area, but Mr. Robinson suggested busing would be a concern.

President George said she would like the Board to consider the needs of a boundary change for Sunset Ridge Middle School as well, due to increasing enrollment and concern from the community. She asked what the procedure should be to address concerns from constituents, and for input on the protocol for individual Board members wishing to make committee assignments. Board members agreed with bringing a concern to the Board during "Board member comments," then assigning it to a committee if the Board agrees.

Bryce Dunford made the following motion regarding the study of boundary changes:

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to assign the Facilities Committee to begin gathering data and return with a report and recommendation on a possible boundary change for a Midas Creek Elementary School feeder system.

Dr. Godfrey said Dr. Anderson informed him of the current thirty-day requirement for public notice regarding a boundary change and sixty-day requirement for public notice on a school closure.

Brian Barnett said the next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2025.

Lisa Dean called the question on the motion regarding a school boundary study. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Anderson said the Committee will move forward with the threshold guidelines they have drafted and the related calculations for boundary change considerations.

F. Review of Potential Revisions to Board Policy GP104 *Board Officers and Appendix Procedures for the Election of Board Officers*

Business Administrator John Larsen said language was removed in policy GP104 regarding a tie in voting for the election of Board officers and was included instead in the related Appendix.

Recommended revisions to the policy were also made to incorporate State code requiring the election of Board officers to be completed at the first Board meeting of the year.

Niki George suggested the Appendix be amended with language to make clear that Board officers shall be elected at the first Board meeting in January *following an election or when a Board member resigns*. All agreed to this change and to bringing the revised policy to the May 27, 2025 business meeting for a vote.

G. Discussion on Proposed Changes to Administrative Policies:

- 1) AS67 Discipline of Students**
- 2) AA418 Discipline of Students – Staff Responsibilities**
- 3) DP378 Employee Code of Conduct**

Dr. Godfrey explained Policy AA418 was revised to include the following phrase from Utah Code 53G-8-302 (3): “Nothing in this section prohibits a school employee from using less intrusive means, including a physical escort, to address circumstances described in Subsection (2).”

He said wording was added to Policy AS67 to include vandalism to “any individual’s property” as well as staff or school property be considered “dangerous or disruptive conduct.”

Board members agreed with the changes and with bringing the policies back for a vote in the May 27, 2025 Board meeting.

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

Lisa Dean reported on the recent Licensed Educator Advisory Committee meeting, conveying issues and positive feedback given from the educators that attended. Teachers expressed appreciation for the policy and said they have not received much pushback from parents. They also said they have seen a decrease in student fights and conflicts. Ms. Dean said possible action items could be discussing ways to gain more support from parents on the cellphone policy; and another review of this policy, including consideration of a bell-to-bell ban at the middle school level.

It was also suggested the Board discuss the cellphone policy from the perspective of helping students learn, not empowering teachers. All agreed with adding a review of the cellphone policy as an item for a future Board meeting agenda.

Brian Barnett said the Facilities Committee met recently to discuss boundary changes that could affect transportation and possible summer projects for 2026. Ms. Wood expressed the desire to evaluate busing costs in a future Board meeting and Dr. Anderson said busing was a consideration in the boundary change document currently being drafted. Mr. Barnett said summer project priorities will be brought to the May 27, 2025 study session for further discussion.

Suzanne Wood reported on JEAC, announcing the acronym for the committee will now stand for: the Jordan Education Access Committee. She said the purpose, vision, and mission have also been changed as follows:

Purpose: To successfully educate, support, advise, and empower the Jordan School District community and leadership.

Vision: We embrace all members of our community and continually work to find solutions to allow our differences to become our strengths.

Mission: We will work to unify our community, while celebrating our differences and collaborating to come together to empower everyone.

Lisa Dean reported that the recent Jordan Education Foundation Challenge Fun Run was very successful. She said Outstanding Education Support Professionals will be presented with awards from the Foundation at the May 27, 2025 Board meeting. Ms. Dean also announced the 2025 Links to Schools Golf Classic being held June 26, 2025 at Glenmoor Golf Course.

Niki George reported on Portrait of a Graduate, noting that Education Elements will be joining the Board meeting in June. Administration has requested a video from the Board to introduce the Portrait at the Annual Administrators Conference in August 2025. Ms. George said Education Elements is helping to create a script for the video and she requested participation from Board members in working on it or speaking. Many Board members agreed to work with the Communications department on the project.

President George said she has attended School Community Council meetings for Sunset Ridge Middle School and looked at projected enrollment numbers for that school. She expressed the desire for the Facilities Committee to begin looking at a potential boundary change to alleviate overcrowding at that school. She said the school is projected to have an enrollment of over 1500 students in the next five years. She made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Niki George and seconded by Erin Barrow to assign the Facilities Committee to begin looking at potential boundary changes to alleviate over-enrollment at Sunset Ridge Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

Bryce Dunford reported on the Utah High School Activities Association, expressing concern about underrepresentation of 6A classification schools. He said he is working on a proposal to require the superintendent of UHSAA to come from a district with both 5A and 6A schools. He also said he was pleased to report that there are no athletic competitions this year conflicting with high school graduation ceremonies.

Bid Recommendations

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| A. | <u>School or Department</u> Riverton High School | <u>Items for Bid</u> Classroom Furniture |
| | <u>Bidders</u> Edutek Corporation Hertz Furniture School Specialty | <u>Amount of Bid</u> \$170,672.68 |

Purpose: To replace existing classroom furniture at Riverton High School

Budget: School Instruction and TSSA Funds

Recommendation: It was recommended awarding the contract to the lowest responsive, responsible and acceptable bidder, Edutek Corporation. The company complied with the specifications, terms, and conditions outlined in the bid documents.

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| B. | <u>School or Department</u> Riverton High School | <u>Items for Bid</u> Student Desks |
| | <u>Bidders</u> Edutek Corporation Hertz Furniture School Outfitters School Specialty | <u>Amount of Bid</u> \$226,699.20 |

Purpose: To replace existing student desks at Riverton High School

Budget: TSSA

Recommendation: It was recommended awarding the contract to the lowest responsive, responsible and acceptable bidder, Edutek Corporation. The company complied with the specifications, terms, and conditions outlined in the bid documents.

MOTION: It was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Lisa Dean to approve the bids for Classroom Furniture and Student Desks at Riverton High School, as recommended.

Principal Rochelle Waite of Riverton High School said the bid was to replace approximately 78 tables, 1500 desks, and 2000 chairs. At Board member's request, Mr. Larsen explained the surplus process for used furniture.

President George called for a vote on the motion for furniture for Riverton High School. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: At 8:51p.m., it was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Suzanne Wood to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call 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, via electronic connection
Suzanne Wood, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law

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 9:40 p.m., it was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Brian Barnett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.