The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, beginning at 4:04 p.m. at the JATC South Campus (Board Conference Room), 12723 S. Park Avenue (2080 West), Riverton, Utah.

STUDY SESSION

Those recognized or signed-in as present:
- Janice L. Voorhies, Board President
- Matthew Young, Board Vice President
- Jen Atwood, Board Secretary
- Bryce Dunford, Board Member
- Marilyn Richards, Board Member
- Darrell Robinson, Board Member
- Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
- Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
- John Larsen, Business Administrator
- Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
- Michael Anderson, Administrator of Schools
- Jill Durrant, Administrator of Schools
- June M. LeMaster, Administrator of Human Resources
- Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
- Teri Timpson, Administrator of Schools
- Sandy Riesgraf, Director, Communications
- Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
- Jack Retallick, AV Maintenance
- Vicki Olsen, President, Jordan Education Association
- Carmen Freeman, Mayor, Herriman City
- Shelly Davis, Principal, Heartland Elementary
- Todd Theobald, Principal, Majestic Elementary
- Brenda Anderson, Principal, Westvale Elementary
- Roy Harward
- Tracy Miller

President Voorhies presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a study session to discuss the following:

A. **Ends Policies and Administrative Plan for Student Achievement**

Mrs. Timpson, Ms. Durrant, and Mr. Anderson were invited to discuss the Turnaround and A2A partnerships in which the District has been involved during the past several years.

Mrs. Timpson, administrator of schools, presented information to the Board about the Turnaround program. She said the purpose of the program is to dramatically increase student learning using a model that strengthens leadership, improves teacher effectiveness, utilizes data to drive instruction, and applies lessons learned. She stated that this program could not work without dedicated teachers who are willing to learn and work collaboratively with each other. The program has been in place for several years at Heartland, Majestic, and Westvale Elementary Schools and two additional schools, Columbia and West Jordan Elementary, were added this year. She reviewed key levers of the Turnaround process: leadership, support and accountability, instructional infrastructure, and talent management and discussed how all levers contribute to increasing student learning. She also shared school improvement data which is a direct result of implementation of the Turnaround program.
Superintendent Johnson stated that the District did not receive a mandate to implement the Turnaround program but rather worked proactively to improve learning outcomes by starting the Turnaround program first at three elementary schools and then two additional schools.

Board members invited the principals of Heartland, Majestic, and Westvale Elementary Schools to answer questions about the program and to provide additional information.

President Voorhies asked to have the presentation about the A2A program presented at the study session on February 28, 2017.

B. Review of Semi-annual Report to the Public

Ms. Sandra Riesgraf, director of Communications, provided copies of the proposed Spring 2017 District Update which is a semi-annual report to the public. She said the reports are sent twice a year and are well-received by the public. The cost of this report will be 14 cents per household which includes postage.

Ms. Riesgraf invited Board members to review the report and provide her with input. She noted that she anticipates having the report printed and mailed toward the end of February so the contact information for the new District 3 Board member can be included on the report.

In response to Board member questions and a comment from Mayor Freeman of Herriman City about keeping District patrons informed about the use of the bond funds, Ms. Riesgraf stated that once the first bond sale has been completed, a one-click link will be added to the District web page to direct patrons to a bond page that will provide them with up-to-date information about the use of the bond funds.

C. Naming of New Elementary Schools

1. **Finalizing Name for New Elementary School in Herriman Located at 5692 West American Park Drive, Herriman, Utah**

   Dr. Godfrey, associate superintendent, said the Bastian Family made a large monetary donation to the District and requested the right to name the new elementary school in Herriman in accordance with policy A9 Named Gifts to Jordan School District. Dr. Godfrey said a letter was received from the Foundation asking to have the school named: Bastian Elementary. Dr. Godfrey asked for direction from the Board to name the school.

