The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in a special Board meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2016, beginning at 6:40 p.m. at the JATC South Campus (Board Conference Room), 12723 S. Park Avenue (2080 West), Riverton, Utah.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Those recognized or signed-in as present:
- Susan K. Pulsipher, Board President
- Janice L. Voorhies, Board Vice President
- Jen Atwood, Board Member
- Bryce Dunford, Board Member
- Marilyn Richards, Board Member
- Darrell Robinson, Board Member
- Matthew Young, Board Member
- Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
- Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
- John Larsen, Business Administrator
- Paul Van Komen, Legal Counsel, Burbidge & White
- Michael Anderson, Administrator of Schools
- Jill Durrant, Administrator of Schools
- Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
- Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
- Teri Timpson, Administrator of Schools
- Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
- Jack Retallick, AV Maintenance
- Dawn Ramsey, Director, Region VI PTA
- Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk
- Kim Coleman, District 42, Utah South of Representatives
- Lincoln Fillmore, District 10, Utah State Senate
- John Knotwell, District 52, Utah House of Representatives

President Pulsipher presided and conducted. She welcomed those present. Mr. Scott Thomas, administrator of Auxiliary Services, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverence was given by Dr. Anthony Godfrey, associate superintendent.

Administration of Oath of Office to New and Re-elected Board Members

Ms. Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the following new and re-elected Board members:

- Darrell Robinson (Precinct 1) New member
- Marilyn Richards (Precinct 4) New member
- Bryce Dunford (Precinct 5) New member
- Janice Voorhies (Precinct 6) Re-elected member

Comments by New and Re-elected Board Members

Mr. Darrell Robinson expressed appreciation to the Jordan District patrons in precinct one for electing him as their voice on the Jordan School Board. He said he believes he is uniquely prepared to lead the schools into the 21st century as innovative learning centers are created to focus on personalized learning. He thanked his campaign managers, Jeff and Craig, and especially his daughter, Emily, for their advice and counsel during the election process. He thanked Chris and Natalie Jones and his friends at 4M and the Mitchell’s Journey Foundation, for branding his message and to Trey for his designs. Mr. Robinson thanked those people who
supported and endorsed him as a candidate including legislators, city mayors, and councilmembers, and said these people have trusted him to be someone they can work with and he will not let them down. Mr. Robinson expressed a special thank you to Kayleen Whitelock who he said sought him out as a frustrated patron and listened to his concerns and who began to be someone he could trust on the Board. She introduced him to the other members of the Board and helped him understand that they are wonderful people that will listen to concerns of patrons, teachers, and students. Mr. Robinson said he is excited to work with the amazing Board members and believes that they have the same goal to create and become the best school district not only in the State of Utah, but in the nation. He said those who know him know he will always work hard in this position. Over the last month he said he has visited every elementary in his precinct and also Herriman High School and has plans to visit the remaining schools in his precinct during the coming month. During these visits, he was impressed with the high quality leaders in the schools and amazed at the professional autonomy given to administrators. At the end of each school visit he would tell his wife how awesome the school was and that he would feel comfortable having his children attend any of the schools he visited. He said he is convinced that the District is not advocating for its best efforts and not tooting its own horn and if the District is not doing it, no one else is. It is not enough to have excellent schools, it needs to be shouted to the world so they know Jordan School District is a leader in educational excellence. He said he has spent many recent years working on a Ph.D. evaluating effective schools and during thousands of hours of research he has not seen Jordan District mentioned. He called on Jordan District to showcase excellence, not just be excellent. During his visit at Midas Creek he saw a perfect example of a blended learning environment and the use of aides in the classrooms which he thought was remarkable and that it was an awesome experience to eat lunch with the students and have first-hand experience with Nutritional Services. He said he was excited to see what was happening at Silver Crest and is planning another visit to see a teacher working in a blended learning environment. Mr. Robinson said he did not get to see much of Foothills Elementary but will return. This morning he visited Herriman Elementary for a second time as the students presented and implemented The Leader in Me program and as they solved safety concerns on the playground. He said he has visited Butterfield Canyon, Fort Herriman Middle, and Herriman High School as his children have received a top-notch education from these schools. Mr. Robinson said teachers are starving for attention and acknowledgment that they are doing an excellent job and suggested finding ways to show the community and world the amazing things being done in Jordan District. He said he was impressed with Chris Lyons at Elk Ridge Middle School for providing a live feed of his Christmas concert that allowed him, while grading papers of his college students, to be one of 1,400 visitors to observe the performance. He was amazed to read the comments during the live feed from grandmas and family members that got to watch the kids perform. Mr. Robinson said he was impressed with the Communications Department for putting the Herriman Silver Rush assembly on Facebook live and was able to watch his former students raise an incredible amount of money. Mr. Robinson said education innovation is one of the top items of a recent Facebook poll he conducted but added that most of the citizens don’t know what is being done in Jordan District and ways have to be found to recognize and showcase the amazing schools. He said in another of his Facebook polls it was easy for him to see one of the big problems is that teachers are overworked and underappreciated. He said he knows a new salary package is being worked on and he hopes to assist in this, but as a teacher himself, he wanted everyone to know that being told you are appreciated makes a big difference. He pledged during 2017 to shake all teacher’s hands and staff in his precinct and invited Board members to do the same and said “wouldn’t it be cool if this was the year everyone knew who their Board member was.” He said a phrase was coined by the Board that “we are a Board that listens” and said if the Board was graded on this they would get an “A.” He added that the Jordan School Board needs to also be known as a board that cares and this needs to be carried to every employee, student, and patron and Jordan needs to be seen as a center of excellent education. Mr. Robinson expressed appreciation to his most important campaign staff, his family, and thanked them for knocking on thousands of doors and being his “rock.” He reminded his family of his campaign promise to go to Disneyland, unless they would prefer to go to Hawaii or Idaho. He pledged his heart to the members of the Board, the District administration, teachers, and all employees who work diligently to help children prepare to be positive contributors to society. He said children are the future and the District cannot afford to fail even one child because they have a great influence in society. He said it is not okay to be a good school district, Jordan must be the best and he is prepared to help push the District in the right direction and is looking forward to serving on the Board during the next four years.

