

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 9, 2016

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, beginning at 4:05 p.m. at the JATC South Campus (Board Conference Room), 12723 S. Park Avenue (2080 West), Riverton, Utah.

STUDY SESSION

Those recognized or signed-in as present:

Susan K. Pulsipher, Board President
Janice L. Voorhies, Board Vice President
Kayleen Whitelock, Board Secretary
(Jen Atwood, Board Member, excused)
(J. Lynn Crane, Board Member, excused)
Richard S. Osborn, Board Member
Matthew Young, Board Member
Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
Michael Anderson, Administrator of Schools
Jill Durrant, Administrator of Schools
Laura Finlinson, Administrator of Curriculum and Staff Development
June M. LeMaster, Administrator of Human Resources
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
Robert Conder, AV Maintenance

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

A. Ends Policies and Student Achievement

Board members continued the discussion regarding a new Ends policy about empowering teachers. Superintendent Johnson presented policy language that was reviewed and revised by Cabinet members. Board members discussed the draft policy recommendations and offered input.

President Pulsipher led a discussion about another new Ends policy related to acknowledging, valuing, and supporting students, families and the community. Board members discussed four ways to acknowledge these groups which include creating a welcoming culture, fostering an inclusive environment where all students are valued, addressing problems with efficiency and concern, and providing and disseminating education support to families. They also discussed measurement tools such as anecdotal evidence and exit, climate, and community surveys. President Pulsipher requested that Board members review this draft policy language and come prepared to discuss it in more depth at the next study session

At 4:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

MOTION: At 4:50 p.m., it was moved by Janice L. Voorhies and seconded by Richard S. Osborn to go into closed session. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Those recognized or signed-in as present:

Susan K. Pulsipher, Board President
Janice L. Voorhies, Board Vice President
Kayleen Whitelock, Board Secretary
(Jen Atwood, Board Member, excused)
(J. Lynn Crane, Board Member, excused)
Richard S. Osborn, Board Member
Matthew Young, Board Member
Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
June M. LeMaster, Administrator of Human Resources
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services

President Pulsipher presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a closed session to discuss negotiations. The closed session discussion was recorded and archived.

At 6:07 p.m., the meeting adjourned. The Board returned to study session.

STUDY SESSION, Continued

Those recognized or signed-in as present:

Susan K. Pulsipher, Board President
Janice L. Voorhies, Board Vice President
Kayleen Whitelock, Board Secretary
(Jen Atwood, Board Member, excused)
(J. Lynn Crane, Board Member, excused)
Richard S. Osborn, Board Member
Matthew Young, Board Member
Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
Michael Anderson, Administrator of Schools
Jill Durrant, Administrator of Schools
Laura Finlison, Administrator of Curriculum and Staff Development
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Herb Jensen, Director, Transportation Services
Sandy Riesgraf, Director, Communications
Jennifer Boehme, President, Jordan Education Association
Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
Robert Conder, AV Maintenance
Bruce Williams, Zions Public Finance
Johnathan Ward, Zions Public Finance
Carmen Freeman, Mayor, Herriman City
Michelle Kilcrease, Assistant Principal, Elk Ridge Middle School
Elk Ridge Middle School students and parents
Vicki Olson

President Pulsipher presided and conducted. The Board of Education continued its study session to discuss the following:

B. Elk Ridge Middle School Students' Request

Several Elk Ridge Middle School students addressed the Board to request an exception to policy AA417 *Fund Raising*. They explained that a group of AP Human Geography students formed the group, You MAD, which stands for "You Make A Difference", after learning of the many horrors children in other parts of the world face, such as genocide and slavery. They said they were inspired by the story of Malala Yousfazi, a 15-year old female activist who was shot for trying to promote the education of girls in her country. The students said that to date, approximately 45 students have joined their organization and they have a desire to participate in a service learning opportunity and raise funds to benefit children in other countries. Since policy AA417 specifies that at the middle school level only one fundraiser per year is allowed, the students asked the Board to grant them an exception to this policy.

The students shared with the Board their plans for "Poverty Awareness Month" to be held during the month of April and reviewed the activities that will bring attention to the needs of children in other countries. The students described the following charities that will benefit from the fundraiser: The SHAMBA Foundation works to educate the children of Kenya and 75 percent of the funds raised will go to them; Operation Underground Railroad organizes rescue missions for children and 20 percent of the funds will be donated to this organization; the remaining five percent, if necessary, will be used to pay the expenses of the various fundraising activities. The students shared a list of donors and sponsors that will assist with fundraising expenses.

Mrs. Whitelock stated that the Elk Ridge School Community Council voted to encourage and support the students in their desire to hold this fundraiser. She made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Kayleen Whitelock and seconded by Richard S. Osborn to authorize an exception to policy AA417 *Fund Raising* for Elk Ridge Middle School students so they can participate in the fundraising opportunity as described by the students. Mrs. Voorhies added an additional request to the motion that the students return to the Board following the fundraiser to report on their efforts, to which Mrs. Whitelock agreed and Mr. Osborn seconded. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

C. **Bond Discussion on Input from Cities**

Board members reported the results of visits with the City Councils of West Jordan, South Jordan, and Bluffdale and noted that they are scheduled to meet with the Herriman City Council tomorrow evening.

