

Jordan School District  
**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
January 13, 2026

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in a study session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, beginning at 4:03 p.m. in the Jordan Academy for Technology and Careers South Campus, 12723 S., Park Avenue, Riverton, Utah.

**STUDY SESSION**

Those recognized or signed in as present:

Niki George, Board President (arrived at 4:27 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  
Suzanne Wood, Board Member  
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent  
John Larsen, Business Administrator  
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent  
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law  
Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching and Learning  
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services  
Rebecca Smith, Gifted and Talented Consultant, Teaching & Learning  
Roxane Siggard, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Superintendent

First Vice President Bryce Dunford called the meeting to order. He began by explaining that President Niki George was detained and asked him to conduct the meeting until she arrived. The Board of Education met in a study session to discuss the following:

**A. Gifted & Talented Presentation**

Superintendent Godfrey thanked Carolyn Gough and Rebecca Smith for their work with the Gifted and Talented (GT) Program. He explained that the reason for the presentation was to 1) meet requirements by the State to report on how resources have been used for gifted and talented education; 2) present ideas on what to do next with the GT program; and 3) give general information on what departments are working on for context for future bids.

President Niki George joined the meeting at 4:27 p.m. and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Rebecca Smith, Gifted and Talented Consultant, Teaching & Learning, presented on the GT program, including information on the Advanced Learning Placement for Students (ALPS) program; how students are identified, myths surrounding GT, and suggestions for expanding the program. Ms. Smith and Dr. Godfrey were asked to rank the options for their ideal Gifted and Talented Program and both agreed on their order as being: 1) A full-time GT teacher in each school; 2) a GT teacher shared between two schools; 3) universal testing at a younger grade, ideally second going into third, or third going into fourth grade; 4) a specialty school serving students in the entire District with transportation; and 5) ALPS in every elementary and middle school.

Ms. Smith, Ms. Gough, and Dr. Godfrey answered Board members' questions about current services for elementary, middle and high school students, where ALPS programs are located and the schools they serve, and current testing processes. Dr. Godfrey also reviewed a

possible timeline for implementing the various options for an ideal Gifted and Talented Program.

To assist with allocating funds, Board members asked the team for additional information and data points on:

- Students who were qualified but did not opt into ALPS; and the reasons or barriers.
- How many students are on the waitlist, who is not being served, and why.
- How are the students benefiting who are in the program including testing data.
- Data on the growth of students at similar intelligence levels who do not opt into ALPS compared to those in ALPS.
- Hotspot map of Jordan District marking the location of students who are qualified for GT.
- Evidence of how additional funding will benefit GT students.

The team is to gather the information and report back to the Board, either by email or at a future Board meeting.

#### **B. Proposed Field House Survey Questions**

Dr. Godfrey, said that Lighthouse has proposed questions to include on a survey regarding proposed field houses at Jordan District high schools. The survey questions were reviewed with the Board, and questions raised by Board members were answered by Business Administrator John Larsen on current bonds and options for financing. The next steps will be that the recommendations for changes to specific survey questions will be taken back to Lighthouse. After the language is approved by the Board, they will conduct the survey. When it is completed, they will report back to the Board, and depending on the results, potentially form and conduct focus groups.

#### **C. Annual Board Meeting Calendar 2026-27**

Niki George, Board President, introduced the proposed calendar for 2026-27 meetings with Board study sessions usually occurring on the second Tuesday of the month and the business meeting on the fourth Tuesday. She reviewed each of the proposed dates that do not follow this pattern and potential conflicts. In discussing the November meeting date, the majority agreed to keep the meeting scheduled for the fourth Tuesday, November 24, 2026, even though it falls on the week of Thanksgiving. The July meeting date was discussed and it was decided to hold a Board Summit on July 28, 2026.

The proposed calendar for 2026-27 meetings is to be formally approved at the next business meeting as a consent agenda item.

