

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 12, 2026

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 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 (electronically via Zoom)
Suzanne Wood, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent of Schools
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
April Gaydosh, Administrator of Human Resources
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Brent Burge, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Rebecca Eastman, Generalist, Human Resources
Kaye Rizzuto, Consultant, Teaching & Learning
Roxane Siggard, Administrative Assistant
Brandon Bateman, AV Department
Cliff Curtis, MHTN Architects
Ben Hansen, MHTN Architects

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

A. West Jordan High School Remodel Preview

Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services, gave background on the West Jordan High School remodel project, noting that it has been over a year since it was discussed with the Board. During this time, work has been ongoing behind the scenes. The purpose of the discussion was to give a preview of the timeline, progress, and information on the maximum guaranteed price (MGP) that will be presented in the next business meeting for potential approval.

Newly appointed Director of Facility Services, Ian Roberts, showed the timeline beginning with November 12, 2024, when the project came before the Board for consideration. The plan is for a three-year phased renovation with the target for completion in November 2029.

Mr. Roberts reviewed proposed floor plans and renderings of the building and explained the three phases of the renovation. Ninety teaching spaces are planned, which can accommodate the current student population as well as a potential grades 9-12 model.

MHTN Architect Cliff Curtis said that the structural “bones” of the building are in good condition, which will simplify the renovation and keep costs down. He wants to help Board members understand what will happen in this remodel and that taxpayer dollars are being used wisely. When asked about the option to add five classrooms now or in the future, he stated that nothing being renovated now would be taken out if that option were done in the future; however, inflation would be a consideration. This renovation will bring West Jordan High School in line with the renovation at Bingham High School, but not beyond.

Ben Hanson, MHTN architect, addressed plumbing and HVAC concerns. The area where the twelve portables are now located will be additional parking after completion of the renovation.

Bryce Dunford suggested to Lisa Dean to hold a “pipe-breaking” ceremony to commemorate the start of the project, similar to the one at Bingham High School. The principal, faculty, students, and alumni association could be involved.

Board members agreed to have the renovation project GMP with alternates on the agenda for final approval on May 26, 2026.

B. Changes to Social Studies Graduation Credits

President George stated that new legislation increased the civics requirement from one semester to a full year for graduation, beginning with students who will be in tenth grade this fall.

Questions about the various options were addressed by Kaye Rizzuto, Social Studies Consultant in Teaching & Learning. She said that World History has the most standards. Power standards were explained as the most critical standards, as not all the standards can be taught in one semester.

Superintendent Godfrey commented that whether a course is condensed, split, or focused on power standards, it is an incredibly difficult task to rework a curriculum and cover everything effectively. There will be difficult trade-offs no matter what decision is made. The course could be split into two semester courses: Ancient and Modern Civilization with no condensing of the curriculum. An option would be to have only one course required and the other available as an elective. Dr. Godfrey stated that both are important and the focus is to operationalize whatever the Board decides without diminishing any of the subjects.

Ms. George asked if this option would meet State compliance and noted that it would be better for students and employees if the decision were made soon. Ms. Rizzuto said that it would be something they would need to find out from the State. Dr. Godfrey commented that it is modeled after what other districts are already doing.

The three options discussed are:

1. Increase the graduation requirements for social studies to 4.0 credits, which would increase the overall number of credits needed for graduation to 27.5.
2. Increase graduation requirements for social studies to 4.0 credits and reduce the number of electives to 7.5 credits, resulting in no change to the number of overall credit requirements
3. Adjust what social studies requirements look like with 3.5 credits still required, but with different courses

Superintendent Godfrey said that staff is looking to the Board for direction in every aspect of this decision since the Board is responsible for setting graduation requirements. After direction, staff will bring back a policy reflecting the changes.

Dr. Godfrey agreed that the first two choices are fairly straightforward and are one-phase decisions. However, if the choice is made to adjust what the social studies courses look like, it could be done in two phases. The decision could be made at one meeting, and then how the courses would be changed could be done at another meeting.

Erin Barrow asked how much impact it would have on students if an additional half credit were added to graduation requirements. Mr. Dunford pointed out that some students would be negatively impacted by not having the option of the current 8.0 electives for AP classes and need to be kept in full-year segments.

MOTION: It was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Suzanne Wood to instruct staff that Jordan School District implement a four-credit requirement in social studies for graduation and 7.5 credit electives as the requirements for graduation.

