

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 4, 2009

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in closed and study sessions on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, beginning at 5:20 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. the Board of Education held a meeting to facilitate a Truth-in-Taxation hearing. The meetings were held at Riverton High School, 12476 S. Silverwolf Way, Riverton, Utah.

MOTION: At 5:20 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Richard S. Osborn and seconded by Mr. Carmen R. Freeman to go into closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Those recognized or signed-in as present:

Peggy Jo Kennett, Board President
Carmen R. Freeman, Board Vice President
Rick Bojak, Board Member
Randy S. Brinkerhoff, Board Member
J. Dale Christensen, Board Member
Richard S. Osborn, Board Member
Leah Voorhies, Board Member
Barry L. Newbold, Superintendent of Schools
D. Burke Jolley, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services
Sherry Wasden, Deputy Superintendent for Instructional Services

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

At 6:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned. At 7:00 p.m., the Board convened in the auditorium at Riverton High School to facilitate a Truth-in-Taxation hearing.

TRUTH-IN-TAXATION HEARING

Those recognized or signed-in as present:

Peggy Jo Kennett, Board President
Carmen R. Freeman, Board Vice President
Rick Bojak, Board Member
Randy S. Brinkerhoff, Board Member
J. Dale Christensen, Board President
Richard S. Osborn, Board Member
Leah Voorhies, Board Member
Barry L. Newbold, Superintendent of Schools
D. Burke Jolley, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services
Sherry Wasden, Deputy Superintendent for Instructional Services
J. Calvin Evans, Assistant Superintendent, Compliance and Special Programs
Anthony A. Godfrey, Assistant Superintendent, Bingham K-12 Feeder System
June M. LeMaster, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Frank W. Shaw, Assistant Superintendent, Copper Hills K-12 Feeder System
David G. Stoddard, Assistant Superintendent, Riverton K-12 Feeder System
John M. Taylor, Assistant Superintendent, Auxiliary Services
Bevan J. Wasden, Assistant Superintendent, West Jordan K-12 Feeder System
Melinda R. Colton, Director, Communications
Steven Dunham, Assistant, Communications
Glenna Alama, Secretary, Communications
Larry W. Johnston, Director, Budgets, Accounting and Auditing
John N. Larsen, Accountant/Internal Auditor, Budgets, Accounting and Auditing

Scott Thomas, Staff Assistant, Auxiliary Services		
Jeri Clayton, Administrative Secretary		
Robin Frodge, President, Jordan Education Association		
Debra Bills, Jordan Classified Professionals Association		
Amy Stewart, Deseret News Reporter		
Kirsten Stewart, Salt Lake Tribune Reporter		
Royce Van Tassell	Carol Brown	Jack Barlow
David Thompson	Fred Kuperus	Wendy Brown
Jackie Tagli (illegible)	Jody Roberts	Jeff Haaga
Kristin Sokol	Robert Wadman	Nora Lems
Karen Hyatt	Alexandra Eframo	Robert Nielsen
Jason Canning	Matthew Young	Chuck Newkirk
Dennis Sampson	Sharon Briggs	Mike Christensen
Norm Riggs	Jon Schiffman	Paul Mikstas
Rod Flanigan	Melissa L. Frost	Anamarie Rodabaugh
Lopien E. Martin	Aaron Nichols	Richard Nielsen
George O'Very	Heidi Hansen	Aaron Osmond
Bonnie Fernandez	Charles E. Irwin	Luciana Winter
Hein Hargrove	Gloria Allan	Catherine Wooday
Carolyn Reese	Lynn Reese	James Smith
Peggy Smith	Jared Black	Debra Bills
Marie Maitland	Earl Gubler	Jennifer Andelin
David K. Brown	Andrew D. Mills	LaRue Edwards
Patti Ault	Clive Killpack	Steve McDowell
Jackie Drummond	R. Brian Detham	Deanna Baird
Melissa Johnson	Tracy Nguyen ("Win")	James & Barbara Prand
Amelia Roberts	Joan S. Glade	Ruth & Lee Beckstead
James Romero	John W. Smith	William J. Buchanon
Greg Hunter	Debbie A. Holt	Marshall Craig Allen
Milton R. Estabel	Jacquie Chappell	James Egmer
Jim Stewart	Thaddeus Speed	Ralph J. Haws
Lloyd DeMille	Richard Habel	Ben Wallis
Martin S. Phillips	Lori Munk	Christie Jarrard
Robert L. Monson	Richard Staples	Linda Crane
Frank Fisher	Josh Mills	Brad Bell
Joseph Frank	Steve Catmull	Amanda Clark
Jennifer Justesen	LeAnne Heagren	Gary Horne
Becky Pratt	Ben Bolduc	Matthew Flitton
Kent Money	Dan McKay	Wayne C. Hansen
Paul Ross	J. Rodney Dansey	Eileen Brooks
Kyle Glover	Dianne Gordon	Maridene Hancock
Doug Carlile	Bruce Hevelone	Kerry Hess
Alan Chenworth	Forest Ewell	Randy Richardson
Ed Endemano	Mario Rodriguez	Edward Staley
Matthew Robison	Kae Larsen	John Hawkins
Jerry Foutz	MJ Jackson	Tom Dyches
John Arden Andreason	Cindy Glover	Charles Briggs
Paul Wayman	Sara Fiegal	Erick Fiegal
Kerry Simi	Glen Johnson	Shem Barlow
Mark Henrie	David Newton	Shem Fischer
Matthew Robison	David Grow	Larry Green
DeeAnn Gibson	Heber Barlow	Bruce Crane
Steven Riggs	Nancy Lord	Don Rushing
Stanley Cram	Andy Gibbs	Stephanie Ericksen
Carl Wimmer	Volda Dulut	Kathy Wittke
Tony Curtis	Dave Rigby	Lee Gardner

Aleta Taylor
 Kaitlyn Hartwig
 Brian Knox
 Richard Bosch
 Darren Park
 Jennifer Howell

Tarnell Nighber
 Wells Wagner
 Corbin White
 Scott D. Christensen
 Heather Levan
 Kathy Johnson

Don Bevan
 Marvin Milles
 Melanie Jones
 Charles Masson
 Lanny Sorenson

Board President Peggy Jo Kennett presided and conducted. She welcomed those present and invited Superintendent Barry L. Newbold and Deputy Superintendent D. Burke Jolley to conduct the Truth-in-Taxation presentation.

