A. **Ends Policies and Student Achievement**

At the February 24, 2015, study session, Mr. Mason, director of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability, presented student achievement data for Jordan District students. He noted that in most assessments there was a consistent trend for Jordan’s average scores to be slightly below Alpine, Canyons, and Davis Districts. Board members requested that Mrs. Finlinson collect data from Alpine, Canyons, and Davis Districts regarding the programs or activities that have led to higher test scores and to bring recommendations to the Board. Her report and recommendations follow.

Mrs. Finlinson stated that to obtain comprehensive information she, along with Mr. Mason and the Jordan District math and literacy specialists, contacted their counterparts at these districts. She said it is interesting to note that these districts identified several identical items that they felt led to higher achievement scores. They believe that teachers are incredibly important to the process; teacher attitude/professionalism and well-defined expectations are extremely important not only for teachers but also for administrators; there needs to be a process for monitoring whether expectations are being met at all levels; and appropriate training and support needs to be provided to teachers and administrators. Mrs. Finlinson summarized the information obtained from these districts for the Board and noted that she also included information from Nebo District. She said it was also important to note that these districts identified well-run Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) as playing a significant role in determining how to meet the needs of students whose achievement scores fell below mastery.

The Board requested that Mrs. Finlinson develop a plan for Jordan District relative to this discussion that can be used to formulate the Board’s Ends policies. They suggested that the plan include Jordan’s
expectations or focus, ideas for how to achieve the expectations, and ways to measure progress. The Board asked to have this information presented at the study session on March 31, 2015. The Board expressed appreciation to Mrs. Finlinson and her team members for the time and effort spent in researching and organizing the information.

B. Policy Governance Review – GP 114 Board Affiliated Committees

The Board reviewed policy GP 114. Board members asked Mrs. Whitelock, Board secretary, to incorporate the Board’s current list of committees and assignments into the policy to align it with current practice.

At 5:00 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

**MOTION:** At 5:04 p.m., it was moved by Richard S. Osborn and seconded by Janice L. Voorhies to go into closed session. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Those recognized or signed-in as present:
Susan K. Pulsipher, Board President
Janice L. Voorhies, Board Vice President
Kayleen Whitelock, Board Secretary
Jen Atwood, Board Member
J. Lynn Crane, Board Member
Richard S. Osborn, Board Member
Matthew Young, Board Member
Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White

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

At 5:39 p.m., the meeting adjourned. The Board returned to study session.

**STUDY SESSION, Continued**

Those recognized or signed-in as present:
Susan K. Pulsipher, Board President
Janice L. Voorhies, Board Vice President
Kayleen Whitelock, Board Secretary
Jen Atwood, Board Member
J. Lynn Crane, Board Member
Richard S. Osborn, Board Member
Matthew Young, Board Member
Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Michael Anderson, Administrator of Schools
Laura Finlinson, Administrator of Curriculum and Staff Development
Anthony A. Godfrey, Administrator of Schools
June M. LeMaster, Administrator of Human Resources
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Teri Timpson, Administrator of Schools
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
Carmen Freeman, Mayor, Herriman City
President Pulsipher presided and conducted. The Board of Education continued its study session to discuss the following:

C. **Review of Administrative Policies**

1. **AA421 Local Professional Improvement Committee**

   Mrs. Finlinson reviewed policy AA421. She noted that minor changes were made to bring the policy in line with current practice and several language changes were made to clarify meaning.

   Dr. LeMaster explained that the Joint Relations Committee discussed an inequity regarding salary lane change credit given to employees participating in Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) or Alternate Teacher Preparation (ATP). She noted that language was added to AA421 to state that lane change credit will now only be available to these employees following completion of ARL or ATP.

2. **DP309 NEG Salary Guidelines**

   Dr. LeMaster stated that policy language was revised to make it consistent with the language in policy AA421 regarding ARL and ATP lane change credit.

3. **DP344 Vacation Schedule for Twelve-Month Personnel**

   Dr. LeMaster explained the policy change to extend the three-month period June through August to a four-month period June through September that twelve-month contract employees will be allowed to use current and/or previous year vacation days. This change will allow for less conflict between the August start of school and classified employees needing to take unused vacation days.

D. **Title I Schools for 2015-16**

   Nancy Ward, coordinator for Education Support Services, said the District currently has six designated Title I elementary schools. These include: Columbia, Heartland, Majestic, Oquirrh, Riverside, and Westvale. She said Title I is a federally-funded program and schools qualify based on the number of free and reduced lunch participants. The funds the school receives are used for programs to improve student achievement and target at-risk students. Ms. Ward noted that for the 2015-16 school year, the District will have eight Title I schools with the addition of Terra Linda and West Jordan Elementary.

   Mrs. Finlinson, administrator for Curriculum and Staff Development, said prior to adding two additional schools, buy-in was sought from the principals of the six current Title I schools and they were supportive of sharing the funds. She also noted that principals are very careful about the use of these Title I funds.

E. **Discussion on Proposed Boundary Changes for Undeveloped Areas**

   Brad Sorensen, administrator of schools, reviewed a proposed boundary change to move a parcel of undeveloped land from the Herriman Elementary boundaries to Silver Crest boundaries. This change will keep a subdivision of existing homes and future homes within the Silver Crest boundaries rather than split between Herriman and Silver Crest. This boundary change will allow the potential students to have a sidewalk walking route to Silver Crest; whereas if they remained in the Herriman Elementary boundaries, the District would be required to bus them. Mr. Sorensen noted that if the Board approves
the boundary change, the developer of the property, Richmond Homes, will be informed of the change so that this information can be given to potential home buyers.

Board members expressed support for the proposed boundary change. A boundary change hearing is scheduled for March 31, 2015, during the regular Board meeting.

