

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 14, 2026

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, beginning at 4:01 p.m. at JATC South (Board Conference Room), 12723 S. Park Avenue (2080 West), Riverton, Utah. The sessions were also provided electronically via YouTube.

OPEN 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
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Roxane Siggard, Administrative Assistant

President George presided and conducted. She called for a motion to go into closed session.

MOTION: At 4:02 p.m., it was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Suzanne Wood to go into closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call 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
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Kurt Prusse, Director, Purchasing

President George presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a closed session to discuss acting as an evaluation committee to a procurement solicitation, the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual, and negotiations. The closed session discussion was recorded and archived.

MOTION: At 4:25 p.m., President George declared the closed session ended and reconvened the study session.

STUDY SESSION

The Board of Education reconvened the 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
Suzanne Wood, Board Member
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Roxane Siggard, Administrative Assistant

The Board of Education discussed the following:

A. Report on Results from Fieldhouse Survey

President George gave background history on the topic, stating that every high school in the District may potentially have a field house, but the issue may ultimately be decided by the public in a potential bond initiative.

Consultants from Lighthouse Research & Development, Inc. presented the results of the survey and explained that the mixed-mode survey was conducted by telephone and online between January 31 and March 11, 2026. The 906 respondents were adults living in District boundaries who are likely to vote in the November 2026 election. The questions that were included in the survey were reviewed, and the responses were analyzed. The question, "Based on this information, would you support or oppose this bond initiative?" received 53% probably or definitely support, 40% probably or definitely oppose, and 7% don't know or undecided.

If this bond passes, it would result in a tax increase of approximately \$98 per year, or \$8.16 per month, paid over the course of 16 years, for the average household with a home valued at \$615,000.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Board members talked about the next steps. President George noted that the options for moving forward would be to end the discussion now, to continue research on potential support, or make a decision now.

After discussion, Bryce Dunford made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to move forward with the research process with focus groups towards the fieldhouse decision.

During discussion on the motion, Mr. Robinson was in favor of looking for private donors to offset the cost of the field houses.

Mr. Barnett said that since it looks like from this survey that it is close to being supported by the taxpayers, he is ready to move ahead without focus groups.

Mr. Dunford said misperceptions cause a bond to fail, and the reason for focus groups is for education, so the public is informed with the facts before voting.

President George cautioned that the legislature is sending the message that they are worried about property taxes, and that should be considered before deciding to bond.

Suzanne Wood and Lisa Dean expressed concern about asking the public for money too often.

The Board president called for a vote on the motion to move forward in the research process with focus groups towards the fieldhouse decision. The motion passed with five members voting in favor, and two voting against the motion. Brian Barnett and Erin Barrows cast the nay votes.

An additional motion was made by Mr. Barnett regarding the focus groups:

MOTION: It was moved by Brian Barnett and seconded by Erin Barrow to have Lighthouse move forward with three focus groups for the fieldhouse decision. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Business Administrator John Larsen reviewed the 2016 bond history and restrictions. Employees cannot advocate for a bond during work hours but may do so after hours as private citizens.

Superintendent Anthony Godfrey summarized by stating that the Board could vote to put procedures in place to put the bond on the ballot, so everything would be ready in time if the Board decides to place the initiative on the November 2026 ballot.

Mr. Dunford made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to direct staff to begin the process for a bond initiative. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the legal requirements that will need to be met in educating the public and how educating is different than advocating.

The Board confirmed to Mr. Larsen that he is to start work with bond and financial counsel to put together the process information and establish a timeline.

B. Review of Child Nutrition Meal Charges

Katie Bastian, Director of Nutrition Services, reviewed information on the District's child nutrition program and the need for a potential price increase for next year. She summarized the financial shortfalls that Jordan District and nutrition programs across the country are currently facing. The last meal price increase in Jordan was 2023-24 with a 25-cent increase for all student meals.

The National School Lunch Program is a stand-alone federally funded program with specific rules. Mr. Larsen stated that no property tax revenue is used to subsidize the lunch program. Additional funds come from the Utah liquor tax which is a huge boost to the program in keeping the prices low. The target fund balance for the school lunch program is 33% of expenditures or about \$10 million, which is a federal guideline.