A. Truth-in-Taxation Presentation

Superintendent Barry L. Newbold reviewed issues related to the 2009-10 budget and the Board's rationale for the proposed tax increase. He provided the following explanation for the estimated \$33 million shortfall:

State Funding Reduction. The 2009 Legislature reduced education funding through cuts to Quality Teaching Block Grants, Local Discretionary Block Grants, Social Security, Transportation, and many others, resulting in a \$15 million shortfall.

District-Split Impact. The impact of the district split (effective July 1, 2009), was presented in the following graph:

	Tax Revenue	Old Jordan	Canyons	Jordan	Shortfall from Old Jordan
General Fund Total Revenue		\$58,777,855	\$31,884,019	\$26,893,836	
General Fund Revenue/Student		\$754	\$997	\$585	(\$7,768,675)
			132%	78%	

General Fund revenue for the remaining Jordan District is expected to decrease by approximately \$8 million as a result of the district split.

Assessed Valuation Drop. The impact of the district split and declining economy was presented in the following graph:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Estimated 2009-10
Assessed Valuation (billions)	\$25.7	\$32.6	\$34.5	
Jordan				\$13.4
Canyons				\$17.0
Students	78,708	80,187	81,017	
Jordan				48,621
Canyons				32,848
AV / Student	\$326,079	\$406,487	\$425,837	
Jordan				\$275,601
Canyons				\$517,535
Tax Revenue Generated / Student using the 2008-09 tax rate of .006150			\$2,818	
Jordan				\$1,824
Canyons				\$3,425

The estimated loss in revenue due to the decreased assessed valuation is approximately \$5 million.

Other Major Budget Changes. An additional \$5 million in budget reductions and increased costs were outlined using the following graph:

	(\$millions)
New School Opening Costs	\$(0.9)
Insurance (all employees)	(1.1)
Professional Development Days (teachers only)	(0.8)
Staff Growth (student-driven)	(2.5)
1% COLA (teachers only)	(1.3)
Lanes (teachers only)	(0.6)
State Leeway Subsidy	1.3
No Absence Incentive (teachers only)	0.7
Travel/Food	<u>0.2</u>
Net Deficit	\$(5.0)

Superintendent Newbold presented a list of budget-saving considerations and results of a Dan Jones survey. Budget-saving considerations included the following:

- Eliminate all programs funded with State money that were cut by the Legislature
- Eliminate or reduce District-funded hazardous transportation
- Increase class size
- Implement cuts in non-classroom expenditures
- Furlough employees, 1-5 days
- No COLA for employees
- No step increases for employees
- No lane changes for teachers
- No teacher professional development days
- Reduce text, supply, and media allocations to schools
- Increase property taxes
- Reduce District-paid travel and food purchases
- Reduce the District's fund balance
- Eliminate the "Attendance Incentive"
- Transfer school antennae lease revenues to the District
- Open Silver Crest Elementary on a traditional rather than a year-round calendar

The results of a Dan Jones survey suggested that District patrons preferred a reduction to some administrative and non-teaching staff and an increase in property taxes, and that it would be less preferable to increase class size or eliminate or reduce school programs.

To address the \$33 million shortfall, the Board proposed using \$6 million from the Fund Balance, reducing the budget by \$8 million through employee layoffs, and increasing taxes \$19 million. The proposed tax rate was presented in the following graph:

	Actual <u>2008-09</u>	Proposed <u>2009-10</u>	Change From Prior <u>Year</u>
General Fund			
Basic Program	0.001250	0.001433	0.000183
Voted Leeway	0.001200	0.001600	0.000400
Board Leeway	0.000400	0.000400	None
Reading Program	0.000121	0.000121	None
Special Transportation	0.000001	0.000061	0.000060
Tort Liability	0.000001	0.000034	0.000033
Non K-12			
Recreation	0.000051	0.000098	0.000047
Capital Projects			
Capital Outlay	0.001978	0.002400	0.000422
10% of the Basic Program	0.000006	0.001188	0.001182
Debt Service			
General Obligation Debt	<u>0.001142</u>	<u>0.001400</u>	<u>0.000258</u>
TOTAL	0.006150	0.008735	0.002585

The proposed tax rate would result in an increase of \$142 per year per \$100,000 of market value.

B. Public Input

Before inviting public comment, Board President Peggy Jo Kennett stated that the Board realizes these are tough economic times and they have struggled to find a balance between the needs of students and teachers and the burden on the taxpayers. She said hundreds of hours have been spent by Board members on these budget issues and she asked that those who speak, rather than berate the Board, provide budget options that they can demonstrate to be economically feasible. President Kennett asked that audience members refrain from applauding, cheering, or booing in order to maintain a respectful decorum. Board President Peggy Jo Kennett stated that approximately 200 people signed up to address the Board and noted that each person would be given a total of three minutes.

