

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 7, 2023

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, beginning at 4:08 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
Niki George, Board First Vice President
Darrell Robinson, Board Second Vice President
Brian W. Barnett, Board Member
Lisa Dean, Board Member
Bryce Dunford, Board Member
Marilyn Richards, Board Member
Anthony A. Godfrey, Superintendent
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Sandy Riesgraf, Director, Communications
Michelle Love-Day, Consultant, Language & Culture Services
Language & Culture Services Team Members
Doug Flagler, Manager, Communications
Lisa LeStarge, Administrative Assistant
Robert Conder, AV Department
Janet Sanders, President, Jordan Education Association

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

A. Review of Ends Policy E404 *Safety and Security*

President Miller recapped the Board's decision to analyze a Board Ends policy each study session this year. The Executive Committee decided to begin a review of Policy E404 *Safety and Security* to determine if any revisions are needed.

First Vice President Niki George said this policy is intentionally vague for safety reasons, but she proposed minor changes to wording in the area of technology and communication. She suggested adding the following:

- 1) "In case of an emergency, parents can expect timely messages from the District that are coordinated with police efforts"
- 2) "Parents can expect to receive yearly communication containing safety procedures and protocols"

Board members discussed the desire to communicate with parents immediately after an emergency drill or event and Dr. Godfrey agreed that this timing would ensure a more captive audience. He said messages about safety protocol could be sent routinely at the beginning of the school year and after any safety incident.

Board members were divided on whether communication about safety protocols should be added to an Ends Policy and Ms. George agreed to bring back a revised draft to the next Board study session for further discussion.

B. Language & Culture Services

Dr. Anderson introduced Michelle Love-Day, Consultant in Language & Culture Services, who was asked to give a presentation to the Board about her department and the services they provide for students in Jordan District.

Ms. Love-Day said she and her team were misrepresented in a recent video by a conservative media watchdog group and she apologized for the resulting misconceptions. She said the department supports and follows State law and Board policies, including the right for parents to opt students out of classroom instruction. Ms. Love-Day affirmed that in the future, notifications of presentations given by the Language & Culture Services team will be sent to parents before and a second notification will be emailed to parents after the school visit.

Ms. Love-Day shared a handout that detailed the mission statement of the Language & Culture Services department, the services they provide, statistics about multilingual learners, and department and program partnerships. She highlighted the following services:

- Training, professional development, and workshops for teachers including Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), and ELLevation/Imagine Learning software
- Interpreting and/or translating in 63 languages
- Number of multilingual learners: 4,741
- ESL Endorsements through Southern Utah University
- Parent Orientations
- Family Engagement Centers
- Fall Family Fair with community resources for students and families
- Individual school Culture Nights

Ms. Love-Day explained the process of orienting and registering newcomers in school and the support that is given to their families. She said the department is solely funded by grants and partners with local agencies that serve and support refugees. She briefly discussed the types of presentations given in schools, teaching students that “everyone has culture.”

Ms. Love-Day said only about 25% of teachers are endorsed, but the department is working to find ways to encourage more to obtain this endorsement. She expressed the need for more interpreters to facilitate the growing number of requests for language services.

Dr. Godfrey said the District is working on a list of “frequently asked questions” to be used as a reference tool for Board members and others. This will be posted on the District website and a link will be sent to Board members. Ms. Love-Day added that her department’s presentations have also been made available to the public.

In response to a question about networking with other districts in the State, Ms. Love-Day reported she attends quarterly meetings with the Utah State Board of Education and meets every two months with other districts in a “Wasatch and Beyond” meeting where ideas are shared.

C. Fee Schedule for 2023-24

Brad Sorensen and Cody Curtis, Administrators of Schools, presented the School Fee Schedule for the 2023-24 school year. They noted principals must still approve Spend Plan Class Fee and Extracurricular

Fee forms and send them to the district for additional review by Administrators of Schools before being added to the website.

I. 2023-24 Fee Schedule

Mr. Sorensen explained House Bill 175 eliminated the option of charging curricular fees, however schools may charge reasonable extracurricular fees. He gave a proposed timeline for the 2023-24 school year, noting that all fees must be finalized by April 1, 2023. He said the maximum total aggregate fee per student remains at \$7000 per year and clarified that all fees are subject to fee waivers. Mr. Larsen said Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) funds are used for this purpose.

Ms. Richards asked if the template the Finance Committee created to track school fees is still being used and Mr. Sorensen agreed to research this and get back to the Board.