Ms. Bastian, in working with Mr. Larsen and the Accounting team, projects that the FY26 year-end "best guess" loss will be about \$6,470,000. She recommends that prices for elementary meals be raised 25 cents; secondary meals raised 30 cents; and adult meals increased 50 cents for breakfast and 90 cents for lunch.

At 6:32 p.m., the presentation was paused for public comment on the fee schedule.

Opportunity for Public Comment on Student Fee Schedule 2026-27

At 6:33 p.m., President George allowed time for public comment on the Student Fee Schedule for 2026-27 as required by State Rule R277-407-6(2)(b). However, no individuals signed up or accepted the invitation to address the Board.

B. Review of Child Nutrition Meal Charges (continued)

The presentation on the potential lunch price increase resumed.

The overall net impact of increased prices is projected at \$716,000. Other potential changes may be necessary, depending on federal and state funding, which includes a reduction in staff in schools whose meal count has decreased; reduction of non-student contract days for staff and hours; and using the General Fund to cover Nutrition fund costs.

Utah in general is losing participation in school lunch program. Mr. Larsen referred Board members to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for statistical and historical information on the school lunch program.

Mr. Barnett asked how much of an increase would be needed to break even. Mr. Larsen and Ms. Bastian explained how many factors come into play, such as an increase in the federal funding, loss of participation, so it is difficult to determine the balance. If it is increased by too much, participation will decrease and State reimbursement is falling.

Mr. Larsen and Ms. Bastian asked the Board for direction as the website, free and reduced lunch applications, registration materials, and budget all need to be prepared soon for the 2026-27 school year.

Board members agreed that they would like to be informed and have the opportunity to assist with financing options before a potential decision on employee benefits and reduction in hours is made.

The following motion was made by Ms. Wood:

MOTION: It was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Darrell Robinson to accept the recommendation for meal price increase for the 2026-27 school year and appropriately align schools with their staffing model. The motion passed unanimously.

The approval for the meal price increase will be part of the budget approval process.

C. Calendar Committee Recommendations for Proposed Calendars for 2027-28 School Year

Dr. Michael Anderson introduced the calendars and emphasized the big influence they have on the lives of patrons and students, as well as schedules for other schools.

Mr. Caleb Olson represented the Calendar Committee, which developed three proposed options:

- Option 1 – Early spring recess option
- Option 2 – Late spring recess option
- Option 3 – December semester option; end by Memorial Day

Each of the options was reviewed for the differences, which were primarily involving breaks. However, Mr. Olson pointed out that Option 3 had a sizeable imbalance between the semesters, which could impact semester courses and certificate completion.

After discussion, Ms. Wood made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Erin Barrow to approve Option 1 and Option 2 for survey; Option 3 to be approved pending confirmation that it will not impact certifications. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Staff will research the impact of Option 3 on certifications, and Superintendent Godfrey will email the Board with that information. Staff will make the decision as to whether or not to include Option 3 on the survey and notify the Board.

D. Calendar Committee Recommendations for Proposed Revisions to 2026-27 School Year Calendars

Mr. Olson presented information on proposed revisions to the 2026-27 school calendars, which are necessary due to changes in Utah Code 53F-2-102 by SB58 Public School Attendance Amendments as to the definition of an instructional day. The Jordan Health & Wellness Day can no longer be counted as an instructional day.

To accommodate this change for Jordan's Health & Wellness Day, the Committee proposed that the professional development day scheduled for April 16, 2027, be changed to February 5, 2026.

Dr. Godfrey confirmed that snow days or emergency days can continue to be virtual, but except for virtual schools, a district cannot have a virtual day be part of a scheduled calendar.

MOTION: It was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Erin Barrow to accept the draft for the school year calendar 2026-27 as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Formal approval will take place at the April 28, 2026 business meeting to comply with the state law requiring notification at least 90 days prior to the start of the school year.

E. Discussion on Videos Regarding School Finance

Suzanne Wood introduced the topic of educational videos explaining school finance and thanked Mr. Larsen for the information and assistance with compiling ideas. She said the objectives of the videos would be to clarify funding misconceptions by the public, build public trust, and improve community engagement. Considerations for developing the videos need to include neutrality, accessibility to all, a script length of about three minutes, and engaging graphics and narration. The topics are of common interest to school boards throughout Utah, and could be used to educate the public prior to a presentation on budgets, WPU, and others.