The following individuals addressed the Board and expressed their opinions:

- Royce Van Tassell, vice president, Utah Taxpayers Association; resident of Eagle Mountain. The tax increase is very dramatic and unless something is done now property taxes could double in the next ten years.
- Carol Brown, 10221 South 1040 West, South Jordan. Many patrons are under-employed, unemployed, or on fixed incomes and the District needs to be innovative and consider many more spending cuts rather than tax increases because people's lives are at stake.
- Jack Barlow, 12161 South Field Downs Drive. The tax increase is hurtful to patrons because home values have gone down and taxes have increased. The District needs to find ways to balance its budget.
- David Thompson, Riverton. Times are tough for patrons. The District is looking at ways to increase revenue and should be looking at ways to decrease spending.
- Kristin Sokol, 4902 Weatherwood Lane. The District has the potential to be seen as a model around the state for best practices for education provided they ask for input from patrons and corporate sponsors.
- Wendy Brown, resident of South Jordan and Jordan District employee. The District's current financial status is disturbing and patrons could be supportive of a more moderate tax increase if District leaders used discretion in spending.
- Robert Wadman, West Jordan. The recession has impacted District patrons greatly and a 40 percent tax increase is irresponsible. Cuts should be made to balance the District's budget.
- Jeff Haaga, 8778 South 1850 West, West Jordan. Accountability for the tax increase lies with the legislature allowing the split of the District. The District needs to cut its budget to adjust for its new size.
- Nora Lems, 1528 West 8600 South, West Jordan. Times are hard and many people are unemployed or have taken pay cuts. The District needs to balance its budget.
- Karen Hyatt, West Jordan. The School Board is not considering enough options for raising the needed revenue. The majority of people want the District to cut back administrative and non-teaching staff.
- Alexandra Eframo, 3735 Judd Circle, West Jordan. The Dan Jones survey of 400 people did not fairly represent the entire District. Say "no" to a tax increase.
- Matthew Young, 12744 South Maryvale Circle, Riverton. The Board should pull \$10 million from the GASB funds and use Capital Outlay funds to balance the budget so taxpayers don't have a tax increase.
- Jason Canning, Riverton. The superintendent should be willing to take a pay decrease.
- Chuck Newkirk, 12053 South 2240 West, Riverton. Patrons can volunteer to help mow school lawns and students could take every Friday off until the budget crisis is over in a few years.
- Sharon Briggs, 10698 South 3210 West, South Jordan. The problem was caused by the legislature but the top-heavy District should be reduced to a more appropriate size to realize a substantial savings.
- Mike Christensen, 1195 West Chavez Drive, South Jordan. The rancor directed at Board members should be redirected to Senator Carlene Walker, Representative Greg Curtis, the east side legislators, Mayor Dolan, Mayor Smith, and Mayor Cullimore. West side residents should boycott Sandy, Cottonwood Heights, and Draper businesses. Mayor Crane of Herriman should be applauded for standing alone in the lawsuit and the other cities should have joined the suit in order to send a message to the Denver District Court.
- Heidi Hansen, 9669 South 1630 West. It is unfair that Kennecott and other corporations receive tax breaks when private citizens never get tax breaks.
- Anamarie Rodabaugh, 9648 South 1600 West. Jordan District should talk to Cache County School District about their trimester program because it is less expensive and something to consider for the high

schools. When her corporation's non-profit funding was reduced 40 percent over the past year, she cut her middle administrators. Last year in Jordan District there were 57 administrators and this year with a district half the size, there are 54 administrators. Twenty-five administrators should have been cut. Don't come to taxpayers to make up the District's deficit when no administrative positions have been cut.

- Jon Schiffman, Riverton. The revenue should be raised as opposed to cutting costs. The District doesn't need the best and nicest buildings and the size of the administration should be cut.
- Aaron Osmond, South Jordan. The public has made a significant cry for public accountability from local, state, and nationally elected officials, while at the same time in the last election only 3,000 of 27,000 South Jordan City residents voted. The apathy needs to stop and people need to vote to have a voice. The School Board, as public officials, should cut additional expenses rather than raise taxes. A message should be sent to the legislature that the budget problems have to be solved through equalization.
- Paul Mikstas, 8115 Lynn Lane, West Jordan. If the tax proposal passes, Board members will be voted out of office.
- Richard Nielsen, Meadows Subdivision, Riverton. Blame should be assigned to greedy east-siders and to the legislature that allowed them to secede from Jordan School District. Canyons District should be paying the 40 percent increase since they are the ones who voted for the split.
- Bonnie Fernandez, West Jordan. Patrons expect that Board members' minds are already made up and the tax increase will go through.
- Heather Levan. Retired burned-out teachers are moving to Curriculum and making decisions that are not good for kids resulting in an inferior education in Jordan District.
- Aaron Nichols, West Jordan. Citizens feel a sense of dread when they see they owe \$300 more in taxes and that \$300 may be the only extra money they have all year.
- Rod Flanigan, Bluffdale City. Children receive an excellent education in Jordan District and teachers for the most part are exceptional. The Board needs to control its spending and not burden the citizens with higher taxes. Parents could share the burden of some of the costs of specialized programs. The Dan Jones survey was statistically insignificant and shouldn't be used to support the Board's position.
- Melissa L. Frost, 6648 West Monte Joseph Drive, Herriman. It is imperative to look to the example of ancestors who weathered the Great Depression and who received a great education when there were not millions of dollars to be spent. The District should learn to do more with less and more can and must be done to balance the budget.
- LaRue Edwards, 14054 South Friendship Drive, Herriman. Teachers recognize there is a need to increase taxes, however, it should be a smaller increase and the Board should look for other alternatives to reduce spending such as consolidating jobs at the District Office. During the 2008-09 school year the Feeder System executive directors were covering two areas in anticipation of the District Split. They should be able to continue to cover two areas this year which would eliminate half of them.
- Jared Black, Herriman. Patrons who home school their children will save the District \$1,800 if the increase goes through. Having to pay \$2,000 for Jordan Schools is like extortion.
- Debra Bills, 14471 South 1690 West, Bluffdale. District employees and people on fixed incomes are opposed to the tax increase because they cannot afford it. People need to get off their duffs and vote in order to stop the apathy. Senator Howard Stephenson needs to be voted out because he is an enemy of public education.
- Earl Gubler, 1234 West South Jordan Parkway. More notice should have been given about the meeting because there would have been more people in attendance. Small business owners have seen a dramatic increase and it is not acceptable. The District needs to live within its means.
- Steve McDowell, South Jordan. Every Board member he called was courteous enough to return his phone calls which shows they care. The tax increase will hurt everyone, especially those on fixed incomes and those hurt by the recession. The District needs to live within its means.
- David K. Brown, 12713 South Maryvale Circle, Riverton. The Board has endeavored to do the best they could with the budget. In the State of Utah it is State law that the educational program is financed through property taxes so the Board is limited by the property tax values of a given area. The state legislature and governor have worked against public education over the years through voucher legislation. Every dollar taken away for vouchers will detract from the budget used for public education. Every child in the state should have an equal opportunity for an equal education and districts should be equalized.

