

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 9, 2021

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, beginning at 4:07 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:

Tracy J. Miller, Board President
Bryce Dunford, Board First Vice President
Marilyn Richards, Board Second Vice President
Jen Atwood, Board Member
Niki George, Board Member
Darrell Robinson, Board Member
Matt Young, Board Member
Anthony A. Godfrey, Superintendent
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools
April Gaydosh, Administrator of Schools
Rebecca Gerber, Administrator of Schools
June M. LeMaster, Administrator of Human Resources
Shelley Nordick, Administrator of Teaching and Learning
Lisa Robinson, Administrator of Schools
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Rebecca Smith, Gifted & Talented, Teaching & Learning
Mr. James Birch, Principal, West Jordan High School
Ms. Dixie Garrison, Principal, West Jordan Middle School
Mr. Bryan Leggat, Principal, Joel P. Jensen Middle School
Aaron Hunter, Assistant Principal, West Jordan Middle School
Georgia Wing, Assistant Principal, West Jordan Middle School
Doug Flagler, Manager, Communications
Robert Conder, AV Department
Mike Maughan, AV Department
Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Giffin, President, Jordan Education Association
Elma Scheid, President, Jordan Education School Professionals Association

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

A. Report from West Jordan Secondary Schools on West Jordan Feeder Grant

President Miller stated that in 2016, the Board set aside \$4.6 million to be used over a four-year period by the principals of Joel P. Jensen Middle, West Jordan Middle, and West Jordan High School to improve student outcomes. This funding is scheduled to end June 30, 2021. She invited Mr. Young to give a brief overview of the program and then invited the principals of the three schools to present a final report to the Board about how the funds were used to improve student learning.

Mr. Young explained how badly he felt upon receiving a report in 2016 of what the District's "school grades" would be and the fact that the West Jordan schools were being given a bad grade. He said these "school grades" are not reflective of the efforts of the tremendous leadership and quality faculty members. He added that after learning this information, the Board discussed the need to provide

funding to the schools and allow principals to implement a plan for improving student outcomes, which they accomplished through the four-year spending plan. He expressed appreciation to the principals and said he was excited to hear of their successes.

Mr. Bryan Leggat, principal of Joel P. Jensen Middle School, Ms. Dixie Garrison, principal of West Jordan Middle School, and Mr. James Birch, principal of West Jordan High School, each shared how they used the funding the Board provided to help struggling students improve grades, decrease the drop-out rate, and increase the graduation rate. Mr. Birch reported that the graduation rate increased from 77 percent in 2015 to 86 percent in 2020. Principals reported reductions in ninth grade credit deficiency and increases in passing rates, reading proficiency, and math scores. Each principal explained how he/she was planning to meet the future needs of students by using various funding sources such as TSSA and EARS, but each principal also asked the Board to consider a continuation of some or all of the funds provided during the past four years so that the progress that has been made can continue.

President Miller expressed appreciation to the principals for the final report and stated it is evident how much they care about their students and the positive outcomes witness that fact.

Mr. Young suggested having the Finance Committee, as part of this year's budget discussions, review the possibility of continuing to provide funding to the schools as requested by the principals. All Board members agreed.

Ms. Atwood asked to have a future Board discussion about why Title I funding is not extended to District middle and high schools, as it is in other school districts. President Miller added that she would like to add to that discussion a request to have information presented to the Board about EARS funding so the Board can better understand how those funds are used. Superintendent Godfrey said he would gather the information the Board requested and make a presentation at the next study session.

B. Review of ESSER II Application (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund)

Dr. Shelley Nordick, administrator of Teaching & Learning, explained that ESSER II grant funds provided by the federal government as part of The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021, are to be used to "measure and effectively address significant learning loss" as a result of the pandemic. She provided Board members with a copy of the application and described allowable uses of the funds. She also noted the insertion within the application of Utah State Legislative Intent Language and approved uses. Dr. Nordick directed Board members to page six of the application and explained the District's proposed use of the funds which include 1) enabling each school to offer summer school programs that focus on literacy at the elementary level, preparatory courses and credit recovery at the middle school level, and credit recovery at the high school level; 2) strategic staffing for the purpose of tracking and monitoring secondary students and for providing intervention support for elementary students; and 3) providing professional development that focuses on assessing and pinpointing gaps in student learning, improving student access to rigorous content, progress monitoring, and coaching to ensure high levels of implementation. Dr. Nordick explained next steps for completing the application which is due March 31, 2021. These include continued discussion with principals and presenting the final application for Board review on March 23, 2021.