   **MOTION:** It was moved by Darrell Robinson and seconded by Marilyn Richards to name the new elementary school located in Herriman, Utah in accordance with policy A9: Bastian Elementary School. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

2. **Discussion on Naming New Elementary School in South Jordan Located at 10252 South Split Rock Drive, South Jordan, Utah**

   Dr. Godfrey, associate superintendent, reviewed for Board members the District guidelines related to naming of new schools. The process includes sending an email regarding the process to the School Community Councils, PTA groups, school administrations, and city officials asking for parents, students, and community members that will be attending the new school to submit names. The names will then be given to Mr. Dunford for review and he will narrow the choices to five or six, adding his own suggestion, if desired. A survey is then created and sent to the community to gather input. At the completion of the survey, the results are provided to Mr. Dunford to make a recommendation to the Board, followed by a vote of the Board to officially name the school.
Dr. Godfrey noted that with the Board’s approval, the process will begin immediately and it is anticipated that the Board’s final decision could be made at the March 28, 2017, regular Board meeting.

D. Application Process for Appointing a New Board Member

Mr. Paul Van Komen, Board attorney, reviewed the requirements as outlined in Utah law for the Board to interview and appoint a person to fill the midterm vacancy of Susan Pulsipher. Board members discussed specifics about the interview process, candidate questions, public comment, Board discussion, and the final decision.

E. Tax Increment Project Considerations

Mr. Bryce Dunford, chair of the Board Finance Committee, said the Committee met and reviewed the proposed Jordan School District Considerations for Increment Projects developed at the Board’s request by Mr. Larsen. He noted that this document was developed to use as a guide when the Board is asked to consider increment projects proposed by the cities and county. He also noted that this list will be provided to the taxing entities so they are aware of the Board’s criteria for basing its support of tax increment projects. Mr. Dunford asked for Board approval for the list of considerations and made the following motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to approve the Jordan School District Considerations for Increment Projects and to invite Mr. Larsen to submit this document to interested entities.

Mr. Young proposed a language change to the motion, to which Mr. Dunford agreed and amended his motion as follows:

AMENDED MOTION: It was moved by Bryce Dunford and seconded by Darrell Robinson to approve the Jordan School District Considerations for Increment Projects and to direct Mr. Larsen to submit this document to the cities within Jordan School District and to Salt Lake County. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Young noted that the list of considerations will provide the means to analyze future tax increment projects and prepare the Board for making sound decisions.

A copy of the Jordan School District Considerations for Increment Projects is attached at the conclusion of these minutes. (Attachment 1)

F. Possible Expansion of Purpose of Charter School Relations Advisory Committee

Mr. Young, chair of the Board Charter School Relations Committee, proposed changing the name of the committee to Innovations in Education Committee with part of the mandate being to continue exploring optimal charter school relations with existing or interested parties under the Jordan umbrella and to explore innovative and creative education ideas that the traditional model is not providing. He would like the Board to be in a position to encourage and highlight the amazing innovation that is happening within the District and expressed concern about future needs when the current bond has been exhausted. Mr. Young proposed that this Committee explore and work towards giving growth to these innovative ideas.

Concerns were expressed about charter school liability issues and adding to the administrative workload. Superintendent Johnson asked that the innovative or creative education ideas the Committee may review be research-based because the District does not have time nor money to expend on something that sounds like a good idea. She also noted that the current charter school partnership with Jordan District could not take place without the influx of private dollars from the citizen who is behind this blended learning innovative model.
Following the discussion, Board members agreed to the Committee name change and focus.


President Voorhies led a discussion about policies B/SC 204 and 205 which are policies that monitor the performance of the superintendent and business administrator. A new paragraph was proposed to be added to both policies which outlines steps to be taken to resolve differences of opinion between Board members and the superintendent or business administrator and to safeguard the reputation of both. Recommendations were made for language revisions and clarifications.

President Voorhies asked to have the revised policy brought back for adoption during a special Board meeting to be held February 21, 2017.

H. **Options for Board Professional Development**

President Voorhies referred to the book, *Coming to Order – A Guide to Successful School Board Meetings*, that USBA provides to Boards and suggested that since there are four new Board members, it might be advantageous to set aside a period of time such as 15 to 20 minutes at each study session to review a section of this guide. She also noted that the goal will be to help the Board increase its effectiveness and understanding. Board members agreed to the proposal. It was noted that reviewing this book fulfills one of the requirements of the Master Boards Award.