- Melissa Johnson, 5155 West Woodshade Ct., West Jordan; West Jordan City Council member. West Jordan City council members faced the same difficulties and do not support a property tax increase. The property tax increase is a direct result of the district split and should be a one-year increase only and then only be what is absolutely necessary.
- Jackie Drummond, South Jordan. Many audience members are over the age of 60 and are being asked to pay more when they are already struggling. Renters didn't receive a tax notice yet they will pay more in rent to cover the landlord's increased property taxes.
- Patti Ault, Riverton. Construction business income has been slashed 75 percent so her family cannot afford a tax increase. The District is half the size it was so the superintendent's salary should be cut in half. Board members should not receive a salary because it is not a job, they should fulfill their obligations for half of the stipend, or for free.
- Andrew D. Mills, Riverton. Patrons have had to cut out things that were not necessities like cable TV, date nights, eating out. The Board needs to cut the non-necessities and make ends meet without a tax increase.
- Clive Killpack, 3813 West Elwood Way, West Jordan; chairman of the West Jordan Citizen's Committee. The membership of the West Jordan Citizen's Committee does not want nor do they support a property tax increase. They urge Board members to reduce or remove the need for the increase through a shortened school year of up to five days, by prioritizing all programs and operations, eliminating non-crucial functions which don't contribute to student education, and cut compensation to all District personnel. Having the right to tax property mandates that Board members be responsible overseers of the entire system and be responsible to taxpayers and students.
- Deanna Baird, West Jordan. Not one audience member has spoken in favor of the tax increase so if Board members vote for this tax increase then they do not represent their patrons. Patrons support the school systems but in these economic times they cannot afford a tax increase.
- Jennifer Andelin, West Jordan. Patrons appreciate the opportunity to live in a democracy where they have a voice, but Board members should listen to the pleas of the public and take all the good innovative ideas they have been given and implement them rather than raise taxes.
- Ralph J. Haws, chairman of the West Side District Split Transition Team. Jordan District was one of the finest school districts in the country before the division took place. The east side transition team started at the beginning telling the west side they would have to pay between \$113 million to \$175 million to the east side. It was apparent this split for them was about money. At the start of the meetings to divide the assets, the West Transition Team made an offer to the East Transition Team which was the very same recommendation that the Arbitration Panel eventually ordered for the division of the assets. This existing Board of Education had no control over the results of the split and patrons should not be impugning their integrity or honesty. Board members are citizens and taxpayers like everyone else. They work hard and have children and grandchildren who attend school in this District and they want to do what is best. Most of the reason for the tax increase is because of the 2006 Utah State Legislature and House Bill 77 which was the school district boundary bill. The west side legislators that voted for the split need to be held accountable and probably most of the West Jordan, Riverton, and South Jordan citizens who voted for the legislators that voted for the split will probably vote for them again. When House Bill 77 passed, it passed on a vote of 39 to 31 and the names of the west side legislators who voted for the bill are: Wayne Harper-West Jordan, Hutchings-West Jordan, Mascaro-West Jordan, Merlyn Newbold-South Jordan, Peggy Wallace (no longer a legislator). Representative Hogue of Riverton did not attend the day of the vote for whatever reason. If those west side representatives would have cast "no" votes, the split would have been stopped right then. Patrons need to become more informed.
- Thaddeus Speed, Bluffdale. When things change, people have to change. Passing on the state cuts wasn't considered and should have been. Jordan District was split because of its "bloated administration" and it is time for Jordan District to change. To save money, schools should be put on a traditional schedule and double sessions should be considered. The District should do a voucher program and send a thousand or more students to private schools to avoid having to build new schools.
- Debbie Holt, Bluffdale. A 40 percent tax increase is devastating for single parents and could cause the loss of homes to foreclosure. Patrons need to know that Board members are representing them and listening to their concerns.
- Marshall Craig Allen, Riverton. There are too many kids in the classroom. Many don't get help from home and there needs to be accountability. There are guys fighting for our freedom who died and if the

Board votes for this increase they are going pay when they meet those guys. The salaries some of these guys are making are atrocious.