Board members asked questions and discussed the application. Superintendent Godfrey noted that formal Board approval is not required but if desired, it can be brought to them for formal approval on March 23, 2021. Following additional Board discussion, President Miller asked to have the application presented for formal approval.

C. Discussion on School Fees 2021-22

President Miller reported that on February 9 and February 23, 2021, the Board provided an opportunity for the public to give input about the 2021-22 school fee schedule. While no patrons appeared in person to provide input, Board members did receive a number of emails. President Miller indicated that the

School Fees for the 2021-22 school year will be brought to the Board for formal approval on March 23, 2021, and invited Board members to ask questions or discuss the schedule in preparation for the vote.

Mr. Young stated that he reviewed school fund balance accounts with Mr. Sorensen, administrator of schools, and discussed the efforts of principals to reduce the fund balances to a more appropriate level. He expressed appreciation to the principals who have been making an effort to insure that today's resources are being used for today's students.

Following the Board discussion, President Miller asked if all Board members were comfortable with the 2021-22 fee schedule and if they had the information needed to formally approve it on March 23. Board members acknowledged that they were ready to approve the fee schedule.

D. Friday Schedule Survey

Mr. Michael Anderson, associate superintendent, reviewed the results of the survey of parents, students, administrators, classroom teachers, licensed support staff, and Education Support Professional (ESP) employees regarding the Friday schedule which was implemented by the Board as part of the school reopening plan for the 2020-21 school year. During this year, students have been attending in-person or virtually Monday through Thursday with Friday utilized for teacher PLCs, small group or individualized instruction (in-person or online), remediation, acceleration, and office hours.

Mr. Anderson noted that survey respondents totaled 16,112 which included 11,992 parents, 1,944 classroom teachers, 954 ESP, 686 students, 399 licensed support staff, and 129 administrators. Respondents were asked to rate how satisfied they were with the current Friday schedule. Overall, 67 percent of respondents expressed a level of satisfaction with 47 percent very satisfied and 20 percent satisfied. Twelve percent expressed dissatisfaction, 11 percent very dissatisfied, and 11 percent neutral. Respondents were also asked if they would prefer the current Friday schedule with some adjustments, if they would prefer a different Friday schedule, or if they would prefer to return to the pre-pandemic Friday schedule. Mr. Anderson provided the data broken down by respondent group and school level. He also provided information about what the respondents would like to see changed about the current Friday schedule. Overall, respondents wanted clearer expectations for students, teachers wanted an increase in in-person/virtual instruction time, some wanted an increase in teacher planning or collaboration time, and some wanted to implement the current Friday schedule once or twice a month.

Board members discussed the survey results and next steps. Mr. Dunford expressed that it was his expectation that opinions would be evenly split between those for and against continuing the Friday schedule so he was surprised to see two-thirds of respondents in favor of continuing the Friday schedule. Board members also discussed ways in which they have heard the Friday is being used and the need for clearer expectations for both teachers and students.

President Miller asked for Board input about next steps. Following the discussion, it was decided to have a committee meet as soon as possible to begin discussions about the Friday schedule and bring a recommendation to the Board so a decision can be made about how to proceed. Mr. Young brought up the fact that the State allowed the District to implement the Friday schedule as part of its school re-opening plan and added that he would like the committee to investigate whether the State will allow the District to continue with the Friday schedule or, if schools will be directed to return to the pre-pandemic schedule.

President Miller noted that the committee includes Ms. Atwood, Ms. George, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Anderson, associate superintendent (appointed by Dr. Godfrey to chair the committee), along with parent and employee representatives.

President Miller reiterated for the benefit of the public that no decision has been made, the Board is looking at options for possibly continuing the Friday schedule.