President Voorhies said Board members discussed reading a book to further the Board’s goal of student achievement and professional development and invited Board members to review the recommendations they each brought to share. Following the discussion, Board members set the following parameters for this professional development activity:

- Each Board member will choose a book he/she would like the Board to read.
- One book per quarter will be read.
- Fifteen minutes will be set aside at each study session to discuss the merits of the book with the discussion led by the Board member that recommended it.

Following the discussion it was decided to start with Mrs. Voorhies recommendation, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, written by Carol S. Dweck.

It was recommended that a message be added to the Board’s website to let the public know what the Board is reading.

I. **Board Committee Reports**

1. **District/Community Council Board Advisory Committee**

   Mr. Robinson, chair of the Community Council Advisory Committee, said he had nothing to report; however, Mr. Young stated that he wanted to express his appreciation to the Community Council Committee for the recent Town Hall meeting where arena scheduling was discussed. He said this was a combined effort that needs to be recognized. Mr. Robinson added that the total number of participants was 160 and the attendees asked great questions. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Heaps, Support Services Manager for Information Systems, and his staff for doing a great job with the presentation. Mr. Robinson asked for Board input for the next Parent University.

   Mrs. Voorhies said the next Parent University will be held in April and Mr. Anderson, administrator of schools, has been asked to invite Greg Hudnall, a state expert in suicide, to discuss triggers, symptoms, and prevention of suicide. She also noted that Dr. Godfrey, associate superintendent, was asked to invite parents in all grades, elementary through high school, to attend this activity.
Superintendent Johnson noted that Dr. Godfrey received several requests to repeat the arena scheduling training. Dr. Godfrey suggested holding two additional trainings, one each in the north and south ends of the District, in the coming month, and possibly putting the training online.

2. **Facilities Board Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Atwood, chair of the Facilities Committee, said two meetings have been held that included Mrs. Voorhies, Ms. Richards, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Bergera. A comprehensive review of the role, responsibilities, and objectives of the Committee were reviewed as well as the great work that has been accomplished during the past several years and she recognized the efforts of the past members of this Committee. She said they also discussed several property transactions and projects that will be coming to the Board for future consideration. The Committee was able to participate in a tour of various District properties, including the Transportation facility and are looking at options for future expansion of this facility to provide space for the District’s bus fleet. She expressed how impressed she is with the District’s bus mechanics and how they work to keep kids safe.

Mrs. Atwood said many of the schools made today’s Valentine parties a great experience for the students and while she didn’t want to take away from any of the efforts made by the teachers, she did want to pay a special tribute to the teachers at Heartland and Majestic because they went above and beyond and brought valentines and treats for those students whose parents were unable to provide them so that these students would be included in the activities of the day.

3. **District Finance and Audit Board Advisory Committee**

Mr. Dunford, chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, said the main issue of the Committee has been the tax increment guidelines and he had nothing further to add to the discussion held earlier in the meeting. He invited Mr. Young to discuss the Camp and Clinic Audit.

Mr. Young stated for the record that the Board is addressing the Camp and Clinic Audit issues and asked Mr. Dunford for further clarification about a response to the State. Mr. Dunford added that he has asked Mr. Larsen, business administrator, to come prepared at the next meeting of the Committee, to review the proposed response.

Mr. Larsen said following the review by the Committee, it is anticipated that the response will be submitted to the State by the deadline of March 14. Board members agreed to have the Committee report to the Board after the response has been submitted to the State.

4. **Legislative/Community Relations Board Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Voorhies said she and Ms. Richards are the members of this Committee and have been meeting each Friday with the Joint Legislative Team which includes superintendents, business managers, and State Board members. At these meetings they examine proposed education bills and the number one topic of discussion has been S.B. 80 which is a proposal to alter to some degree the way schools are financed. This bill is based on the philosophy that education funding is not equal across school districts in the State. She said in other states, school districts have sued the state because students weren’t receiving an “equal” education because of funding. Mrs. Voorhies said this bill is an attempt to begin the process to remedy this inequality.

Mr. Larsen stated that for years there has been inequity between districts based on tax base because laws set maximum tax rates, but tax values create different tax yield results. The State has mitigated this inequity with some programs that provide money to poorer districts and Jordan District has benefited from these programs. He said this bill will expand those programs and the controversial piece is that it will take money that could instead be placed on the WPU. The conversation in the past has been to put the money on the WPU so as to not restrict the hands of the local school boards by telling them what they can and cannot do with the money.
Mrs. Voorhies said it would be advantageous for the Joint Leadership Team to agree on whether to support or oppose the bill; however, some districts are changing their position from support to non-support.