2. Website Page of Fee Lists by School

Mr. Sorensen explained how to access the proposed student fee schedule posted for each individual school and Mr. Curtis shared examples of class fees in middle schools. He noted that fees for school clubs have been added to middle school fee lists.

In response to Board members' questions, Mr. Sorensen agreed to look into any duplicate charges for similar items. Information will be sent to parents with a link to the proposed fee schedule soon and Board members agreed with the proposed time schedule, including a meeting in March, allowing for public comment.

D. Review of Local Professional Improvement Committee (LPIC) Sabbatical Recommendations

Dr. Godfrey reviewed Policy DP333 *Sabbatical Leave*, reporting that two individuals are applying for the four available sabbatical opportunities. He noted that, if approved, these employees would receive half-pay during their one year sabbatical.

The Board took action on the Sabbatical Recommendations with the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Niki George to authorize administration to move forward with proposed candidates for Sabbatical Leave with ratification at the next business meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

E. Board Priorities

Bryce Dunford opened a discussion about priorities the Board would like to address in Board meetings this year. Board members gave the following suggestions:

- How closure of a school would affect students who want to participate in extracurricular or athletic programs
- Re-establish attitudes and habits to stay between 21% and 25% of reserves (deficit spending)
- Are we a District or is the District a management system
- How do we gain back local control
- Change community perceptions & understandings
- Special Education (mentioned twice)
- Education Support Professional shortages & support (mentioned six times)
- TSSA priorities
- Student achievement
- Lowering class sizes
- Building plan/ bond plan
- Plan for West Jordan feeder system
- Crowded schools - Pocket busing
- Attract and retain best employees (mentioned three times)

- Teacher licensing/ certification
- Governing proactively vs. reactively
- Policies on gender, library materials, political neutrality in classroom
- Portrait of Graduate
- Overlap in issues – what is the first domino?
- Health and wellness
- High School Principals' work load
- Why House Bill 215 – How did this come about?
- Student soft skills

President Miller agreed to have the Executive Committee review and consolidate the list and bring it back for further discussion.

F. Summer Study Session

President Miller asked Board members about their desire to meet in a summer session to study more issues in depth. She suggested meeting on July 18, 2023 before the Board meeting scheduled later that day. Board members will consult their schedules and respond to President Miller, who will then make a final decision on the date and time.

G. Professional Development Board Book Study

Ms. Miller introduced the second study session of the book *Redefining Student Success* by Ken Kay and Suzie Boss. She said that this section of the book mainly listed examples of what Portrait of a Graduate could look like in practice. She asked Board members for insights.

Ms. Dean asked about legislation in 2020 that requires students to pass a civics test in order to graduate and Dr. Anderson confirmed this is required in our District.

Board members discussed the need for students to: have problem solving and problem “finding” skills, be creative, be proactive, and have real world experiences that prepare them for life after high school. President Miller, Dr. Godfrey, and Mr. Robinson discussed the need for entrepreneurial skills and innovation, and highlighted CTE and JTEC programs already happening in Jordan District.

Mr. Barnett was concerned with some examples in the book, saying they were “politically incendiary.” He agreed with some skills the book mentioned as important for students to gain, however he would like to add interpersonal skills and other virtues that he believes are essential. Board members expressed the importance of tailoring Portrait of a Graduate to Jordan District, using ideas and feedback from the community, Board, and administration.

Ms. Dean added that she feels students should be supported in their innovative ideas and that all students should have opportunities to take classes that encourage creativity and teach problem solving skills.

H. Board and Superintendent Reports and Comments

Facilities Committee

Marilyn Richards reported that summer projects bids will be brought to the Board in early March and she gave an update on the tier 2 earthquake assessment grant application. She said there is a 71% chance of receiving all the funding and a 90% chance of receiving some funding and noted the Board will know the results by May 20, 2023. She asked Board members if they would like to move ahead with their own seismic tests for West Jordan schools or wait until they hear from the State. Board members felt it would be prudent to wait for results of the grant.

Ms. Richards said Dave Rostrom is working with a company on renovation plans for Riverside and Terra Linda Elementary Schools; and another company on renovation plans for Joel P. Jensen Middle School and West Jordan High School. Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services, explained that the assessments for these schools would include everything but the tier 2 seismic evaluation (i.e. mechanical systems, safety, aesthetics, and things that could be upgraded). Board members agreed with moving forward on these general assessments.