E. Updates to Administrative Policy DP380 *Maternity/Paternity Leave*

Dr. June LeMaster, administrator of Human Resources, reviewed changes to policy DP380, noting that the changes were made in order to clarify language and intent of this new policy which was adopted in August 2020. She noted that although it is not a negotiated policy, the policy revisions were discussed with employee groups and reviewed by Mr. Van Komen, Board attorney.

Board members discussed the policy revisions and made recommendations for changes. They also asked to have the administration bring the adoption policy to the Board for review and to look at potentially combining the maternity leave policy with the adoption policy.

At 7:05 p.m., the meeting adjourned. Following a break, President Miller announced there was a problem with the YouTube live stream and the AV technicians were working to restore the stream. She called for a motion for the Board to go into closed session.

MOTION: At 7:34 p.m., it was moved by Marilyn Richards and seconded by Bryce Dunford to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

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Jen Atwood, Board Member
Niki George, Board Member
Darrell Robinson, Board Member
Matt Young, Board Member
Anthony A. Godfrey, Superintendent
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White

President Miller presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a closed session to discuss personnel, potential litigation and negotiations. The closed session discussion was recorded and archived.

MOTION: At 8:31 p.m., it was moved by Matt Young and seconded by Darrell Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

STUDY SESSION, Continued

Those recognized or signed-in as present:

Tracy J. Miller, Board President
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Jen Atwood, Board Member
Niki George, Board Member
Darrell Robinson, Board Member
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Robert Conder, AV Department
Mike Maughan, AV Department
Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Giffin, President, Jordan Education Association
Elma Scheid, President, Jordan Education School Professionals Association

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

F. Discussion on Board Communication/Connection to Stakeholders

President Miller invited Board discussion about past and future communication efforts with employees/stakeholders. She asked for input about whether to continue the monthly Board letter, if a summary of Board meetings should be prepared and distributed in JAM, and whether Board members wanted to continue the live YouTube stream of study and general session Board meetings.

Board members discussed methods of communicating with employees and the public. Mr. Robinson suggested educating the public and employees about how to be part of the process and encouraging them to take responsibility for following the work of the Board. Board members expressed support for continuing the YouTube stream of Board meetings and looking into software that is capable of marking agenda items in the audio so the public can easily access items for which they have an interest. Mr. Dunford suggested having a summary statement prepared by staff after each Board meeting that explains action taken by the Board and that can be distributed to employees/stakeholders. Mr. Dunford volunteered to work with Superintendent Godfrey to review communication efforts and bring recommendations to the Board.

President Miller asked Board members for input about whether they would like to continue participating in the various summer city parades. Board members were supportive of continuing participation but also noted that because of work schedules, some Board members may not be able to attend all parades. President Miller asked Superintendent Godfrey to have a staff member oversee the parade application process with the various cities. She also indicated that Superintendent Godfrey and Mr. Larsen, business administrator, are welcome to participate with the Board at city parades.

G. Scope of Jordan Ethnic Advisory Committee

Mr. Young, chair of the Jordan Ethnic Advisory Committee, reported that Committee members met and identified a name for the Committee which is Jordan Ethnic Advisory Committee (JEAC). He asked for clarification from the Board about the scope and role of the Committee, specifically, if the intent is for the Committee to focus its efforts on Black members of the Jordan community or all under-represented groups. Following the discussion, Board members agreed they would like the Committee to begin with a focus on the Black members of the Jordan community and in the future to expand to other groups. Mr. Young also reported that the Committee is planning to hold monthly meetings.

Mr. Young stated that he would like to have the Committee leadership introduced to the Board at the meeting on March 23, 2021. Board members agreed. Superintendent Godfrey was asked to extend this invitation.

H. Discussion on Funding Source for Overbudget 2021 Summer Projects

Ms. Marilyn Richards, chair of the Finance & Audit Board Advisory Committee, reported that the Committee met last Monday and held an extensive discussion about a funding source for the amount of the 2021 summer projects that exceeded the \$13 million budgeted amount. She recommended using \$2.26 million from the South Jordan City RDA funds to pay the balance of the Bingham High remodel phase III that exceeded the budgeted amount. She said the Committee is also recommending that the remainder of the RDA funds be set aside for future projects.

