Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 14, 2018

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in a study session on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, beginning at 4:10 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
Tracy J. Miller, Board Member
Marilyn Richards, Board Member
Darrell Robinson, Board Member (via electronic connection until his arrival at 5:30 p.m.)
Patrice A. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Scott Thomas, Administrator of Auxiliary Services
Dave Rostrom, Director, Facility Services
McKinley Withers, Health and Wellness Specialist
Fulvia Franco, Consultant, Guidance
Vicki Olsen, President, Jordan Education Association
Jeri Clayton, Administrative Assistant
Robert Conder, AV Maintenance
Majid Ganom, AV Maintenance
Dawn Ramsey, Mayor, South Jordan City
Scott Poland, National Suicide Prevention Consultant
Erin Preston

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

A. Health and Wellness Update

Superintendent Johnson introduced Dr. Scott Poland, licensed psychologist and nationally certified school psychologist, and a professor at the College of Psychology and co-director of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Johnson said Dr. Poland is here for two days and met with Herriman High faculty earlier in the day and will be a guest speaker at meetings to be held tomorrow with both elementary and secondary teachers. She also introduced Dr. Fulvia Franco, lead psychologist and consultant for the District’s Guidance Department. She invited Mr. McKinley Withers, Health and Wellness Specialist, to continue his presentation regarding the health and wellness organizational approach for addressing the social and emotional well-being of District students.

Mr. Withers reviewed three important components of the health and wellness plan: school teams, community connections and partnerships, and district supports, and explained his role in uniting these elements toward helping students. He reviewed the purpose of School Wellness Plans which should include prevention measures, intervention tools, and a crisis response plan. He said on August 8, a group of 14 District counselors and psychologists voluntarily participated to become QPR certified trainers and more are expected to take the training. He noted that grant funds will help to cover the cost of the trainings. The certified trainers will be able to teach others important skills for questioning at-risk
students, persuading them to get help, or referring them to those than can help them. Mr. Withers also reported on activities and meetings that have taken place or will take place that involve collaboration with principals, district leadership, community partners such as city leaders, faith-based leaders, and partnerships with mental health providers.

Board members questioned the timing for implementation of School Wellness Plans and recommended developing a timeline for school administrators to establish a School Crisis Team, create a vision, and implement the school plan. Dr. Johnson stated that the health and wellness approach is a developing program and suggested that Mr. Withers attend the principal level meetings on September 18 to educate principals about the school plans and crisis teams. She suggested that a possible timeline could be to have school crisis teams in place by the end of the first quarter and a vision and potential plan in place by the end of the second quarter. Board members asked to have information presented in a public meeting about the timeline so patrons are made aware of the progress towards focusing on the social and emotional well-being of students. Mr. Young asked Mrs. Atwood to add this item to the Board’s list of future discussion items with a number one priority designation and that at the same time, the timeline can be reviewed and additional expectations set. Mr. Young also asked for Board discussion regarding the 16-hour psychologist assigned to Riverton High.

In response to Mr. Young’s question about how the Board will know in six months or a year from now if they are heading in the right direction on this issue, Dr. Poland responded with the following insights:

- Dr. Poland stated that the District has identified a health and wellness specialist and most District’s do not have such a person. Mr. Withers has been working hard to make himself aware of best practices and to locate resources that can assist in his efforts. Dr. Poland said he put Mr. Withers in touch with the prevention specialist for Academy 20 in Colorado Springs which has also experienced suicide contagion and with a person in the Park Hills School District in Missouri which clearly has the goal of becoming the most recognized district in Missouri for suicide prevention. He said Mr. Withers has been having discussions with District personnel, parents, students, school staff, and community partners, and met recently with Kathy Davis of the Utah State Board of Education about state-wide efforts regarding suicide prevention and will be meeting with Kimberly Meyers of the Health Department.

- Dr. Poland noted that school safety efforts can be seen such as school entrances, locked doors, etc., but with regard to suicide prevention, efforts can’t always be seen. It is about awareness and establishing a culture where it is discussed. He stressed that talking about it does not plant the idea in a young person’s head, but rather gives them an opportunity to unburden themselves.

- Dr. Poland said it is important to recognize that Herriman High School and Jordan School District are not alone in this and that suicide is the number one cause of death for teenagers in all of the western states and the second leading cause of death for the rest of the country. He said many school districts have experienced suicide contagion. Dr. Poland complemented the District leadership for rallying many groups to work together on this effort.

- Dr. Poland stated that one of the biggest challenges is to get parents to recognize when their child is truly depressed and to recognize the importance of obtaining help. He said when he hears of another youth suicide he thinks of it simply as untreated or undertreated mental illness and often adverse childhood experiences (ACE). He said schools cannot provide the treatment that is needed for a suicidal youth but they can assist in notifying parents so that appropriate services are obtained. He also said parents can be resistant and unfortunately the choice sometimes has to be made to refer them to a State agency because it is negligent for a parent not to obtain help for a suicidal minor.

- Dr. Poland said another challenge faced by Western states and especially Utah is accessibility to guns and research clearly shows that the suicide rates go down with the removal of unlocked guns. He said it makes no sense to him when a parent has an impulsive substance-abusing teen that an unlocked gun would be left in the home.