Finance & Audit Committee

Bryce Dunford said recent meeting minutes are on BoardDocs. He urged the Board to develop an attitude of conservative deficit spending, getting back to the 21%-25% range.

Government Relations Committee

Niki George said she is actively working with the Joint Legislative Committee and invited Dr. Anderson to discuss upcoming events at the State Capitol.

Dr. Anderson announced that February 16, 2023 is the date set for Board members to have lunch with State Representatives at the Capitol. He added that February 23, 2023 is the "Day on the Hill" where student body officers can meet with legislators and receive a tour of the Capitol.

Dr. Anderson gave a brief report on bills to watch:

- HB372 (Representative Cobb) - A local school referendum amendment which would have a negative impact on budgets with the ability for a referendum. He said all Wasatch Front districts are concerned about this bill. Mr. Dunford suggested Board members read a brief written by Board Attorney, Paul Van Komen to the Supreme Court regarding the bill. Mr. Dunford said he would send this brief to Board members and Dr. Anderson said he will continue communicating with representative Cobb on the bill.
- HB344 (Representative Tuescher) – Promoting transparency in public school curriculum materials. It goes into more depth than a similar bill, HB55 and is opposed by the Joint Legislative Committee.
- HB195 – Regarding criminal investigations of school employees. It requires Districts place employees on paid administrative leave who are subject to an investigation. The bill also requires districts to allow the employee to return to work if they are exonerated and is considered to be a local control issue for districts.
- HB241 (Representative Tuescher) - Union Bill that eliminates the use of public resources by any union.

President Miller added recommendations by the Public Education Appropriations Committee, namely:

- A proposed 6% WPU increase
- Funding for full-day kindergarten
- A recommendation for a teacher prep day
- Teen centers
- A recommendation for one-time funding for capital projects

Jordan Parent Advisory Committee (JPAC)

Darrell Robinson said the committee met and discussed three things: 1) The Cook Institute wellness resources for parents and families, 2) safety and reunification drills, and 3) Legislative updates. He reported there were about 35 people in attendance and suggested principals attend with JPAC committee chairs to a future meeting. He explained the committee will meet twice a year, with the next meeting to be held in the fall.

Licensed Employee Advisory Committee (LEAC)

Bryce Dunford said the committee hasn't met yet and asked Board members for direction. They recommended a meeting by the end of the 2023 school year and suggested the following topics: what results are being seen by the money spent "taking things off the plate" of teachers; and brainstorming ideas to help with the Education Support Professional hiring crisis.

Organizations with Board Representation

- Joint Legislative Committee (JLC): President Miller thanked Mr. Robinson and Ms. Dean for coming to the USBA Day on the Hill. She highlighted the success of having the Jordan Academy of Technology and Careers (JATC) welding students display their work and the opportunity of learning about the new Governor's Office of Families.
- Jordan Education Foundation: Ms. Miller said the Outstanding Educator Banquet is April 13, 2023.
- Utah High School Activities Association: Ms. Richards had nothing to report. However, she added more information from the Facilities Committee.

Ms. Richards referred to documents posted on BoardDocs regarding development of property in the Riverton area, noting the bus route is still unfunded. It was clarified that busing will cost between \$45,000-\$50,000 and Board members felt the city should cover this cost. It was decided the unfunded bus route for the Western Springs subdivision will be placed on the next study session agenda and Mr. Thomas will have an initial discussion with Riverton city about busing and the need for them to provide a safe walking route for students.

- Utah School Boards Association: President Miller said Mr. Robinson, Ms. George, and herself will be going to a Presidents and Vice President's workshop on running more effective meetings.

Superintendents Report

Dr. Godfrey reported on the recent District job fair, saying it was very successful with over 200 households attending, dozens of applications submitted, and many people hired. He thanked all those involved.

Superintendent Godfrey gave a reminder that Health and Wellness activities will start on February 10, 2023 and will include health screenings and many other activities coordinated with local community sponsors. He thanked the Health and Wellness Team and the community for supporting the well-being of Jordan employees.

MOTION: At 9:33 p.m., it was moved by Marilyn Richards and seconded by Darrell Robinson to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Those recognized or signed in as present:

Tracy J. Miller, Board President
Niki George, Board First Vice President
Darrell Robinson, Board Second Vice President
Brian W. Barnett, Board Member
Lisa Dean, Board Member
Bryce Dunford, Board Member
Marilyn Richards, Board Member
Anthony A. Godfrey, Superintendent
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law

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

MOTION: At 11:46 p.m., it was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Lisa Dean to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/II