In response to a question from Mr. Young, Mr. Larsen explained that the South Jordan RDA began in approximately 2011 and the tax increment for the mitigation payments to Jordan District have been deposited yearly to a South Jordan City RDA account. He noted that the Agreement was for the City to hold the funds until such time as requested by the Jordan Board and at the present time, the total amount in the RDA account is approximately \$5.3 million and will be capped at \$10.5 million.

Board members discussed having the approximately \$5.3 million balance in the South Jordan account transferred to a Jordan District account now and then allowing the South Jordan City account to continue to grow as yearly deposits are made. They also discussed using \$2.26 million of these funds to supplement the cost of the Bingham High phase III remodel. Ms. Richards made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Marilyn Richards and seconded by Jen Atwood to authorize the administration to use \$2.26 million being held in the South Jordan RDA account to pay the cost of the 2021 summer projects that exceed the \$13 million budgeted amount.

AMENDED MOTION: It was moved by Matt Young and seconded by Bryce Dunford to amend the motion and request that South Jordan City transfer the approximately \$5.3 million RDA funds to a Jordan District account and to authorize the administration to use \$2.26 million of these funds to pay the cost of the 2021 summer projects that exceed the \$13 million budgeted amount. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

I. Review of Threshold for Board Approval on Purchases in Policy BP178 *Purchasing Provisions*

President Miller stated that at the February 23, 2021 Board meeting, many bids were presented to the Board for approval and a question arose about policy BP178 that requires that bids that exceed \$50,000 be presented to the Board for approval. She invited Board discussion about whether to leave the threshold at \$50,000, which has been in place since 2004, or consider increasing it to a higher amount, and whether to have the Finance Committee review the policy. She noted that the last Board review of this policy was in 2016.

Mr. Young expressed support for having the Finance Committee review the \$50,000 threshold and posed several questions that he said would help him with a decision such as 1) What percentage of the operational costs, without construction projects, is coming to the Board for approval? 2) Do other districts of similar size have the same dollar thresholds? 3) What amount would the Committee recommend as a threshold for determining whether bids should be approved by the Board?, and 4) If a new threshold is recommended, how many bids would that have eliminated from Board approval over the last four to five years? He also questioned how the \$50,000 threshold set in 2004 compares with a 2021 valuation.

Following Board discussion, President Miller directed the Finance Committee to review the \$50,000 threshold and bring a recommendation to the Board.

J. Professional Development Board Book Study

Dr. Anthony Godfrey, superintendent of schools, led a discussion about the sessions two and three readings from several books related to Gifted and Talented education. Board members shared insights, thoughts and impressions from the readings.

President Miller asked Board members to read the session four readings in preparation for the discussion at the April 13, 2021 study session.

K. Update on Pandemic Response

Test to Stay Threshold Changes. Superintendent Godfrey reported that the Utah Legislature approved a bill, which is awaiting the governor's signature, to change the threshold for Test to Stay to 30 COVID-19 cases for schools with 1,500 enrollment or below and two percent for schools above 1,500 students rather than transitioning to virtual instruction. He said currently, case numbers have been decreasing and it is anticipated that District schools will not reach two percent or 30 cases. He also added that the Test to Play numbers don't count towards the two percent or 30 case threshold. He asked Board members if they are comfortable with moving forward immediately with the two percent/30 case threshold as the new standard in light of the fact that the bill is awaiting the governor's signature. After Board discussion, Mr. Dunford made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to instruct the superintendent to continue with the two-day in a row protocol, but to move the threshold to 30 active cases or two percent, whichever is higher, and when reached, initiate Test to Stay procedures. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Test to Stay Permission Slips. Dr. Godfrey stated that previously the Board directed the administration on specific language for a parental Test to Stay permission slip, but because case numbers are low, the likelihood that schools will have to implement Test to Stay protocols is significantly diminished. He suggested waiting until a school nears the threshold before requesting Test to Stay permission slips and invited Board input. Board members discussed Dr. Godfrey's recommendation and agreed to leave the decision regarding the need to obtain parent Test to Stay permission slips to his discretion on a school-by-school basis.

