

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 10, 2021

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, beginning at 4:00 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, via electronic connection
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, BVKTS Law
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools
Jill Durrant, 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
Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
Lisa LeStarge, Administrative Assistant
Andrew Thompson, AV Contractor
Mike Maughan, AV Department
Kelly Giffin, President, Jordan Education Association
Elma Scheid, President, Jordan Education School Professionals Association
Susan Pulsipher, District 50, House of Representatives
Michelle Lovell, Consultant, Teaching and Learning
Mandy Thurman, Consultant, Teaching and Learning
Becky Rendell, Jordan Education Association Representative

Board First Vice President, Bryce Dunford, presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a study session to discuss the following:

A. Discussion on Legal Services Agreement Regarding Vaping Litigation

Mr. Dunford explained that Jordan School District is interested in joining a class-action lawsuit regarding vaping. Mr. Joel Wright with Kirton McConkie and Mr. William Shinoff with Frantz Law Group in California, presented information about this opportunity. Mr. Shinoff defined and explained the dangers of vaping and the claim that vaping is intentionally marketed to children, including Jordan District students. This "mass action" lawsuit is a multi-district litigation, allowing each district to make decisions on how to proceed when there is potential for negotiations. The defendants are Juul apps and Altria (or Phillip Morris) and there is a trial date set for March 2022.

Mr. Shinoff addressed the major concerns for districts, including the time involved, cost, and risk. He stated that there was a very minimal time commitment, a reduced contingency fee of 23% that will be split between firms, and no risk involved. He said his firm will also provide monthly updates.

In response to concerns and questions raised by the Board, Mr. Wright stated that the Utah Attorney General's office has expressed that they will not be pursuing this litigation and noted that two Wasatch Front districts have already joined the suit and several other districts are considering joining. Mr. Van Komen, Board Attorney, stated that he has been working with Mr. Shinoff to prepare the agreements.

Representative Susan Pulsipher endorsed this opportunity and recommended the Board join the lawsuit.

Following the discussion, Board members agreed to move forward with the lawsuit. President Miller asked to have this matter brought to the Board for formal approval at the August 24, 2021 Board meeting.

B. Early Literacy Plan Review

Dr. Shelley Nordick, Administrator of the Teaching and Learning department, reported about last-year's progress and this year's goals for the District literacy plan. Dr. Nordick shared a presentation that explained State and District goals and statistics showing growth in reading benchmarks for Kindergarten through 3rd grade students. She discussed the importance of intervention, on-going training for teachers (specifically in the "Letters" program), and a new reading program for K-3. She highlighted the summer literacy launch and the focus for each student to be reading on grade level. Dr. Godfrey and Board members commended the Teaching and Learning department for their efforts in supporting and providing valuable teaching tools for elementary teachers. ESSER funds are available to provide additional literacy resources and further consideration will be given to additional "Letters" training for 4-6 grade teachers.

C. Discussion on Community Feedback Regarding Administrative Policy AS90 *Drugs and Alcohol*

In response to the Board request for public feedback on the revision of Policy AS90, Mr. Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent, explained that an informative email was sent to over 100,000 parents in Jordan District. It explained the proposed changes, requested parent feedback and invited them to a Town Hall meeting. In addition, a video was posted on the District website which was accessed over 4000 times, but received no comments. Mr. Travis Hamblin, Director of the Student Services department, mentioned that the town hall discussion included more clarification about oral devices and overall, parents were supportive of these policy changes.

Ms. George felt that parents appreciated the revisions and Mr. Robinson also felt the policy was a positive change. Board members expressed concern over suspensions that occur at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Dunford recommended that Dr. Godfrey inform the board of the number of 45-day suspension cases between the first day of school and the date the policy will be in effect and that additional parent comments be shared with them. This information will be given to the Board and this item will be added to the Board Study session on August 24, 2021 and subsequently added to the public meeting agenda for that date for formal Board approval.

D. Discussion on Administrative Policy AA419 *Student Conduct and Dress*

Mr. Dunford reminded Board members and the public that this discussion had previously been discussed by the board and feedback was given. He invited Mr. Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent, and Mr. Travis Hamblin, Director of the Student Services department, to discuss the policy. Mr. Anderson mentioned that this current discussion will include updates and suggested changes based on the feedback from District school administrators, Jordan Ethnic Advisory Committee, and Board members. He recommended these changes be taken to School Community Councils and PTA members once school begins. He also emphasized that this new policy is restorative focused, emphasizes the student learning environment, is a parent-centric policy, is aimed at reducing out-of-class time, and is gender and culturally neutral.

Mr. Travis Hamblin presented an overview of the changes, which use general and specific standards or guidelines. He emphasized that the changes take out ambiguity and subjectivity and allow administrators

the ability to use their good judgement in the way they enforce these policies at school-sponsored activities.

Mr. Robinson inquired how the changes in our policy compare with similar policies in other districts. Mr. Hamblin reported that some are more prescriptive, but most are changing their policies in similar ways to our district. Mr. Robinson requested sample policies from other districts and Mr. Anderson agreed to share this information.

In an attempt to gather further feedback from the public, the Board instructed the Superintendent to share these changes with School Community Councils and PTAs and then hold a public town hall meeting. This feedback will be shared at the general Board session in October with the intent for final Board approval.

E. Discussion on Board Directive for Administrative Policy AA410 *Study of Controversial Issues*

Mr. Dunford reminded the Board that the State School Board passed Administrative Rule 277-348 as it stood and he summarized the Board policy AA410 directives. The Board examined the language of this policy in an attempt to define what makes an issue controversial. After considering alternate wording to some wording in the directive, the Board decided that President Miller will assemble an ad hoc committee, including three Board members and the Superintendent, to further examine the policy and compile a Board directive.