F. **Resolving Pay Transition for Year-round to Traditional Calendar Changes**

Mr. Larsen, business administrator, explained that at the Board’s request, he arranged meetings between the District administration and employee groups to discuss ways to mitigate the negative impact to employee pay schedules as elementary schools transition from year-round to traditional schedules and vice versa. The employees affected by these schedule changes include teachers, lunch managers, bus drivers, assistants (benefit-eligible), and six-hour Nutrition workers (administrators and custodians are not affected). Currently, the transition from year-round to traditional requires an employee to skip a paycheck which may result in a double insurance payment in one month, and traditional to year-round means an employee will receive two August paychecks, resulting in an increase in tax withholdings.

Mr. Larsen explained that the Committee met and designed a plan to have all current year-round employees transition to the same pay timeline as traditional elementary schools and secondary schools (September-August). Doing so will eliminate the problems associated with schedule changes. He also noted that employees will be given an opportunity to plan ahead and to choose when to make the transition, but it is expected that the transition will be completed no later than the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

G. **Board Committee Reports**

1. **Legislative/Community Relations Advisory Committee**

   Mrs. Pulsipher reviewed current status of the following Senate and House bills:

   **Senate Bill 62.** This bill clarifies how the county equalization law will end which is to have it end as it began. This will result in Jordan’s tax rate going up to the level set by the Jordan Board at the truth-in-taxation hearing it was required to hold at the time of the District split. While the District will not be required to hold another truth-in-taxation hearing it will, however, be required to provide taxpayers with an explanation about the increase. Board members expressed appreciation to Mr. Larsen for bringing this matter to light, to the Canyons Board for supporting the bill, to Howard Stephenson for speaking in favor of the bill when the Taxpayer’s Association was against it, and to Board members for working to gain support for its passage.

   **Senate Bill 58.** This bill passed both the House and Senate and defines when municipal leaders can attend school district closed sessions.

   **Senate Bill 97.** This bill is the state-wide property tax equalization bill intended to provide some equalization of funds between richer and poorer school districts. As of this date, it passed in the Senate and the House Committee and is scheduled to be heard by the House of Representatives.

   **House Bill 231.** This bill is a school board levy amendment and is intended to bring eleven districts currently capped at .000018 to the level of all other districts at .000025. The intention is to have this bill included as part of SB 97.

   **House Bill 363.** This bill amends the School Land Trust program and raises the cap on the funds from two percent to three percent. The bill has passed the House and at this time it is believed that it passed in the Senate.
Mrs. Pulsipher discussed proposed legislation that would increase from 25 percent to 50 percent the amount districts are required to “flow through” to charters. She noted that on February 3, 2015, the Board provided a letter to the Public Education Appropriations Committee expressing concern about charter accountability and transparency and the detrimental effects of this proposed legislation to school districts. She said the Board’s letter created dialog at the legislature and as of this date, the bill passed the House with the funding having been left at 25 percent.

Mrs. Pulsipher also discussed the various bills related to State School Board elections. As of this date, none of the bills related to this issue have passed both the House and Senate.

Mrs. Pulsipher expressed appreciation to Mr. Anderson, Mr. Larsen, and the District’s legislative team for the work and input provided during legislative committee meetings which have had positive outcomes for public education. She expressed sincere appreciation for the legislators that represent Jordan District and asked for input from the Board for ways to express to them the Board’s appreciation. Mrs. Voorhies recommended a Board Resolution be created. Board members concurred and were asked to submit suggestions for language.

2. District Finance and Audit Board Advisory Committee

Mr. Young updated the Board regarding the West Jordan RDA related to the Auxiliary Services building and property. He said a meeting was held with City of West Jordan officials and they were informed of the District’s position that they are not in favor of a multi-phased transition. The City presented ideas with regard to the District property that would allow them to move forward with some of the project while not requiring Auxiliary Services personnel to be displaced until they are ready. City personnel proposed to have the District, at the appropriate time, sell the Phase I property (closest to the TRAX station) to them so they can begin construction. District personnel expressed to the City that no project work should begin until a signed agreement regarding the entire project has been entered into with the City of West Jordan.

Mr. Young led a discussion about the Capital Projects budget for 2015-16 and provided Board members with information about the current fund balance, estimated revenue sources, and an appropriate reserve balance. He reviewed Capital Projects priorities and said for the 2015-16 year the Committee is proposing a total of $40.3 million in Capital allocation of the available $58.4 million, which leaves $18.1 million that could be used for new school construction.

Mr. Larsen reviewed Departmental budget requests for the 2015-16 budget year, noting those items that must be funded such as negotiated employee agreements, those items classified as priority one that would have a positive impact on student achievement, and those items classified as priority two or three and considered great ideas and nice to do, if the budget permits. He noted that many of the requests could be funded as on-going or one-time should the Board wish to pilot or test some ideas before making an on-going commitment. Mr. Larsen explained that his presentation is a preliminary overview of the budget and more detailed budget discussions will be held in future. He suggested a timeline for future budget discussions in preparation for adoption of the 2015-16 budget on June 9, 2015. Board members expressed no objections to the suggested timeline.

3. Facilities Board Advisory Committee

Mrs. Whitelock distributed the document, Board of Education Prioritization Philosophy for New Facilities and Renovations, which the Facilities Advisory Committee reviewed and revised during the first Committee meeting. She asked Board members to review the document in more detail when time permitted and to contact her if they had any suggestions or concerns. Mrs. Pulsipher recommended this document be adopted by the Board at a future Board meeting.

Mrs. Whitelock recommended for future study sessions that an item be added to the agenda for Board comments.
MOTION: At 8:40 p.m., it was moved by Janice L. Voorhies to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

/jc

[Minutes approved 3-31-15]