

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 14, 2025

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, beginning at 4:00 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
Travis Hamblin, Director of Student Services
Scott Festin, Enrollment Consultant, Student Services
Lisa LeStarge, Administrative Assistant
Robert Conder, AV Department

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

A. USBA Leadership Academy Debrief

President George invited the participating Board members and Business Administrator John Larsen to share what impacted them at the recent USBA Leadership Academy. The comments were positive and supportive of the Academy.

Ms. Dean, Ms. Barrow, Ms. George, and Mr. Larsen all mentioned the benefits of Board self-evaluation and Board retreats that were highlighted in a few of the presentations. Board members discussed the possibility of holding a retreat in the near future.

If a retreat is held, Mr. Robinson suggested changing the meeting title.

Mr. Barnett requested to make a motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Brian Barnett and seconded by Erin Barrow to form a Board ad hoc committee to create an agenda and plan for a Board retreat. The members of this committee will be Niki George, Lisa Dean, and Erin Barrow. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

B. Substitutes for Extended Counselor Absences

Superintendent Godfrey asked about the possibility of extending substitute availability to counselors that are absent for more than ten consecutive days. Last year there were eleven of these instances which cause difficulty in meeting the accumulation of counseling needs. Dr. Godfrey noted licensed counselors filling extended absences would cost about \$100,000 per year. They would be well trained to provide services to individuals and groups.

President George called for a motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Brian Barnett and seconded by Erin Barrow to provide a substitute for a school counselor who will be gone for ten or more consecutive days. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Enrollment Forecast and Housing Continuum Discussion

Dr. Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent invited Scott Festin, Planning Consultant, to share this annual report, identifying enrollment trends; and predicting potential growth and decline in Jordan schools over the next five years.

Mr. Festin said overall, the District is experiencing declining enrollment due to a decrease in birth rates, housing market volatility, and shifts in enrollment due to other educational options. It is forecasted that Jordan will experience a decline of about 2,585 students by the year 2030. Mr. Festin cautioned, however, that many factors could affect this prediction.

Associate Superintendent Mike Anderson said Aspen Elementary is the only school to watch that is forecasted to have an increased enrollment. The following schools were placed on the “watch list” due to declining enrollment:

- Columbia Elementary School
- Heartland Elementary School
- Majestic Elementary School
- Westvale Elementary School
- Rosamond Elementary School
- Rose Creek Elementary School
- Southland Elementary School
- Joel P. Jensen Middle School
- West Jordan Middle School
- West Jordan High School

Dr. Anderson explained the formula the Board approved to determine which schools should be on the “watch” list due to enrollment concerns. Board members mentioned the positive effects of using existing portables to increase building capacity. They also discussed options that could be considered for schools with declining enrollment.

Mr. Robinson expressed concern about signs in the Daybreak area that state Jordan will be building a school on the adjacent property. It was mentioned these signs were most likely placed by developers and Mr. Dunford said he will take care of this concern.

It was decided the Facilities Committee will examine all schools on the watch list in more detail and consider possibilities to address concern about growth or decline. President George requested they look at the secondary schools as a whole and Mr. Dunford suggested Aspen Elementary School should be considered a priority because of overcrowding.

The Committee will bring back recommendations regarding the schools to watch to a future Board meeting.

D. Survey Results for Potential Boundary Changes

Dr. Michael Anderson shared results from the recent boundary survey that was open from September 3 through October 6, 2025. Of the 976 impacted and 10,423 non-impacted students notified in the Midas Creek area, there were 351 responses. In the Northwest area, 942 responses were received out of the 994 impacted and 8,876 non-impacted students notified. A total of 16,229 postcards were sent to households in proposed boundary change areas. Two open houses were also held; one in each area.

Public comment will be taken October 28, 2025 and a Public Hearing is scheduled for November 11, 2025, with potential Board action on November 18, 2025.

Dr. Anderson highlighted the following survey results from the Midas Creek area: the overall sentiment is one of support for the boundary changes, with some concern about transportation for students wishing to permit to remain at their current school. In the Northwest area, there was strong support for keeping students at Elk Ridge Middle School together, while there was strong opposition to moving students to schools farther away.

Dr. Anderson shared the forecast enrollment without the boundary change and what enrollment would look like if the proposed boundary change was implemented for both areas being considered. He noted this boundary option is unique because the Board agreed to allow students to remain at their current school on permit for the remainder of their school years. However, busing would not be given to these permitted students.

President George said busing is a major concern for those in affected areas. She requested a busing map for the Northwest area.

Board members discussed the permit process and had various opinions on how long permits should be granted to students wishing to remain at their current school. They also discussed reopening the survey for a short time, to garner more response.

Board members agreed with opening the boundary survey for the northwest area once again for a short time. They requested administration send a Parentsquare message to parents reminding them of the survey and the opportunities for public comment. President George called for a motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Brian Barnett and seconded by Suzanne Wood to direct staff to reopen the boundary survey for the northwest area constituents until October 21, 2025. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Ms. George requested the survey to be open for a week, including fall recess, and Board members agreed.

SUBSTITUTE

MOTION: It was moved by Darrell Robinson and seconded by Niki George to direct staff to reopen the boundary survey for the northwest area constituents until the morning of October 27, 2025. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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

Brian Barnett said the next Facilities Committee meeting will be October 30, 2025.

Bryce Dunford said the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) is beginning the process of alignment and will hold their election of representatives in January, 2026. Mr. Dunford said he would like to run again and asked for Board members' nomination. He encouraged all Board members to attend the upcoming USBA convention.

Jordan Parent Advisory Committee (JPAC) liaison Erin Barrow, said she is planning a meeting to obtain feedback on Parentsquare. Board members gave her additional agenda ideas and suggested meeting more than once per year.

Suzanne Wood said the Jordan Education Access Committee (JEAC) will be hosting a multilingual family night on October 16, 2025 at West Jordan Middle School and the Black Student Union at Herriman High School will be holding a trunk-or-treat event on October 15, 2025.

Ms. Wood also reported on Government Relations, noting invitations have been sent to legislators and Board members for upcoming legislative breakfasts. Dr. Anderson added that there will be three different dates and locations which will allow Board members to have more meaningful conversation with legislators within their district. The following Board members are invited to attend the breakfasts at the Jordan Learning Center from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. on these dates:

- November 20, 2025 – Bryce Dunford, Darrell Robinson, and Brian Barnett
- November 24, 2025 – Erin Barrow, Suzanne Wood, and Bryce Dunford
- December 2, 2025 – Erin Barrow, Niki George, and Lisa Dean

Darrell Robinson mentioned safety would be an important topic to discuss at a JPAC meeting. Dr. Godfrey said the District sent out information on security measures to parents previously. He agreed to email this to Ms. Barrow and Board members again. Ms. Barrow decided to hold a JPAC meeting in November and will work with Dr. Anderson on a date and informing JPAC members.

Lisa Dean announced November 3, 2025 will be the first Licensed Employee Advisory Committee (LEAC) meeting this year. The meeting will discuss behavior and attendance and will be held at 4:00 p.m. at JATC South. Ms. Dean also announced the Jordan Education Foundation's Christmas for Kids on December 6, 2025. Donations and volunteers are encouraged.

Niki George asked for opinions on the Board newsletter. Board members discussed sending a newsletter with Board information after each business meeting and comparing newsletters from local districts. Dr. Godfrey explained the methods Jordan has for sending newsletters to parents and community members. It was decided to include this topic on a future Board meeting agenda.

MOTION: At 8:23 p.m., it was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Erin Barrow to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.