Ms. Marilyn Richards said when she was campaigning she had a lot of people ask her why she was running for the school board. She said she is sure they wanted a philosophical answer which she tried to give them
but the real reason happened to her in third grade at West Jordan Elementary School. She decided in third grade that she wanted to be a teacher and wanted to be involved with education throughout her life because she is a lover of learning and a lover of education. As she progressed through school and attended college to obtain a degree in secondary education, she then got her first job in Jordan District teaching at West Jordan Jr. High School. She then went on to get an administrative certificate and was an administrator or educator for 34 years in Jordan District. She then worked as a consultant, administrative substitute, and evaluator of teachers. She said it could be said that she has been continuously involved with Jordan School District for 60 years. She expressed her loyalty to Jordan District and said when given a chance to work elsewhere, she declined the invitation because she wanted to remain in Jordan District. Mrs. Richards said her answer to those people who asked why she was running for the School Board is two-fold; she wanted to stay involved in education and also wanted to make a difference in the lives of the children. She said she often would go home after a tiring day at school and ask herself if she was doing a good job and making a difference. She said she believes she did make a difference and believes she can continue to make a difference which is why she ran for the Board. Mrs. Richards expressed appreciation for the support and love of her friends and family and for the opportunity to serve the patrons of precinct four who elected her and pledged to do a good job. She said those who know her know when she takes a job she does it “all the way.”

Mr. Bryce Dunford said forty years ago he walked through the doors of his first Jordan District school in the second grade at the original South Jordan Elementary School located at 10400 South 1300 West. His teacher was Miss Johnston who he had a crush on until she broke his heart by getting married later in the year. He said the following eleven years changed his life. Teachers, administrators, and school programs shaped and molded him and taught him to shoot for the stars. He said he has a debt to Jordan District that he may never be able to repay. He expressed his gratitude for a Bingham Middle School principal who took a chance on an eighth grader and gave him an opportunity to do things that were a little out of the box because what the principal did for him changed his life. He expressed appreciation for a math teacher who helped him fall in love with math every day. He added that he owes much of who and what he is today to the teachers, programs, and administrators. Mr. Dunford said his first teaching assignment was in Arizona and after eight years he and his wife moved their family back to the Salt Lake Valley and there was no question where they wanted to raise their children and which schools they wanted them to attend. He said he and his wife have ten children, three are graduates of Jordan District, one is a senior, one a sophomore, one in middle school, two in elementary school, and two pre-kindergartners. He said combined, his children have attended 74 years of Jordan School District instruction and 85 when his 11 years are added. He stated that his family is a Jordan School District family. He views being a Board member a sacred responsibility and is grateful and honored to accept the position and give his all to the District. He also expressed appreciation to his many friends and family members and said it is his name that will be heard and listed on the Board letterhead, but the greatness behind him is the woman he married. He expressed his love for his wife and hopes her greatness is seen in everything he does. He added that he and his wife don’t do a lot out in the world but they love each other and they represent the families of Jordan District. He acknowledged his wife, Jennifer, his children, and all the family members that make this District great. Mr. Dunford stated that he is honored to represent precinct five.

Mrs. Janice L. Voorhies said this is her second term and she wanted to talk about the things she has learned in the last four years. She said Board members review many demographics and information about how students are doing, what teachers are doing, how bus drivers are doing, what lunch people are doing, but what she has learned is that education is for every single person and every single child, and it is these individuals that are the foundation and bedrock of a democracy. She stated that she hopes everyone working together can focus on those individuals and give them a “boot up” to a better life. She said being a Board member is a great job and she has enjoyed it.