Ms. Wood presented prioritized topics as:

1. Property Tax vs. Sales and Income Taxes in Utah
2. Why My School District Received More Property Taxes This Year
3. How Local and State Governments Work Together to Fund Schools in Utah

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed topics. Mr. Dunford stated that with a brilliant business administrator, an effective Communications department, and a supportive board, Jordan should lead out in educating the public by producing the videos.

It was decided that the Board would review the script and give it to Communications for editing and production. Additional funds could be allocated, if needed. Communications will let the Board know what is reasonable for a timeline and Dr. Godfrey will get the estimated timeline. Board members requested the videos be Jordan-branded and look similar.

F. Review of 2026 National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference

President George reported that five Board members attended the NSBA Conference this year, with a focus on being better board members and increasing outcomes for students. She encouraged Board members to share their thoughts on the event.

The sessions attended by Suzanne Wood emphasized Superintendent/Business Administrator/Board relationships. Her highlights included encouraging participation from every board member; having a conversation ahead of a meeting, so there are no surprise questions for the superintendent or business administrator; getting to know the “whys” of the business administrator and seeing him as a resource to the Board; and how to take relationships to the next level.

Erin Barrow concentrated her sessions on professional development and meeting other board members from across the nation. She felt it was beneficial to see what other districts are doing; how Jordan is doing compared to others, and areas to strengthen.

Sessions attended by Darrell Robinson included transforming closed schools into community connections, partnerships with career-accelerated (CAPS) programs, and AI-related topics. He is interested in exploring national conferences for school boards other than NSBA.

Lisa Dean reported on sessions she attended on balancing the board perspective, the superintendent's vision and patron needs; strengthening boards through teamwork and intentionally utilizing each member's strengths; and why school boards matter.

President George commented that a powerful part of the experience is to talk to her own board members in a different setting about broad critical concepts. Many of her sessions focused on “Ready, Set, Governance,” where she felt she gained a better understanding of the role of the chair. She felt a class on policy that defined the difference between policy and procedure was beneficial. She acknowledged the sacrifice from families to have Board members away for the conference and expressed her appreciation to the Board members and families.

G. Review of Board Policies GP113 *Board Committee Principles*, GP114 *Board Representation on District Committees & Other Organizations*, and GP115 *Policy Development*

Due to the late hour, Mr. Dunford made the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to postpone discussion of Item G. to a future meeting. The motion received a unanimous vote.

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

Brian W. Barnett reported that the Facilities Advisory Committee has recommendations but is holding off to present a list of schools to review.

Suzanne Wood, Government Relations Advisory Committee, discussed meeting with legislators in May ahead of opening bill files; she will report back on the meeting. Mr. Dunford suggested she present the field house information to them.

Ms. Wood also gave dates for events affiliated with the Jordan Education Access Committee (JEAC) including the Language and Culture Services Senior Night at Bingham High School on May 7, 2026 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.; the Native Community and Senior Night at West Jordan Middle School on May 7, 2026 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.; and the Family Engagement Certification Night on May 13, 2026 at Sunset Ridge Middle School at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Erin Barrow reported the Jordan Parent Advisory Committee (JPAC) meeting held on March 25, 2026 had a good turnout of parents. Dr. Anderson presented on the legislative bills and answered questions about their impact. She was invited to sit on a meeting of the South Jordan Healthy Coalition to represent the Jordan Board of Education. The purpose of her attendance is to see if the Coalition can do anything to help the school district. The Board approved her attendance and suggested that Katie Bastian should be included with information on the Nutrition program.

Lisa Dean encouraged attendance at the Jordan Education Foundation's Fun Run on May 9, 2026 at the West Jordan Park. The event is free to teachers, and the school with the most participation will receive a \$1000 prize. The Links to Schools golf tournament is June 25, 2026 and the Foundation will open registration soon. Ms. Dean also mentioned she will be attending a meeting of the Health Materials Review Committee on April 27, 2026. As the Board was not aware of this assignment, President George recommended that it be on the list of Board Committee assignments.

Reporting on the Utah High School Activities Association, Bryce Dunford announced that Ryan Bishop, principal at Wasatch High School, has been hired as the executive director. The next realignment process will group no less than 21 schools in the 6A category and will use a scoring formula to determine placement.

MOTION: At 9:34 p.m., it was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Erin Barrow to go into closed session; after which, the meeting will be adjourned. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call 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
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.

At 10:29 p.m., President George declared the meeting adjourned.

JL/rs