

Jordan School District  
**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
March 10, 2026

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in study and closed sessions on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at JATC South (Board Conference Room), 12723 S. Park Avenue (2080 West), Riverton, Utah. The sessions were also provided electronically via YouTube.

**STUDY SESSION**

Those recognized or signed in as present:

Niki George, Board President  
Bryce Dunford, First Vice President  
Brian W. Barnett, Second Vice President  
Erin Barrow, Board Member  
Lisa Dean, Board Member  
Darrell Robinson, Board Member  
Suzanne Wood, Board Member  
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent  
John Larsen, Business Administrator  
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent  
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law  
Cody Curtis, Administrator of Schools  
Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching & Learning (arrived at 4:55 p.m.)  
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools  
Sandy Riesgraf, Director, Communications  
Ben Jameson, Director, Assessment, Research & Accountability  
Brooke Anderson, Data Scientist, Assessment, Research & Accountability  
Rebecca Smith, Gifted & Talented/ALPS Consultant, Teaching & Learning  
Roxane Siggard, Administrative Assistant  
Brandon Bateman, AV Department  
Robert Conder, AV Department

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

**A. 2026 Graduation Speaking Assignments**

Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools for the high school level, reviewed the graduation information handout that included last year's speakers and asked Board members to decide the school(s) where they would like to speak and/or attend for this year's graduation exercises. Graduation for all high schools, except Valley and Kings Peak High Schools, will be held at Utah Valley University.

Speaking opportunities were chosen by Board members, as well as attendance at individual graduation exercises. After reviewing the assignments, Mr. Sorensen said he will make sure those Board members who are attending will have their names on the parking list for each school's graduation.

**B. Review of Fee Schedule for 2026-27**

Administrators of Schools Cody Curtis and Brad Sorensen reviewed the proposed fee schedule for 2026-27 and the changes that were requested at a prior meeting regarding Option 1 and Option 2 for a fee-free pathway to credits required for graduation. Any course not on the fee schedule has no associated fee. He said that the fee-free pathway will be the same for every school.

The Board agreed that the proposed fee schedule be a clean copy with no colors or crossed-out changes from last year.

Mr. Sorensen explained that concurrent classes have an application with a fee that is required by the college through which the course is taken. Only one application fee is charged per college, no matter the number of

courses are taken through that school; however, since several colleges sponsor concurrent enrollment classes in Jordan District, each college has a separate application and fee to be paid.

Lisa Dean preferred Option 1 for the fee-free pathway; however, the rest of the Board members wanted Option 2 implemented. Staff was directed to remove Option 1 from the website and continue moving forward with Option 2.

The next opportunities for public comment on the fee schedule will be March 24, 2026 and April 14, 2026. The final vote will take place on April 28, 2026. The deadline to have a fee schedule adopted is May 1, 2026.

**C. Possible Updates to Administrative Policies DP371 *Employee Information Network Acceptable Use Policy*, DP378 *Employee Code of Conduct*, and D212 *District and School Web Sites*; and Social Media Guidelines**

Board Member Suzanne Wood said that she has some concerns about these policies, which are all regarding digital media. She was looking for approval to look at the policies and guidelines, and provide updates and clarity for the Board to review. Various sections of the policies were discussed by the Board with consideration for revisions.

Dr. Michael Anderson commented that with the passage of HB273, the USBE is required to develop a model policy to govern artificial intelligence (AI) and digital citizenship by December 1, 2026. LEAs must have a policy adopted by July 1, 2027, that includes AI. In April, Dr. Godfrey will be attending a meeting where this issue will be discussed which may give the Board and administration a better sense for a timeline and the changes that will be required.

Everyone agreed to move forward with looking at the policies. Since the Board is asking for a deep dive on a series of policies, the protocol will be changed this time. Rather than going to the Policy Committee first, the staff will instead begin looking at the policies for ambiguities and possible updates. If Board members have specific concerns to be considered, Dr Godfrey will be the District-level point of contact.