Ms. Wood commented that in her research, 4.0 credits in social studies is highly unusual in Utah as well as in the nation. Mr. Dunford prefers keeping the requirement at 3.5 credits but making social studies electives available, if students choose.

The previous State requirement was 3.0 credits, and with the legislation, it was changed to 3.5 credits with a very specific semester course. Dr. Anderson said the intent was to emphasize civics, but leave it to a local decision as to how to do it. The legislators are concerned about the lack of civic engagement and education.

The motion failed 3-4, with Lisa Dean, Niki George, and Darrell Robinson voting yes and Brian Barnett, Erin Barrow, Bryce Dunford, and Suzanne Wood voting against the motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Erin Barrow and seconded by Suzanne Wood to postpone the decision until further information is brought to the Board on this topic. The motion passed in a 6-1 vote, with Bryce Dunford casting the dissenting vote.

Dr. Godfrey clarified that in the next discussion, new information for discussion will include:

- 1) If the District will be in compliance by having two classes, Ancient and Modern Civilization, in tenth grade, with only one being required; and
- 2) The standards that would be included in the option to condense the class.

The following agenda item was taken out of order and discussed after item D.

C. Updates to Administrative Policies DP322 *Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)* and DP380 *Postpartum Recovery/Parental Leave*

Brent Burge, Assistant Director in Human Resources, expressed appreciation to Rebecca Eastman for her work with employees and managing leave. He explained that with changes to the law in the 2026 legislative session affecting adoption and foster leave, it was necessary to update two policies pertaining to leave benefits.

Rebecca Eastman, Leave Benefits Specialist in Human Resources, reviewed the recommended changes to policy DP380 *Postpartum Recovery/Parental Leave*:

- The section on adoption leave was removed from the sick leave policy and added to this policy.
- Leave for foster care increased to four weeks; however, if both parents work for Jordan District, they would split the four weeks, which is specified in code.

The scenario of a child being fostered and then adopted was considered as to whether or not parents could take foster leave and then adoption leave. Board Attorney Paul Van Komen said the law specifies that an employee could not take both types of leave for the same child. Historically, there are only four or five instances of adoption or foster leave each year in the District, according to Ms. Eastman. The law goes into effect on July 1, 2026.

Mr. Burge said adoption leave cannot be taken to adopt stepchildren.

Recommended changes to Administrative Policies DP322 *Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)* were also reviewed. Employees would still be eligible for up to 12 weeks of FMLA leave with the proposed changes; however, eligibility would be determined using a “rolling” year rather than a “fixed” school calendar year. Currently, an employee could be out on FMLA for 12 weeks in the spring and be eligible for an additional 12 weeks when the new school year begins. In a rolling year, Human Resources would

review the prior twelve months, and an employee could not take more than 12 weeks FMLA leave in a 12-month period. Other changes would clarify language regarding ADA and FMLA to run concurrently, align policies, and update the language to the current code.

The Board agreed to place both updated policies on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

The following agenda item was taken out of order and discussed prior to item C.

D. Boundary Discussion Regarding Undeveloped and Newly Developed Areas

Facilities Committee Chair Brian Barnett introduced the discussion as a cleanup of boundary changes. Dr. Anderson said two of the proposals are for undeveloped areas and do not impact students. The other two proposals are recommended due to new roads that bisect current boundaries. Areas of discussion are:

1. **Airport Area Boundary Adjustment:** The current high school boundaries do not align with Joel P. Jensen Middle School boundaries in an area by the airport that currently does not have development. The proposal is to include this area in West Jordan High School boundaries. Schools impacted are Copper Hills and West Jordan High Schools; and West Hills and Joel P. Jensen Middle Schools. No students are impacted.