- Ben Bolduc, West Jordan. The split happened because of a greedy mayor on the east side and the piety and arrogance of this board and their lack of respect and response to their patrons. Children and teachers are sacrificing by having bigger classrooms and parents sacrifice by having bigger tax bills. The District has a bloated administration with layers of management that need to go. Patrons need quality teachers in the classroom, not some idiot they get because no one else will take the job.
- Jacquie Chappell, Riverton resident and Jordan District teacher. The tax increase should not be about the children, it is about money. The legislature put the District in this situation and teachers have already taken a decrease in pay. Teacher quality along with data-driven successful programs are what makes schools successful, not teacher pay. Increasing class size has not been proven detrimental to students unless it does not have a quality teacher at its head. Teachers love children and that's why they continue to teach in Utah at the pay they receive.
- Martin S. Phillips, Herriman. Retired citizens on fixed incomes cannot afford the continual property tax increases and they risk losing their homes. A Proposition 13 is needed to freeze taxes for senior citizens.
- Ben Wallis, Riverton. Individuals who rent will see increased rental fees to pay for the District's tax increase. Politicians think they have power to reach into taxpayers' pockets and take their money. The administrative salaries are ridiculously high. Average household income is \$37,000 which is \$200,000 less than the superintendent's salary. There will be tax increases in 2010 because the U.S. Congress is unwilling to pass George W. Bush's tax decreases. Families are being taxed out of their homes.
- Jim Stewart, West Jordan. There would be more people in attendance if this meeting had not been scheduled on the same night as the National Night Out Against Crime. Those on fixed incomes cannot afford a tax increase.
- Lori Munk, South Jordan. The truth is that the Board is in an impossible situation and has acted courageously. They are left to pick up the pieces of a mess they didn't create. Legislators have failed the west side in a blatant money-grab by the east side. The name not mentioned tonight is Senator Chris Butters who failed three times to vote against the tax increase and yet he continues to be elected. People should be careful about what they wish for when asking for double sessions. A sense of volunteerism flowers in this situation but fades in the sun of hard work. The tax increase is painful but patrons should look at what they stand to lose without this tax increase. The meat of the budget cuts will take a toll on students.
- Steve Catmull, Riverton. The Board should not adopt the proposed rate. The Board should take at least \$700,000 less out of the general fund. There are hundreds of people who would like to look at the District's expenses to help find areas to cut and a citizen's budget committee should be formed to help. The current pension program should be replaced with a 401(k) plan with a twist. Employees should be given 10 percent of the 16 percent as an immediate pay raise and then only use the remaining 6 percent as a match.
- Christie Jerrard, South Jordan. Her children received a very good education in Jordan District. Teachers already took a 4.5 percent pay cut and the suggestion to reduce the school week to 4 days would result in a 20 percent pay cut to teachers. People need to understand that teachers are paid by the contract days—if they work 184 days they are paid 184 days. Schools need to be funded and perhaps a smaller tax increase should be passed.
- Gary Horne, Riverton; president of the South Valley Conservative Caucus and member of the Committee for Smaller Government. The South Valley Conservative Caucus opposes any tax increase and over 90 percent of all who have spoken have opposed any tax increase. Does the Board need to solve the problem or does the legislature who created the problem need to solve the problem? The South Valley Conservative Caucus can help the Board set up a meeting with the legislators, if needed.
- Linda Crane, Bluffdale. The District has enough money with the amount she is paying in old debt and capital outlay listed at the bottom of her property tax notice. Give Mr. Newbold and Mr. Jolley an early retirement and fill the positions with people who live within the District boundaries and at lower pay. The District needs money and yet they spent money on a new logo and now need new stationery, stickers for badges, etc.
- Becky Pratt, 8944 Yellow Pine Street, West Jordan; Jordan District teacher. She is proud to work for Jordan District and to live in a democracy where people can express their views. Jordan ranked second in the nation next to Boston in test scores and Jordan's dedicated teachers should be commended for

their work when Utah is 41st in the nation in funding. Public education has faced devastating budget cuts and must be adequately funded to insure Jordan District remains at the top in the nation. The budget should be scrutinized to determine where cuts can be made.

- Josh Mills, 4726 Midas Gold Road, Herriman; candidate for mayor of Herriman. There are 400 homes in foreclosure in Herriman and the citizens can't take more burden through a tax increase at this time.
- Matthew Flitton, 3854 Debra Drive, West Jordan. Last tax increase in Sugar City, Idaho, was 10 to 12 years ago. Kids received a quality education in Idaho but now in Jordan District their daughter is bored and their son's teacher yells and screams in class. Jordan District doesn't deserve a tax increase and should live within a budget. The school district should be rebuilt from within because the status quo is not working.
- Kent Money, 1987 West 11700 South, South Jordan; mayor of South Jordan City. School split is a travesty and west side mayors knew the west side would get the shaft. The split was first disguised by the east saying it was for the children but in the end it was about money. The east side did not give a hoot about the children on the west side. The west side mayors fought the split from the start and met with the governor to implore him to call a special session so details could come out and people could understand what would happen to the west side. The District may split again if the Board doesn't make the right decisions.
- Kathy Johnson, South Jordan City Council member, read a letter addressed to the Board from the South Jordan City Council. A copy of the letter is attached at the conclusion of these minutes. (Attachment 1)
- Robert L. Monson, WWII Veteran. Thanked the Board for having the Stars and Stripes presented. He asked the Board where they have been for the last two years while the Communists in the United States Congress have been telling everyone the country is in a recession. He asked why the Board didn't have a plan to address the recession. He used to worry about the banks stealing his home, but he's worried now about the Board taking it from him.
- Dan McKay, 3364 Pullman Way, Riverton. After the display from the audience members at this meeting he would not volunteer to do the Board's job. Too bad there wasn't the support shown tonight two years ago during the district split referendum. The political process goes to those who show up and too frequently citizens have not shown up. Suggested tabling the vote on the property tax increase until accountability is demonstrated.
- Amanda Clark, Riverton. People should stay through the duration of the hearing so Board members will listen. The Board hasn't done its due diligence in fixing the budget situation which means they should work all night. The Board owes it to the taxpayers not to raise their taxes.
- Richard Staples, South Jordan. All four of his children received a wonderful education in Jordan District. The Board should put the decision on hold for one month because he has run companies with a half a billion dollar budgets and can personally help the Board budget the \$30 million. All of his answers to the budget crisis will be capitalistic but he will help them find the money. The Board should not take a vote at the end of the meeting because that sends the message they are not listening.
- Paul Ross, on behalf of Mike and Lauren Bruin, property owners in Herriman. Spoke in opposition to the tax increase because of the financial burden on families. The Bruins do not reside in Utah nor do they have children in Utah schools so they should not be forced to fund school services they will not use. An alternative funding source should be found.
- Bruce Hevelone, Riverton. The Board has a tough job with difficult decisions to make.
- Wayne C. Hansen, South Jordan. As an employee of Aetna Insurance Company he has seen four major layoffs and wondered what the District would look like with four major layoffs. Spoke opposition to the tax increase.
- Matthew Robison, South Jordan resident currently moving to Riverton. As a developer he withdrew his request to build a 10-home subdivision because citizens didn't want it. The District should do the same with the tax increase because the citizens don't want it.
- Edward Staley, Riverton. The Board should find innovative ways to cut expenses like using close circuit TVs and remote learning. Teachers should be teaching kids responsibility.
- Randy Richardson, 4028 West Fieldtrim Circle. The Board should figure out how to balance the budget without a tax increase.
- Doug Carlile, Riverton. The Board is the board of directors of the corporation and administrators are its operating officers. The Board has the obligation to hold the operating officers accountable. If work load has gone down 50 percent then the number of administrators should go down.