**Election of Board of Education Officers**

Mr. Larsen reviewed the procedures used to elect Board officers to serve two-year terms of office for the years 2017 and 2018. He conducted elections for president, vice president, and secretary of the Jordan School District Board of Education.
Election of President

Mr. Larsen opened nominations for the office of president of the Jordan School District Board of Education to serve a two-year term.

Mrs. Susan Pulsipher nominated Mrs. Janice L. Voorhies

Hearing no other nomination, Mr. Larsen confirmed acceptance of the nomination by Mrs. Voorhies and called for a motion to close the nominations for the office of Board president.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Susan K. Pulsipher and seconded by Janice L. Voorhies to close the nominations for the office of Board president. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Larsen conducted a vote by raise of hand on the nomination of Mrs. Janice L. Voorhies to the office of Board president. Mr. Larsen stated that by unanimous vote, Mrs. Voorhies was elected to serve a two-year term as president of the Jordan School District Board of Education.

Election of Vice President

Mr. Larsen opened nominations for the office of vice president of the Jordan School District Board of Education to serve a two-year term.

Mrs. Jen Atwood nominated Mr. Matthew Young

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Larsen confirmed acceptance of the nomination by Mr. Young and called for a motion to close the nominations for the office of Board vice president.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Susan K. Pulsipher to close the nominations for the office of Board vice president. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Larsen conducted a vote by raise of hand on the nomination of Mr. Matthew Young to the office of Board vice president. Mr. Larsen stated that by unanimous vote, Mr. Young was elected to serve a two-year term as vice president of the Jordan School District Board of Education.

Election of Secretary

Mr. Larsen opened nominations for the office of secretary of the Jordan School District Board of Education to serve a two-year term.

Mr. Matthew Young nominated Mrs. Jen Atwood

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Larsen confirmed acceptance of the nomination by Mrs. Atwood and called for a motion to close the nominations for the office of Board secretary.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Susan K. Pulsipher and seconded by Bryce Dunford to close the nominations for the office of Board secretary. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Larsen conducted a vote by raise of hand on the nomination of Mrs. Jen Atwood to the office of Board secretary. Mr. Larsen stated that by unanimous vote, Mrs. Atwood was elected to serve a two-year term as secretary of the Jordan School District Board of Education.

The Jordan School District Board of Education officers and members as now constituted are:

Janice L. Voorhies, Board President
Matthew Young, Board Vice President
Comments by Newly Elected Board Officers

Mrs. Voorhies, Board president, expressed appreciation to the Board members for the time the Board members who are continuing to serve have already spent and for the new Board members, for the time they will be spending. She stated that Mrs. Pulsipher has been elected to the Utah State Legislature and has begun serving in that position and said the School Board is particularly pleased about this because they feel their lobbying efforts will be rewarded and they will be happy working with her in the future in her new capacity. Mrs. Voorhies said that she is asked how much time it takes to be a member of the School Board and her response is that it is erratic, sometimes it takes a lot of time and sometimes less, but all of those many hours have been a part of Mrs. Pulsipher’s job and Mrs. Voorhies expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board to her for her great efforts and added that personally, she appreciates that Mrs. Pulsipher has become her friend. Mrs. Voorhies also said she is appreciative of the passion Mrs. Pulsipher has for helping children and for giving the patrons of the District a voice about what happens.

Mr. Young, Board vice president, said he wanted to echo the comments and appreciation for Mrs. Pulsipher and the dedicated service she has performed and her amazing leadership. He said it has been a true pleasure serving for the past two years with her and with the other members of the Board. He added that the last two years have been a marvelous experience and he looks forward to another two great years with the new members of the Board and said it will be a great ride with many more wonderful experiences. He said he looks forward to yoking himself with each of the members of the Board and said, “let’s go to work for the kids of Jordan School District.”

Mrs. Atwood said she too wanted to express her thanks to Mrs. Pulsipher, Mrs. Voorhies, and Mrs. Whitelock, and stated that they have paved an extraordinary path that she hopes and believes the new Board can continue down. She said she looks forward to serving with the new Board members and thanked the previous Board members for the journey and teaching her along the way and thanked the administrators, Cabinet members, and superintendent for all they do for students every day. She said she knows they all work extremely hard for every child, every day and she looks forward to the next two years.

Board President Voorhies expressed appreciation to all those in attendance for their support, including the legislators who attended the meeting. She expressed a special appreciation to friends and family of Board members for their circle of influence. She invited all to attend future Board meetings to both express appreciation and concerns about the education of the children of Jordan School District.

**MOTION:** At 7:25 p.m., it was moved by Susan K. Pulsipher and seconded by Darrell Robinson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

/jc

[Approved 1-24-17]