- He said sadly not every suicide can be prevented but the majority can be by creating a climate that focuses on wellness and making sure every kid matters and feels like someone cares about
them. He added that “go to” adults are needed by suicidal students and friends of suicidal students and that it is important to get behind student initiatives that encourage the inclusion of all students.

- He suggested that the Board should feel pride in all the steps that have been taken towards dealing with this issue. He said he was impressed with the Herriman staff that are working hard and want to be supported in these efforts to help the students. He added that he would not hesitate to tell District personnel if there was something he thought they should be doing that they are not currently doing.

B. Unfinished Board Work from Summer Seminar: Review of Ends Policies and Matrices

President Voorhies invited discussion about the Board’s Ends policies and matrices. Board members expressed that the matrices provide an excellent visual understanding of the responsibilities and roles in this process. They made the decision to do a comprehensive review of the Board’s Ends policies during the first hour of upcoming study sessions to gain a deeper understanding of each of the policies. Mr. Dunford volunteered to lead the discussion on Ends Policy 404 at the study session on Tuesday, August 28, 2018.

C. Review of Board Policy GP113 Board Committee Principles

Board members reviewed the list of Board committee assignments for 2018 and made corrections and recommendations for changes. Mr. Dunford recommended making a distinction between Board Advisory Committees and Board member assignments to serve as a representative/liaison of the Board on a District committee or for an outside entity. The Board leadership team accepted the assignment to create an organizational chart of Board committees and member assignments for Board review.

D. Capital Outlay Projects for Summer 2019

Mrs. Jen Atwood led a discussion about projects for summer 2019. Board members reviewed the items currently on the list and made recommendations for additional projects. Staff was instructed to move forward with seven projects and to provide a per project cost breakdown for any school with more than one project.

E. Continued Discussion on Boundary Realignment

Dr. Anthony Godfrey, associate superintendent, reviewed the latest version of the School Capacity document. Board members requested one additional change. Dr. Godfrey will update the document and have it placed on BoardDocs.

Dr. Godfrey stated that boundary change recommendations will be presented to the Board in September. He said the boundary changes needed for the new schools and for the Board’s priority to develop long-lasting boundaries may necessitate boundary changes at most elementary schools and all secondary schools.

Dr. Godfrey noted that the next discussion with the Board will include a plan for communicating boundary change information to patrons such as having a link on the District’s website to boundary information, developing surveys, sending explanation letters to parents, and holding open houses. He said Board member input on all aspects of the communications process will be sought before the communications process begins.

F. Policy Governance Review

1. EL301 Treatment of Students and Their Families
2. EL302 Treatment of Staff
Board members reviewed Board Executive Limitations policies 301 and 302 and discussed accountability for meeting the requirements of these policies.

G. **School Board Book Study**

Ms. Marilyn Richards led a discussion of parts three and four in the book “Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking” by Susan Cain. She invited Board members to choose an idea or concept from the book and explain how it can be applied in their role as Board members or to life in general.

H. **Calendaring Update**

President Voorhies stated that dates needed to be identified to have the health and wellness discussion with community leaders and for Board members to meet with legislators to present the Board’s legislative priorities.

Following Board discussion, Tuesday, November 27, 2018 was selected as the date to invite legislators to a morning breakfast meeting. Mrs. Miller noted that the Legislative Committee will choose a location and time and also send a “save the date” notice to legislators. Monday, August 27, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. was chosen as the date to invite City leaders to meet to discuss District efforts related to the health and wellness of students.

I. **Board Member Committee Reports**

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

   Mr. Robinson, Committee chair, reported that a Calendar Committee survey is being sent to parents and he will report more at a later time.

2. **Facilities Board Advisory Committee**

   Mrs. Atwood, Committee chair, said Facilities Committee information was presented earlier in the meeting (item D) and she had nothing additional to report to the Board.

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

   Mr. Dunford, Committee chair, said the Board approved a tax increment project for Riverton City; however, due to factors beyond the City’s control, last April they asked the Board for a postponement of the “trigger” date. Riverton City is now ready to proceed and Mr. Dunford said he anticipates having this matter added to the August 28 agenda for Board approval.

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

   Mrs. Miller, Committee chair, reported about the USBA Delegate Assembly. She said the legislative priority topics of funding growth, WPU increase, and funds for student and school safety all passed unanimously. She indicated that of the three policy issues, the Jordan Board had issues with two of them and all three received robust discussion. She said she was able to express the Board’s input on these policy matters and that all three policy requests were amended and/or reworded and she will provide updated versions to Board members when she receives them.

   Mrs. Miller provided a reminder to Board members that Austin Cox of Our Schools Now will be meeting with the Legislative Committee on Monday, August 20, and asked Board members to let her know if they would like to attend the meeting so that it can be noticed if there are more than three Board members present.
5. **Innovations in Education Board Advisory Committee**

   Mr. Young, Committee chair, reported that the Committee will be meeting on Friday for a report from the Innovations Subcommittee and to discuss other matters. He is hoping to have a report and recommendations ready for the Board at the August 28 meeting.

6. **Utah High School Activities Association**

   Ms. Richards, a member of the Board of Trustees for UHSAA, reported that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2018, and that she spent last Thursday participating in the appeals process.

   **MOTION:** At 9:25 p.m., it was moved by Darrell Robinson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/jc