- Ed Endemano, 2092 Carriage Avenue, Riverton. After the municipality he works for cut costs, they then reduced the workers pay by 1.5 percent. This is golden opportunity to lead out and do something creative to show students how to be successful in rough times.
- Alan Chenworth, Copperton. Board members are supposed to represent their constituents. The state cut the funding so the District needs make the same cuts.
- Kyle Glover, South Jordan. Jordan District is the fifth largest district and has the three highest paid administrators in the state. One of the three positions should be cut or their salaries should be cut 40 percent. He alleged that gifts and trips such as golf outings and river rafting trips are being provided by the "preferred IT vendor" and not reported by employees. He said the District doesn't own one Dell computer and they are very inexpensive compared to HP.
- Kae Larsen, Riverton. West side residents should have stood up at the time of the split and contacted their legislators so they wouldn't be in this mess today. Residents want the Board to listen to them. Jordan District is the best district in the state and Rosamond teachers are the most dedicated. The teachers are taking pay cuts without saying much but it may start affecting children.
- Eileen Brooks, 2143 Saxton Avenue, Riverton. Urged the Board not to increase taxes. Her children, although they lived on the west side, were transported to the east side to attend school. She asked where the mayors of Riverton, South Jordan, and West Jordan were when the mayor of Herriman took the split to court and why they elected not to participate.
- Forest Ewell, Riverton. When revenue is needed property taxpayers have to carry the load for everyone. Suggested that there are other sources of revenue that can be found if the Board really wants to look. He suggested that there be a head tax for every individual so the freeloaders have to pay their share, especially the people that double up in homes with a bunch of children. They need to be made accountable and responsible for using District services.
- Jerry Foutz, South Jordan. Saw no mention in the presentation about the \$30 million being used to reduce class size, improve curriculum, or elevate best practices in the education process. Administration costs should be reduced. A large tax increase will drive new businesses away from the west side communities.
- Kerry Simi, 1249 Jordan River Drive, South Jordan. The Board has been doing the job to the best they feel they have been doing it, but are they listening? Members of JEA also wanted administrative cuts across the board. There have been many glib, rude, and hurtful comments made to the Board. Many District employees agree with the patrons and want change. Any class which has close to or over 30 students becomes crowd control.
- DeeAnn Gibson, 3430 West Maynard Court, Riverton. Citizens are concerned about a tax increase and do not want it. It is a privilege to pay taxes to support the system but the Board should be as careful and cautious as possible and should find costs that can be eliminated. A fair and equitable education is a constitutional right in the State of Utah.
- Glen Johnson, 5242 West [unintelligible] Lane, Herriman. The Board needs to look at a radical way to solve the budget crisis and should involve the help of the community. Students could make suggestions for things they don't need. Students should only be educated for the number of days there is money available, even if it is less than the state requires. The burden should be put back on the legislature.
- Mark Henrie, Grassland Ct., Riverton. He is hopeful that the Board is here not because they are legally obligated, but because they want to hear from the patrons and are willing to consider the things said. The Board should table the decision until they can talk about it again. The Board should consider using the rainy day fund.
- David Newton, Mayor of West Jordan. Noted that the District's population was reduced by 40 percent with the split and bus drivers were reduced by 36 percent, which is reasonable. But in other areas, such as the number of mechanics and the number of Nutrition Services supervisors, the number this year and the number proposed for next year have remained the same which begs the question whether the Board has really done all they can. He recommended using the fund balance and all other reserves now and looking at all areas of the budget one more time. He suggested asking for more volunteers to help in the schools.
- Cindy Glover. Told repeatedly by friends and family that the District doesn't listen to them and attendance at meetings is a waste of time. Board should take the opportunity to listen to the people, respond to their needs, and set things right.

- Paul Wayman, Riverton. He asked to understand assessed valuation. In a Deseret News article it was reported that the results of the Dan Jones poll indicated that taxpayers didn't want a property tax increase. It is all about how you look at survey results.
- Aleta Taylor, South Jordan City Council member. She asked Board members to inspire the patrons and show them they are worth being voted into office and worth their pay. They should follow the example of South Jordan City because they saw the budget crisis coming and every department took a five percent cut across the Board. Patrons expect the Board to look outside the box and consider the suggestions of a trimester system, double sessions, new technologies, and new ways to look at education. The Board should not continue with business as usual.
- Nancy Lord, Bluffdale City Council member. Suggested the Board do more budget cuts rather than raise taxes and use the rainy day fund in order to minimize the burden to citizens. The Board should table its decision so it can do the hard budget cuts such as cutting out all non-essentials. They should complete this before the law requires a decision on the tax rate. The Jordan Community Education night classes could be slashed entirely in a year like this.
- Carl Wimmer, House of Representatives District 52 (Herriman, Riverton, and part of South Jordan). He received many e-mails asking him to speak for patrons and many asked that the Board think outside the box and not raise taxes. In the last legislative session education was cut drastically because of the \$700 million shortfall, but they did it without having to raise taxes and the Board should do the same.
- Andy Gibbs, Riverton. The Board has been dealt a hand of bad cards with the split and the reduction in state funding. People need to remember to hold accountable those legislators who voted for the split. The people on the east side should be held accountable for voting to split from the west after the west paid the bill for all their schools. West side patrons should not patronize the east side businesses. The kids are worth the tax increase but the District should look at ways to cut the budget for next year.
- Don Rushing. He usually counts on leaders making the right choice but when he heard the ridiculous tax increase proposal he had no choice but to attend the meeting. The Board should not pick his pocket until they have dug into their own. The Board doesn't have a right to his house. He sensed arrogance, ignorance, and a condescending attitude at the start of the meeting, but it seems like the attitudes have changed. He wants to see leaders with new ideas.
- Corbin White, Riverton. He performs assemblies for schools and expects to have them cut due to the budget, which is a double-edged sword, but taxes should not be raised.
- Wells Wagner, 13886 South 4000 West, Bluffdale. The tax increase proposal is bigger than anything the Obama administration has put on the table. The Board has been told "no" by the taxpayers to an increase and should instead cut ten percent of the budget. He tells his employees to do what he wants them to do or he will fire their sorry butts. The Board should figure it out and do the same.
- Kaitlyn Hartwig, Riverton. The Board should check the dictionary for the use of the word "patron." Patrons are people who voluntarily give money for something and are usually people who give it disproportionately. They are taxpayers, not patrons. Leadership has been lost in the schools. More community involvement is needed. There needs to be more pride in education. Kids need to clean the garbage written on the walls in the bathrooms and then maybe less maintenance workers will be needed. People should stop asking the schools to do everything and they should stop being complacent and letting politicians do whatever they want.
- Melanie Jones, 11023 Ridgeside Drive, South Jordan. Concerned about the economic impact to the west side because now people are afraid to buy homes when they hear their taxes will be outrageous. Cuts should be made at the top and as far away from the classroom as possible. Canyons set a great example by lowering pay for administrators, cutting out many middle administrators, and choosing not to increase taxes. Spending should be reigned in so a repeat doesn't happen next year.
- Don Bevan, Bluffdale. For years there was a difference between capitalism and communism. Now a person works full time for the government because all of his wages are taken for income tax, sales tax, and property tax and there's no money left over for food. There should be a limit on property taxes.
- Scott Christensen, Riverton. He and his wife have home-schooled their children and have paid taxes in Jordan District for 12 years. They do not appreciate nor support another property tax increase. Public schools are for those who cannot or do not want to home school. The District should "use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without." Families have to cut back to afford necessities so District expenses should be cut instead of increasing taxes.
- Charles Masson. The Board should consider as an alternate source of revenue selling the naming rights to the schools, like the naming of stadiums. Some people like the Sorensen's might give a couple