#### **D. Annual Statements and Trainings as Per Board Policy GP103 *Board Members' Principles of Operation: Conduct and Ethics***

John Larsen, Business Administrator, presented information on required and recommended trainings for Board members as required by Utah Code and Board Policy GP103 *Board Members' Principles of Operation: Conduct and Ethics*. He reminded Board members of the following:

- 1) A Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is due by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and will be posted on the website in accordance with Utah code. Email the signed disclosure to Mr. Larsen.
- 2) A new requirement by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is training on hotline reporting that involves a 30-minute video presentation; however, there is no reporting mechanism.

- 3) Audit Committee training every two years for all Board members. Board members on the Audit Committee will need to watch two additional videos with no reporting required.
- 4) An Ethical Behavior Statement will need to be signed and emailed to John Larsen by January 31<sup>st</sup> to comply with Board policy GP103.
- 5) The State Auditor suggested additional training but is not required.
- 6) USBA also has suggested training, but is not required.

**E. Board Compliance with Open Meeting Law Training**

Mr. Paul Van Komen, Legal Counsel, gave Board members an update on the Open Meeting Law. He reminded Board members of the importance of adhering to legal requirements set forth in the law and where and how to complete the training. Mr. Van Komen will email the updated handbook for the Open Meeting Law to Board members.

**F. Review of Board Policies GP100 through GP107**

Bryce Dunford, Chair, Board Policy Committee, said the first policy review would begin with the Governance Process (GP) policies until the Policy Committee develops a schedule. Board policies GP100, GP101, GP102, and GP103 were reviewed and discussed for possible revisions.

The Policy Committee will wordsmith the suggested changes and bring them back to a future meeting for further discussion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Brian Barnett to postpone discussion on policies GP104 through GP107 to a future meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**G. Utah School Boards Association (USBA) Conference Debrief**

Niki George, Board President, thanked the Board members that were able to attend the recent USBA conference in an effort to become a better Board member. Those who participated made comments on the good ideas and information for best practices they took away from the conference and classes, and the opportunity to learn from other districts' board members.

**H. Board and Superintendent Reports and Comments**

Brian Barnett said the Facilities Committee will be meeting next week on January 22, 2026. Chair Bryce Dunford said the Finance Committee does not have a meeting scheduled, but will be getting together soon.

Government Relations Committee Chair Suzanne Wood reminded Board members of the following dates: February 11, 2026 is the Jordan Board of Education Day on the Hill. Michael Anderson will make arrangements for Board members to sit with legislators on the floor, if they desire. February 18, 2026 is Student Body Officers Day on the Hill. Board members may ride a bus that will be departing from South Valley School to the Capitol at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Wood asked the group about interest in producing short videos to educate patrons about various financial aspects of the District. It was decided that the Finance Committee will look at the proposal and bring it back to the Board. Ms. Wood, liaison for the Jordan Education Access Committee, also mentioned the "What I Wish You Knew" conference on January 20, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at West Jordan Middle School.

Chair for the Licensed Employee Committee (LEAC), Lisa Dean, announced that the next meeting will be on Monday, February 9, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at JATC South. Two other Board members may attend, who will be Niki George and Erin Barrow. It was requested that Ms. Dean email the questions to Board members before they go to LEAC representatives. Ms. Dean also mentioned that the Jordan Education Foundation Donor Appreciation luncheon is this Thursday, January 14, 2026. She will be meeting with the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation tomorrow, January 14, 2026.

Jordan representative for the Utah School Boards Association (USBA) Niki George noted that January 20, 2026, is the beginning of the legislative session so the legislative updates will start with the next Board meeting. On January 21, 2026, the USBA will be celebrating public education in the rotunda of the Capitol with displays by the school districts. Students are being invited to come. The Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) meeting will be held on Fridays during the session in the Senate Building room 210, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. The USBA Day on the Hill will be January 30, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She mentioned potential changes to USBA leadership, as well as that Lisa Dean is running for the legislature, so she will not be seeking reelection to the Jordan Board of Education.

**MOTION:** At 9:14 p.m., it was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Brian Barnett to adjourn the study session and go into a 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, excused  
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 9:27 p.m., it was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Brian Barnett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

JL/rs