F. Pandemic Update for 2021-22 School Year

Dr. Godfrey informed the Board that this afternoon, Dr. Dunn, director of the Salt Lake County Health Department, issued a 30-day order that students under age 12 must wear a mask indoors at school. The Salt Lake County Council will be meeting on Thursday at 2:00 PM to vote on whether to terminate this order. After the County makes a decision on Thursday, Board members requested that communication be sent out to families on Monday including information about what the Board discussed today.

Other pandemic updates are listed below:

- **Masks:** The District will be receiving disposable masks from the Governor's office for all students K-12 and schools will inform families and distribute them. Provisions for student mask exemptions will remain in place. Teachers are not being asked to wear masks.
- **"Test to Stay" Protocol:** If student enrollment reaches 2% positive for Covid-19 for high school or 30 cases for elementary or middle school, the "Test to Stay" protocol would be necessary. In order for these students to stay, even if vaccinated, students must show a negative test result. If they test positive or refuse to test, students would have to be isolated for 10 days. Staff testing positive would not affect this protocol.
- **School Lunch:** currently there are no requirements for schools to set a different lunch schedule or set-up.
- **District Covid Dashboard:** The Dashboard will be linked directly to the County Dashboard and continuously updated.
- **FFCRA:** This is employee leave related to quarantine due to Covid and it is not currently in place. The Board approved Superintendent creating a Covid-related employee leave. This will help ensure that employees don't take personal time to deal with Covid related issues.
- **Classroom Volunteers:** The Board stated that parents are welcome in the classroom and teachers can use their discretion about if and how they are used as a volunteer. Schools should communicate this to parents.
- **Quarantine:** The Board referred to the County Health Department order for regulations regarding those that need to quarantine. For students that qualify for quarantine, the Board decided that the student can choose to come back to school wearing a mask or quarantine at home for the required length of time.

G. Review of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy GP110 *Public Participation at Board Meetings*

President Miller, posted an updated draft of recommended changes for Board review. These include possible changes to the amount of time allotted for public comments and the procedure for addressing electronic public comments.

It was recommended that these changes be reviewed at the Board study session on August 24, 2021 with the intent for final Board approval on that date.

H. USBA Legislative Priorities

President Miller, reported that the Delegate Assembly will be Saturday, August 14, 2021 where a vote will be taken on USBA legislative priorities. Ms. Miller and Ms. George are delegates (Mr. Young is an alternate). Feedback was requested from the Board on priorities and a discussion ensued about impact fees on behalf of public schools. The Board questioned if there is intent to use these for other things besides capital needs and they emphasized the importance of finding solutions for housing our growing student population. Mr. Robinson suggested a further study of impact fees and Ms. Miller and Ms. Atwood suggested changes in wording regarding the WPU salary increase for quality educators.

I. Discussion of Licensed Educator Advisory Committee (LEAC)

Mr. Dunford asked who will be attending the next LEAC meeting and it was determined that Ms. Atwood, Mr. Robinson, and Ms. George will attend this meeting. The Board decided that new elections should be held for members of the LEAC committee and Mr. Dunford will bring information on election procedure to the next Board meeting.

The aforementioned Board members were assigned to meet and discuss proposed topics for the LEAC meeting and to create a tentative agenda and date for new member orientation. They will present these ideas at the study session on August 24, 2021.

J. Discussion on Board Interest in Partnerships with Additional Charter Schools

Mr. Young explained that the current partnership between Jordan District and the RSL Academy has been mutually beneficial. He said there has been increased public interest in exploring another charter partnership opportunity and six of seven Board members agreed. Ms. Richards opposed unless the charter school had a particular focus.

It was decided that President Miller will form an ad hoc committee to explore charter school partnerships and define the process for doing so. It was determined that this committee will also decide if there is a need to reinstate the Innovations Committee.

K. Board and Superintendent Reports and Comments

Mr. Young asked if there was interest by other Board members to be involved with the Legislative Committee in meeting with elected representatives on bills for the next legislative session. It was decided to give this assignment exclusively to the Government Relations Committee.

Ms. Richards reported that the Finance Committee has contacted the internal auditor and he will review what Board members have asked specifically, which important items should Board members be aware of, how teacher salaries could be increased, and Special Education funds. Mr. Young asked to receive a copy of the engagement agreement.

Ms. Richards informed Board members that she provided each of them with a link to a USBE video about funding that Board rule requires Board members to watch. Each Board member was asked to view this video and report to Ms. Richards when they have watched it.

Ms. Richards stated that the Finance Committee will be meeting on August 16, 2021 to discuss available funds for Summer 2022 projects and she will report on this at the August 24 Board meeting.

President Miller reported that her assignment on the Point of Mountain Development Commission, is complete and that the framework plan has been released to the public. This is posted online and will be available at an Open House on Thursday, August 12, 2021 from 4:00-7:00 PM (in person or virtual) and public feedback is requested.

President Miller reported that the USBA leadership academy will be held September 17-19, 2021 at Zermatt Resort in Midway, Utah. She asked Board members to let her know if they would like to attend.

Ms. Miller also mentioned that Mr. Dunford agreed to write a "welcome to school letter" to be sent to parents.

Ms. Atwood reminded the Board of a Bluffdale parade on Saturday, August 14, 2021. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Dunford, Ms. Richards, and Ms. George will be representing the Board at this event.

At 9:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

MOTION: At 9:55 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Richards and seconded by Mr. 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, via electronic connection
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, BVKTS Law

Board First Vice President, Bryce Dunford 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 10:19 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Atwood and seconded by Mr. Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/II