million to put their name on a school. Perhaps every person in the District should have received a Dan Jones survey and then those ideas be consolidated before making the final decision.

- James Romero. Opposes the tax increase because it is easy to spend someone else's money. Senior citizens are on fixed incomes and have to decide whether to buy prescriptions, go to the doctor, or pay taxes. If people continue to allow taxes to be raised then they may be living in tents, if they are lucky to get one. School buses that cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 go down the road with only one or two kids in them and smaller buses should be purchased for areas that don't need a big school bus. Kids can be sent to charter schools for free and all that money gets taken out of the school system and goes with the kid and a lot of folks don't even know it.
- Darren Park, Riverton. Board members need to be the leaders that they were elected to be. They should vote "no" tonight and then work with citizens to come up with a better plan.
- Lanny Sorenson, West Jordan; teacher and member of JEA. He has four children in Jordan District schools and is proud of the education they receive. As a teacher, he supports the Board of Education and will set aside the experiences they have had over the proposed budget. He fears what will happen to education without financial help from the community. He feels fortunate to have a job, although he is losing several thousand dollars this coming year. If Board members truly believe that this tax increase proposal is the best they can do, then they should hold their ground. People need to understand that children will be affected by the loss of professional development days and teachers should not be asked to take more hits.

C. Board Discussion and Recommendation to Approve the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2010

Mr. Carmen R. Freeman stated that he is grateful for those who have spoken and he has been very touched by their comments. He wanted patrons to know he has listened to their concerns and that in light of things presented, he would like to make a motion to the Board that this decision be deferred until such time that the Board can look at the alternatives and consider all the patrons have asked the Board to do and to look at all means and opportunities to review the decision regarding the tax rate.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carmen R. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Rick Bojak to defer approval of a tax rate until such time that the Board has been able to meet and discuss the patron comments and suggestions.

Dr. Leah Voorhies stated that she took about 20 pages of notes during public comments and she believes the Board owes it to these individuals who took their time to offer ideas and suggestions to go back now and look at them. She said she appreciates all the individuals who came to the meeting ready and willing to actually help the Board with this process.

Dr. J. Dale Christensen stated that he lives in Jordan School District, he is a retired senior citizen, a taxpayer, and he believes in public education. He said he and the Board have been asked by the patrons to be brave and courageous and to speak what they feel is right, timely, and best for the community. This is a difficult time and Board members do not take this job lightly. They have been working for months trying to determine the best way to deal with the budget shortfall. They know the economy is depressed and they recognize the challenges many face. They also recognize the value and purpose of public education and that public education serves all people. With only two or three individuals speaking in support of a tax increase, most others have done a wonderful job of expressing themselves. Dr. Christensen said he has learned many things tonight and he believes the patron comments have been sincere and many legitimate ideas and suggestions have been given. He stated that this is not the end of the challenges for public education funding. State officials and fiscal analysts have said there will be additional cuts and the Board will need to decide what to do for next year. Some of the suggestions offered are legitimate, but the Board has already analyzed and implemented most of them to address this year's problems. The Board made a commitment to respect the integrity of class size for the purpose of providing the best education. The Board could have increased class size and saved money by doing so, but year-round elementary schools are already in session and class loads have been maintained and even lowered over the past several years. If the vote is to delay approval of a tax rate, then the public's recommendations and thoughts will be considered. Dr. Christensen said he was elected not only to represent his constituents, but also the children and public education. He said

there will be those patrons who will laugh and scoff at what he is saying because he can see it in their faces, but he has an opinion that is different than some of theirs. He believes in public education and knows it is expensive but he also knows that public education is an investment in the future, it is an investment in his children's and grandchildren's future. Dr. Christensen stated that as a taxpayer he would rather pay for the education of children rather than the incarceration of those who aren't well educated and who have other types of problems and issues. Dr. Christensen said he is saddened at the direction of the comments this evening which, for the most part, with few exceptions, did not focus on children. Maybe indirectly in the public's minds and hearts they did, but the comments that were stated did not come out in support of children. He was saddened that many of the comments that were stated as fact were not accurate and were very misleading. Good information is obviously not apparent in many people's backgrounds and interests. He was disappointed in some of the behavior and rude comments from the patrons but he has a fiduciary and constitutional responsibility to do everything he can as a member of a governing body to insure continued excellence in educational programs. For that reason he feels strongly that the Board should continue by making a decision tonight in support of properly funding education in Jordan District.