Mayor Freeman of Herriman City stated that he is supportive of the District's bond efforts and made recommendations for the type of information he feels should be presented to the City Council and patrons of the District. Mayor Freeman also stated that he will be having lunch with mayors of the other cities on Thursday and will be discussing the District's bond. He requested to receive taxing information from Johnathan Ward, the District's financial advisor, prior to his meeting so he can share it and garner support from them. He also suggested having city officials and Board members participate together in open houses to encourage civic support for the bond.

Mr. Young said he will be scheduling a time to meet with Riverton City officials and will report later on this meeting.

President Pulsipher stated that the next step in the calendar of events is to meet with legislators to discuss the November bond election. It was decided to wait to contact them until after the completion of the 2016 legislative session. They also discussed participation in upcoming city events such as parades and holiday activities as a forum for distributing information about the bond.

Board members discussed the public survey which will be completed by Lighthouse Research. Mr. Ward and Board members requested to review the survey questions prior to the time Lighthouse Research begins the survey process.

D. **Semi-Annual Report to Patrons**

Board members made recommendations for revisions to the semi-annual report to patrons. Ms. Riesgraf will make the changes and when completed and approved, will have the report mailed to District patrons. Ms. Riesgraf asked for clarification of the Board's desire to provide copies, via District mail, to employees. Board members agreed to have copies distributed via District mail to all employees.

E. Administrative Policy Review: DP327 Reduction in Licensed Staff

Dr. Godfrey, associate superintendent, said revisions to policy DP327 were reviewed and approved by the Joint Relations Committee, and noted that the changes bring the policy in line with Utah Code and updated procedures for the online application process.

President Pulsipher asked to have this policy brought before the Board for approval at an upcoming regular Board meeting.

F. Policy Governance Review: B/SC 201 Unity of Control

Board members reviewed the policy and determined that no changes were necessary.

G. Discussion on High School Parent-Teacher Conferences

Mr. Sorensen, administrator of schools, reviewed the results of participation in the October 2015 parent-teacher conferences. He also shared a ten-year history of conference participation which showed a steady decline in the number of parent-teacher conference attendees. In October 2004, 49 percent of parents attended high school parent-teacher conferences and in October 2015, participation was 26 percent. Mr. Sorensen noted that in October 2012, high schools switched to a one-day conference schedule; however participation did not improve. He shared positive and negative feedback received about the one-day conferences and the continued efforts by the high schools to make parent-teacher conferences worthwhile.

H. Discussion on Criteria and Process for Retiring Buses

Mr. Jensen, director of Transportation Services, reviewed the criteria and process for replacing the oldest buses in the fleet with new buses. He said the District has competent, capable, and qualified mechanics that are intimately aware of the mechanical needs of the District's fleet of buses. They work hard to try to meet the goal of keeping a bus in service for 20 years or 200,000 miles and while some buses have reached this life expectancy, most typically have an average life of 16-17 years. He stated that they would never want to keep a bus in service that compromises the safety of the children. Mr. Jensen reported that the mechanics keep a maintenance and repair record of every bus in the fleet. Using these service records and the intimate knowledge bus mechanics have of each bus in the fleet, they are qualified to make recommendations for taking buses out of service. When repair costs approach 50 percent of the value of the bus, replacement becomes more cost-effective than continual repairs. Mr. Jensen said another problem with which mechanics have to contend is the fact as a bus reaches the end of its life-expectancy, parts become unavailable or difficult to find.

Mr. Jensen commended the bus mechanics and bus drivers for the way in which they care for the District's fleet to keep them clean and in good running order.

Mr. Young stated that he is looking forward to hearing the results of the external study that will be conducted on the District's Transportation Department. This study will look at service delivery and allocation of resources. He added that he hopes there is a strong element of the analysis that compares Jordan District to other districts because his assumption is that Jordan will look good compared to other districts and he would like to have that data available to provide to the public.

I. Board Committee Reports

1. District Finance and Audit Board Advisory Committee

Mr. Young stated that the Transportation study that was discussed during Mr. Jensen's report will be the first engagement of the District's contracted internal auditor. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Larsen for his help in developing a plan for the external auditing services and stated that he is looking forward to receiving the data generated from the Transportation Services audit.

Mr. Young informed the Board that at the next meeting of the Finance Committee they are scheduled to review proposed CDAs from the City of West Jordan and from Riverton City. Following these meetings he will provide the Board with information about the projects.

2. Legislative/Community Relations Advisory Committee

Mrs. Pulsipher reported on legislation being proposed during the current legislative session that directly impacts public education. She reviewed bills related to post-retirement benefits, grant programs, trust lands, State Board of Education, charter school funding, and taxing changes.

Mrs. Whitelock explained Senator Harper's bill related to internet state sales tax and suggested the Board support Senator Harper's bill as a gesture of appreciation because he voted against S.B. 38 and in doing so referenced Jordan and Granite School Districts as his reason. Board members agreed to offer support for Senator Harper's bill.

Board members discussed sending a letter to employees to encourage them to participate in caucus meetings being held March 22, 2016. Mr. Van Komen, Board attorney, stated that the Board is free to send this type of letter under the Political Activities of Public Education Act; however, he would like to review it prior to dissemination to employees.

3. Other Committee Reports

Mr. Osborn reported that there is currently a controversy over the 5A drill team competitions at both the region and state levels. He said this controversy is directed at Copper Hills High and centers on obnoxious bullying parents and allegations that Copper Hills didn't follow the rules and was not penalized. He said changes are being looked at to stop future problems from occurring.

MOTION: At 9:30 p.m., it was moved by Kayleen Whitelock and seconded by Richard S. Osborn to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/jc

[Minutes approved 2-23-16]