Pandemic Reporting. Board members discussed a report they have been receiving from Dr. Godfrey that provided them with pandemic-related information and whether there is a need to continue to receive the report given the decrease in case numbers. Following the discussion, Dr. Godfrey said he will begin providing updates to the Board on an as-needed basis to report any schools that may be nearing the new two percent/30 case threshold. He added that the COVID-19 Dashboard will continue to be updated for the benefit of District patrons and the Board.

Graduation Plan Options. Dr. Godfrey asked for Board input about adding a tenth option to the list of graduation plans previously approved by the Board which would allow schools to hold ceremonies at third party venues, in light of the shift to a moderate level of COVID-19 transmission in Salt Lake County and potential future changes related to masks and gathering requirements. He noted that three high schools, Copper Hills, Herriman, and West Jordan, previously scheduled the Maverick Center for June 3 and if current mandates are lifted by the end of the school year, it may be possible to hold a type of traditional graduation ceremony. He said if approval is given for a tenth option, this would allow the other high schools to begin looking at third party venues.

Following Board discussion, Mr. Young made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Matt Young and seconded by Bryce Dunford to add a tenth option to the list of graduation plans to allow high schools to hold graduation ceremonies at third party venues.

AMENDED MOTION: It was moved by Darrell Robinson and seconded by Jen Atwood to amend the motion and require that schools obtain public input either from a survey or approval by the School Community Council.

President Miller called for a vote on the amended motion. The amended motion passed with a vote of four to three. Board Members Dunford, Richards and Young voted against the motion.

President Miller called for a vote on the original motion. The motion passed with a vote of five to two. Board members Richards and Atwood voted against the motion.

Superintendent Godfrey added a clarification that the vote is not a decision to have schools hold graduation ceremonies at a third party vendor, but rather to give schools the ability to hold ceremonies at third party vendors, if they have received input from the community and if Health Department restrictions allow these types of gatherings.

Pandemic-Related Information. Superintendent Godfrey reported that in his meeting with the Health Department this morning, his understanding is that changes at the school level take place only when the State's COVID-19 School Manual is updated. He noted that at this point, there are no other changes except for the thresholds discussed and approved. He invited Mr. Anderson to review school-related legislation.

Mr. Anderson, associate superintendent, explained the following bills passed by the legislature:

- S.B. 107 Bill 107 set the new thresholds. Because two-thirds of the house and senate passed the bill, it will become law upon signature of the governor or March 25, whichever comes first.
- H.B. 233 states that a person cannot be denied in-person learning based on vaccination status.
- H.B. 308 prohibits districts from denying workers or employees a job because they were not vaccinated.

Mr. Anderson reported that the Governor announced that every Utah citizen will be eligible for the vaccine beginning April 1st.

Superintendent Godfrey also reported about the use of volunteers in schools, progress on employee vaccinations which will end on Friday, and accommodations for students wishing to transition from in-person to virtual learning and vice versa.

L. Board Reports and Comments

Mr. Young, chair of the Legislative Committee, reported that the 2021 legislative session is now complete. He asked Board members if they had a desire to send a letter to legislators, as has been done in the past, to thank them for their efforts on behalf of Jordan District. Board members agreed.

Mr. Young reported that he attended a legislative wrap-up meeting with Senators McCay, Strong and Stenquist and said it was fun to be able to hear positive things said about Jordan District.

Mr. Young said he was thrilled with the ads the District sent through the mail and placed in City Journal publications about the District's new program offerings. He expressed appreciation to the Communications Department for preparing and publishing these advertisements and said he is excited to see what the level of interest will be for these programs.

Ms. George reported that she attended a meeting coordinated by Mr. Lance Everill, the District's Emergency Operations manager, with the West Jordan Police and Planning personnel. At this meeting they discussed safe walking routes and she was very impressed with the efficiency of the meeting and cooperation of all parties to work together to meet the best interests of students.

At 10:56 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

MOTION: At 10:56 p.m., it was moved by Matt Young and seconded by Bryce Dunford to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

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

MOTION: At 12:15 a.m., it was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Matt Young to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/jc