Mr. Larsen stated that the sponsor of this bill is in the Jordan District area and he believes that it is appropriate to say that this legislator has made a lot of effort talking with all the parties and has made changes to his bill in order to find middle ground. He said whatever the fate of the bill, everyone needs to know how great he has been to work with. Superintendent Johnson added that the task force has looked at this bill over the course of a year and during that time when the task force expressed disagreement, the legislator made changes.

Mrs. Voorhies said the ultimate goal is to make funding fair for every student in Utah and Senator Fillmore has been very supportive by doing the best he can so all parties are comfortable with the bill. She added that as a teacher and even now she believes that it is not okay that children in Tintic don’t receive the same educational opportunities as those in Salt Lake because of funding inequities. She also noted that a decision whether to support the bill may be needed as soon as Friday of this week; however, the final language had not been received.

Mr. Larsen noted that he had seen a draft of the latest substitute bill and was asked by the bill sponsor if it accomplished what was asked, to which he responded, "yes."

Mr. Young expressed that the Committee was charged with being on the Hill during the session but when these types of decisions needed to be made, they would defer to the Board for direction which they have done. He suggested that the Board have a discussion on this and give direction to the Committee to which Board members agreed.

Mr. Young stated his position that he believes the fundamental question is whether the Board believes that every child in the State of Utah is entitled to a certain level of education funding. He said this has been the conundrum for years at the legislature and no viable solution has been presented. He noted that last year the Board took a position on an equalization bill but that position had more to do with not having enough information to make a viable decision of support. He expressed appreciation to the legislator who over the last six or seven months has engaged the education community in discussions about this bill and he stated that to pull the rug out now would be catastrophic. He said he believes there are still people thinking in terms of winners and losers, but if what matters is the kids and every child in the State getting a certain level of funding, then he believes the Board needs to demonstrate good faith and trust and move forward with supporting this legislation, provided the final version is what it is expected to be. Mr. Young made the following motion:

**MOTION:** It was moved by Matthew Young and seconded by Jen Atwood to direct the Legislative Committee members to demonstrate good faith and trust and support S.B. 80, provided the language in the final version is as expected. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. **Charter School Relations Board Advisory Committee**

Mr. Young stated that he had nothing more to report than was discussed earlier in the meeting with regard to the Committee name change and responsibilities.

6. **Other Committee Reports**

Ms. Richards, the Board’s representative for the Utah High School Activities Association, reported that the Board of Trustees met this morning and discussed legislation sponsored by Frances Gibson that would decrease the size of the Board of Trustees to 15 members and to create an external appeal panel that is independent of the Association. She said the Board of Trustees today voted to support these two measures; however, if any additional measures become part of
the legislation, the Board of Trustees will question the measures. She added that she personally feels that this decrease in the size of the Board decreases public school input more than she would like and the proposed 15 member make-up will include six district school board members, three district superintendents, three district principals, one charter school, one private school, and one state school board member. Ms. Richards stated that the State Board of Education is continuing to push the transfer policy; however it is slowing because of the number of new members who are being brought up to speed on the policy. She said the Board of Trustees does not support the transfer policy as currently written and hopes the new Board members will understand their position and that the policy will not go through. Ms. Richards said she would provide more information to the Board as it is received.

At 7:58 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

**MOTION:** At 7:58 p.m., it was moved by Marilyn Richards and seconded by Jen Atwood to go into closed session. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Those recognized or signed-in as present:
- Janice L. Voorhies, Board President
- Matthew Young, Board Vice President
- Jen Atwood, Board Secretary
- Bryce Dunford, Board Member
- Marilyn Richards, Board Member
- Darrell Robinson, Board Member
- Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
- Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
- John Larsen, Business Administrator
- Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White

President Voorhies presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a closed session to discuss personnel and potential litigation. The closed session discussion was recorded and archived.

**MOTION:** At 8:23 p.m., it was moved by Jen Atwood to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/jc
Attachment

[Minutes approved 2-28-17]