MOTION: It was moved by Lisa Dean and seconded by Brian Barnett to direct staff to move forward with next steps for Area 1. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

2. **South Area Boundary Adjustment:** Mountain View Corridor was not built in the southern tip of Jordan School District when the boundaries were set in this area, and it now bisects the current boundaries. The proposal aligns boundaries with new roads in the South Hills development and aligns feeder systems. Schools impacted are: Mountain Point and Blackridge Elementary Schools; Hidden Valley and Fort Herriman Middle Schools; and Mountain Ridge and Riverton High Schools. No current students are impacted.
3. **Juniper Crest Boundary Adjustment:** This area is currently being developed. The proposal would adjust boundaries to new roads and align feeder systems so developments would not be split. All of this area is in the current high school boundaries for Mountain Ridge High School; however, the middle and elementary school boundaries need to be aligned. Schools impacted are: Ridge View, Juniper, Mountain Point, and Blackridge Elementary Schools; Hidden Valley, South Hills, and Fort Herriman Middle Schools. Those impacted are 199 elementary, 79 middle school, and 86 high school students.
4. **Homestead Boundary Adjustment:** No homes exist in this area currently; however, the current boundary line between two elementary schools divides the new development. Schools impacted are Herriman and Oak Leaf Elementary Schools. Fourteen elementary students are affected.

Dr. Anderson noted that a survey is not required for a boundary change, but notification is a requirement. The areas in question on Option 4 need to be addressed in some way, as new homes are being built and the owners want clarification. Current students impacted could permit to Oak Leaf Elementary School as they have room for the next several years for students to permit to the school of their choice.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Brian Barnett and seconded by Suzanne Wood to direct staff to move forward with next steps for Options 2, 3, and 4 and bring recommendations back to the Board in the fall.

After further discussion, the following substitute motion was made:

SUBSTITUTE

MOTION: It was moved by Erin Barrow and seconded by Darrell Robinson to direct staff to move forward with next steps for Options 2 and 3.

Brian Barnett stated that a change between Oak Leaf and Herriman Elementary School in Area 4 would be good for several years. Growth in the Aspen Elementary School area would not need to be considered for a year or two. If the recommended changes were made, Dr. Anderson felt the Homestead area could be left alone, and students would have the chance to permit, if desired.

Darrell Robinson spoke against making changes in Area 4 until a full picture of the boundaries for a larger area could be presented to the community.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Dean to call the question. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board voted on the motion, which passed with a 5-2 vote. Brian Barnett and Bryce Dunford cast the dissenting votes.

MOTION: It was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Bryce Dunford to direct staff to move forward with Area 4 Homestead Boundary Adjustment as presented.

Dr. Anderson confirmed that the Board could look at boundary changes for a larger area and leave any changes made to Area 4 intact. He offered to meet with Mr. Robinson and answer any questions he may have about the area. .

Mr. Dunford commented that the Board would be voting on this again before notifications go out to the affected schools and patrons. It was clarified by Dr. Anderson that the intention is to move forward with options, not notifications.

The motion passed with a 6-1 vote. Darrell Robinson cast the nay vote.

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

Chair Barnett reported that the Facilities Committee has begun discussion on the 2027 summer projects. He initiated a discussion on what needs to be discussed by the full board and what can be handled in the Committee. President George said that, according to Board policy, a committee is the initial group to review a concern and to determine if further action is needed. Mr. Barnett felt not all boundary changes need to go through the committee; that it should be school closures or space issues only.

Chair Wood said the Government Relations Committee met with Representatives Fillmore and Miller to talk about education bill files and provide feedback. Ms. Wood also reported on the Jordan Education Access Committee (JEAC), which sponsored both Multicultural and Native Nights, and partners with Language and Culture Services.

The Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) will meet on Friday, May 15, 2026, at the USBA offices, according to President George. She also reported on the legislative tracking sheet and suggested "Why School Boards Matter" as a future book study.

As a side note, Ms. George said she received multiple requests that Jordan District consider adjusting watering patterns and asked about interest in a future discussion. Lisa Dean is interested in discussing removing grass from areas that are not used as play areas.

Ms. George also reported that she met with residents adjacent to Copper Hills High School who are concerned about excessive noise and lights from the athletic fields. The neighborhood has a petition circulating, asking for noise and lighting reduction, as it is affecting their quality of life. In checking with Scott Thomas, she said that existing lights and sound have been professionally adjusted more than 20

times. Ms. George attended the meeting in the patron's backyard so she could understand the problem better.

Superintendent Godfrey said that updated information has been emailed to teachers regarding Canvas. No data has been released with more information coming tomorrow (May 13, 2026). As it is a critical time for grades, Skyward and Canvas need to communicate, and will be back online very soon.

At 7:45 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

MOTION: At 7:45 p.m., it was moved by Erin Barrow and seconded by Darrell Robinson to go into closed session, and that following the closed session, the meeting would be adjourned. 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
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.

At 9:26 p.m., the meeting adjourned.