**D. Gifted and Talented Follow-up**

The topic was introduced by Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching and Learning, as a follow-up to the January 13, 2026 meeting. Rebecca Smith, Gifted and Talented (GT) consultant, presented a review of the GT program and answers to questions that were asked at the prior study session. The focus was on “how to serve the greatest number of students at the greatest number of locations.” Included in the presentation were options for an ideal program: site-based GT specialists in every school, varying from quarter time to full time; universal testing in second grade; ALPS in every feeder with transportation; and specialty schools in the north and/or south areas of the District. A timeline for implementation could put GT specialists in the elementary schools as early as next year with qualified teachers and a cohesive plan for training. The program with GT specialists could expand to middle schools in 2027-28.

At the conclusion of Ms. Smith’s report, Bryce Dunford recommended that all four options for having a site-based GT specialist at every elementary school be added to the 2026-27 budget discussion.

**E. Legislative Impact Discussion**

Suzanne Wood, chair of the Government Relations Advisory Committee, highlighted the involvement that Jordan School District had in the recent legislative session and the success in advocating for bills that would benefit Jordan students and educators. She talked about the many meetings and events that were attended by Dr. Anderson and Mr. Larsen and said Jordan was well represented at the legislature. She thanked Business Administrator John Larsen and President George, who testified. Data, specifically on safety and special education services, was shared with legislators prior to the start of the session. She noted that there is no break, as planning for next year begins as soon as the session ends. With the opportunity for bill files to be opened in May, it becomes important to have conversations early in hopes of partnering with legislators.

Dr. Anderson acknowledged the role Jordan Board members and administrators played in influencing legislation. He also gave a shout out in appreciation to David Bowman, Systems and Security Manager, and his team for impacting legislation for the better. In his opinion, the Jordan Board of Education was the most active board at the legislature.

Mr. Larsen reviewed the changes related to the Voted and Board hold harmless provisions implemented to encourage boards to make smaller but more frequent tax increases. Truth in Taxation (TNT) changes would require more meetings, notices, and hearings; two budgets will need to be prepared (one with and one without the tax increase); and changes were made to the TNT hearings regarding video streaming, comment, and the agenda.

The impact of the bills that passed on education was reviewed by Dr. Anderson, noting that most anticipated budget cuts did not occur; WPU was increased by 4.2%, and the educator salary adjustment was increased by 3%.

- SB 241 Literacy (passed) – Governor’s plan; 80% of third graders reading on grade level by 2030 and the possibility of retention at that grade or before. Dr. Anderson commented that data provided by Brooke Anderson and Ben Jameson, showing students with an IEP would be disproportionately impacted, influenced the bill’s sponsor to amend the bill.
- HB 440 School Lunch (failed) – would require School Community Councils to be responsible for moving schools to a format where a 20-minute lunch was served after lunch recess.
- HB 332 Lease Revenue Bonds (failed) – limited a board’s ability to go through a lease revenue bond for school funding; Mr. Larsen gave testimony to the committee that impacted the outcome of the bill.
- HB 524 Public Education Financial Officers (failed) – would shift dynamics of how Boards of Education hire the CFO/Business Administrator, as the direct report would be to the Superintendent rather than the board. President George gave testimony to the committee on this issue.
- HB 170 Board Referendums (failed) – would allow a citizen referendum on many Board of Education votes.
- SB69 School Device Revisions (passed) – Cellphone bill which proposes a bell-to-bell ban on cell phones in all classrooms; however, LEA’s can modify this policy if they choose.
- HB 218 Digital Literacy (passed) – requires changes to seventh- and eighth-grade digital standards being taught; begins next school year.
- HB 273 Classroom Technology (passed) – limits screen time for students at incremental levels; online, core technology standards, and IEP/504 plan accommodations excepted. Schoolwork must be balanced between digital and paper formats. The USBE will be developing a model policy by December 1, 2026, and local boards will need to create policies and implement requirements by July 1, 2027.
- HB 293 Public Education Student Athlete Protections (passed) - requires schools to initiate an additional sports moratorium in the summer, extending it from four to six weeks, and goes into effect at the beginning of August 2026. The moratorium does not need to be consecutive weeks.
- SB 271 & HB 360 (failed) – bills seeking to change the way UHSAA is governed and the way students participate.
- HB256 Partisan Board Elections (failed) – shifts Board elections from non-partisan to a partisan format.
- HB 241 Charter School Amendments (failed) - would give charter schools the first right of refusal on school properties being sold.
- SB164 School Construction (passed) - amendment that requires all school construction to be overseen by the Division of Facility Construction Management (DFCM).
- SB52 Substitute Teaching (passed) - removes the 20-day long-term limit on non-licensed substitutes.
- SB 295 Intellectual Diversity in Education and Government (passed) – makes changes related to policies on discriminatory practices, training, and programming within public schools and colleges; impacts school curricular clubs (those associated with a class).
- HB 467 Utah Fits All Scholarship Program Modifications (passed) – LEAs must allow scholarship students the same opportunity to participate in extracurriculars and sports as homeschool or charter