Vote on the Motion

President Kennett called for a vote on Mr. Freeman's motion to defer approval of a tax rate until such time that the Board has been able to meet and discuss the patron comments and suggestions. The motion failed with a four to three vote as follows:

Peggy Jo Kennett	No
Carmen R. Freeman	Yes
Rick Bojak	Yes
Randy S. Brinkerhoff	No
J. Dale Christensen	No
Richard S. Osborn	No
Leah Voorhies	Yes

President Kennett asked Mr. Jolley what amount of money is saved for each day school is furloughed. Mr. Jolley responded \$1.2 million. President Kennett asked Superintendent Newbold how many days the students would have off for Christmas vacation this year. That information was not readily available.

President Kennett stated that as a reminder, the situation the Board of Education is in with a \$33 million deficit is not of their making. The budget situation has been predicted since 2006 when the split was first addressed. President Kennett wished more people had shown interest back then and contacted their legislators to get their help with the issue the west side is now facing. President Kennett stated that she would like to address a few points the audience members brought up. It was said that the District had a fund balance of \$94 million, which is inaccurate, all the money is designated. The only undesignated reserve is \$15 million and the Board has already committed to use \$5 million of that money. Someone suggested using Capital Outlay. That levy of .0006 is state-mandated and the District must levy that to be part of the county equalization program. The county equalization money can only be used for Capital Projects. It cannot be used for the budget deficit which is in Maintenance and Operation budget. She stated that more than one person referenced the fact that the Canyons board said today that they were not going to raise taxes. It should be noted that Canyons had an \$8 million surplus and Mrs. Kennett said she personally does not understand why they proposed a tax increase in the first place. They just decided to use part of the surplus to address the \$4 million they were going to propose for a tax increase. The teachers talked about a 4.5 percent reduction. That reduction came from state cuts to the teachers' 10 professional development days, not from any cuts the Board has made. President Kennett stated that Jordan District provides a wonderful education to students. It has high graduation rates, high test scores, and Jordan District has been named as providing the second best education in the country for large school districts. If the Board cuts teacher and administrator salaries that will force those people to look elsewhere and then Jordan District will not be able to provide the kind of education it is currently providing. It will also not be able to attract new teachers. A tax increase was not the first choice of the Board. There were layoffs, district-level budgets were cut, and part of the fund balance was used.

Using more of the fund balance is still an option, but there is also the possibility that the state could cut public education budgets again at mid-year and if that happens there would be no emergency funds available. Mrs. Kennett said she has heard a few good suggestions that the Board will consider such as re-evaluating the tax increase in one year and forming a budget committee as an advisory body. There are a few possibilities the Board could do to respond to the public outcry to not have such a high tax increase such as use more of the rainy day fund which, as stated, may not be a wise idea. There is also the option provided by the state for furlough days. There was a suggestion made to shorten the school week to four days but that is not an option for all districts. Rich District has special permission from the State Board for a four-day school week, but they have lengthened each of the days. The State Board has given districts a furlough option up to five days so if the Board chooses to do that, salaries would be cut for teachers, bus drivers, custodians, and administrators.

President Kennett made the following motion:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION It was moved by Peggy Jo Kennett and seconded by Mr. Randy S. Brinkerhoff to furlough school for two days, with the two days being added to Christmas vacation.

Mrs. Kennett noted that furloughing school for two days would generate \$2.4 million and the tax increase would be reduced by that amount.

Dr. Leah Voorhies commented that she is opposed to furloughs because when a child misses only six days of school per year their end-of-level test scores are decreased statistically by at least six percent. She stated that she has been opposed to furloughs during the entire budget discussion for that reason. However, if that is the most expedient way at present to reduce the tax increase, then she would be willing to approve a furlough of two days. She stated she would prefer to consider furloughs with other alternatives as opposed to furloughs being the only option.

Vote on the Motion

President Kennett called for a vote on the motion to furlough school for two days. Discussion during the vote continued and Mr. Carmen R. Freeman stated that two furlough days will not dramatically cut the budget and he again made a plea to the Board to defer making a decision due to the late hour and the possibility of making a decision the Board will regret. The motion failed with a four to three vote as follows:

Peggy Jo Kennett	No
Carmen R. Freeman	No
Rick Bojak	No
Randy S. Brinkerhoff	Yes
J. Dale Christensen	Yes
Richard S. Osborn	Yes
Leah Voorhies	No

SECOND SUBSTITUTE MOTION It was moved by Dr. Leah Voorhies and seconded by Mr. Randy S. Brinkerhoff to bring the original failed motion to the floor for a second vote. No vote was taken on this motion.

Mr. D. Burke Jolley, business administrator, asked Mr. LaMar Sayer, an employee of the Utah State Tax Commission, for the ramifications of delaying a vote to approve a tax rate. Mr. Sawyer stated that the statutory requirement, if the Board tables the vote to approve a tax rate, is that the Board would need to state the date and time of the next meeting and it must be within two weeks of tonight or the Board would have to re-advertise in the newspaper and hold another Truth-in-Taxation hearing.

Mr. Randy S. Brinkerhoff suggested that if the Board took another \$1 million from the fund balance and combined it with the two furlough days at \$2.4 million, it could propose a smaller tax increase and they could be done with the vote tonight.

Mr. Bojak stated to the audience that with all of the fantastic comments and great ideas they provided, that it is very difficult to made a decision at 1:00 a.m. The Board would need more time because they want to use the best ideas received from the patrons.

Dr. Christensen presented the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. J. Dale Christensen and seconded by Dr. Leah Voorhies to table the decision regarding approval of a tax rate and to set the date, time, and location of the meeting where the tax rate will be approved. The Board will approve a tax rate for the 2010 fiscal year at its regular scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Riverton High School Auditorium. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Leah Voorhies and seconded by Mr. Rick Bojak to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

/jc
Attachment