school students. The bill does not allow for students to be enrolled in a student information system, so districts will not get a portion of the WPU as with charter or homeschool students. Districts are allowed to charge beyond standard participation fees to cover actual costs and this goes into effect May 6, 2026.

- SB 58 Public School Attendance Amendments (passed) – sets definitions of terms and what a school day constitutes; impact to JSD is being reviewed.
- HB 44 & HB 51 School Safety (passed) – clarifies school districts can hire special function officers; schools must have a specified check-in process when coming into the building; and requires panic buttons in place by July 1, 2027.

Dr. Godfrey noted that this year's level of involvement and influence by the Jordan staff was unprecedented. He expressed appreciation for the legislators who listened and engaged in a genuine way, and also to the staff who went above and beyond.

Darrell Robinson gave a shout-out to the legislators, who, compared to other states, are very strong. He received several calls from them seeking his input, many more this session than in previous sessions.

#### **F. Review of Board Policies GP110 Public Participation at Board Meetings, GP111 Type of Meetings, and GP112 Closed Sessions of the Board**

Each of the three policies was discussed, and recommendations were made for specific areas to be reviewed by the Policy Committee. President George cautioned the Board to let the Committee wordsmith the policies and stick with general concepts for suggestions.

#### **G. Presentation on Financial Information**

In preparation for the budget process, Business Administrator John Larsen presented information on how state and local funding mechanisms impact the District's budget. He reviewed the relationship between the State WPU and the required State basic property tax levy; how the stated Voted and Board guarantee funding works; how charter schools are funded differently than district schools and things that charter schools do not have to do; double counting of state support and property tax support to public education; differences in property taxes from income and sales taxes; sources of funding and who determines how much of each is distributed; status of General Fund balances; Truth in Taxation history and estimates; and various school district tax levies.

Board members had the opportunity to ask questions in preparation for developing the 2026-27 budget.

#### **H. Board Member, Committee, and Superintendent Reports and Comments**

Suzanne Wood reported that the Jordan Education Access Committee (JEAC) will be hosting a Community Night on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. She said the Government Relations Advisory Committee will be meeting soon.

Erin Barrow said the Jordan Parent Advisory Committee (JPAC) will be meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Jordan Learning Center. The focus will be on the impacts of recent legislation on education.

Lisa Dean reminded the Board that registration is open for the Jordan Education Foundation Challenge Run, to be held on May 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The school with the highest participation rate will receive a \$1000 grant. She also reported that the Jordan Education Foundation Outstanding Educator Awards tour is currently underway, with visits to each of the schools to honor outstanding teachers.

Niki George said that Wednesday, March 11, 2026, is the Utah School Boards Association's spring meeting. She will be attending along with Erin Barrow, Darrell Robinson, John Larsen, and Anthony Godfrey.

Superintendent Godfrey commented on the great visits with the Foundation to surprise the outstanding teachers.

**MOTION:** At 9:02 p.m., it was moved by Suzanne Wood and seconded by Lisa Dean to go into closed session and to adjourn the meeting after the closed session. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Those recognized or signed in as present:

Niki George, Board President  
Bryce Dunford, First Vice President  
Brian W. Barnett, Second Vice President  
Erin Barrow, Board Member  
Lisa Dean, Board Member  
Darrell Robinson, Board Member  
Suzanne Wood, Board Member  
Anthony Godfrey, Superintendent  
John Larsen, Business Administrator  
Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent  
Paul Van Komen, BVKTS Law

President George presided and conducted. The Board of Education met in a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; property, potential litigation, negotiations, and security measures. The closed session discussion was recorded and archived.

At 9:58 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned by President George.