

Jordan School District
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 6, 2016

The Board of Education of Jordan School District met in a special Board meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, beginning at 5:03 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
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
Anthony A. Godfrey, Associate Superintendent
John Larsen, Business Administrator
Paul Van Komen, Burbidge & White
Marilyn Richards, School Board Member-elect
Bryce Dunford, School Board Member-elect
Darrell Robinson, School Board Member-elect
Brad Sorensen, Administrator of Schools
Chris Richards-Khong, Principal, Bingham High School
Todd Quarnberg, Principal, Copper Hills High School
Michael Kochevar, Principal, West Jordan High School
Carolyn Gough, Principal, Riverton High School
Jim Birch, Principal, Herriman High School

President Pulsipher presided and conducted. She welcomed those present.

I. **Special Business**

A. **Discussion on Possible Board Statement with Regard to the Recent Realignment for Region 6A High Schools by the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA)**

Board members met to review the UHSAA realignment of high schools for state classifications and regions, and to discuss the placement of Jordan District high schools.

Mr. Osborn, the Board's representative on the UHSAA Board of Trustees, stated that the proposed realignment, a copy of which he provided to Board members, is preliminary and open to change. He said it was his desire to have all Jordan schools in the same region; however, his one vote was not enough to accomplish this. He said hearings are scheduled at Jordan High School to solicit input from the schools and communities.

Mr. Young invited discussion about having all District high schools in the same region and about preparation of an official position statement to present to the UHSAA. The five high school principals were invited to address the Board and express their opinions about the regions.

Chris Richards-Khong, principal of Bingham High, stated that being surprised about the proposed realignment of Bingham High to Region 4, which puts them with four Utah County schools, would be an understatement and that had school personnel known, they would have provided input to UHSAA prior to the realignment meetings. She said Bingham has been part of the Utah County group in the past and feels they have "paid their dues." She said the biggest concern is the cost

involved with traveling farther distances and the loss of academic time due to the extra travel time. She said travel around the point of the mountain is not always safe during winter conditions and fans tend to not be as supportive when having to travel long distances. She expressed the desire for Bingham to remain in a region that keeps them closer to home.

Jim Birch, principal of Herriman High, said he spoke extensively with his coaches today and they stated that they would not want all five Jordan District high schools in the same region because one school would not have an opportunity to advance to finals. He said the coaches liked having an opportunity to meet other high schools in other districts.

Todd Quarnberg, principal of Copper Hills High, said he didn't have a problem with the proposed regions and looked forward to playing all teams in the region.

Mike Kochevar, principal of West Jordan High, said his school is small and lower in the socio-economic grouping and would like to see the regions remain as proposed.

Carolyn Gough, principal of Riverton High, said it is difficult to be a lone school in a region where the other schools are in one District because of the voting block and stated that the travel issue is also difficult. She expressed that public opinion will carry more weight than what she may have to say about the region realignment.

The Board discussed the principals' input and the disadvantages to having all Jordan Schools in one region.

Following the discussion, Mr. Young suggested the Board make a proposal to UHSAA to move Hillcrest to Region 4, West Jordan to Region 2, and Bingham to Region 3, with the rationale that Hillcrest is closer to Utah County than the other Region 2 schools and can take a turn at participating in a Utah County region since Jordan Schools have already had this opportunity for many years. Principals Kochevar and Richards-Khong were supportive of this recommendation.

Mr. Paul Van Komen, Board attorney, stated that Hillcrest's travel distance, if moved to Region 4, is just over three miles each way further than Bingham would need to travel which is not a significant difference. He also noted that it is closer for West Jordan to participate in Region 2 and Mr. Young's proposal saves significant transportation costs for Jordan schools.

Mr. Young made the following motion, with additions by Mrs. Pulsipher and Mrs. Whitelock.

MOTION: It was moved by Matthew Young and seconded by Jen Atwood that the Board draft a letter to the Utah High School Activities Association requesting that Hillcrest be moved from Region 2 to Region 4, West Jordan be moved from Region 3 to Region 2, and Bingham from Region 4 to Region 3 and that the Board authorize a representative to convey its request at UHSAA's public hearing tomorrow, December 7, 2016, and to emphasize that Jordan schools have travelled to Utah County many times in the past years, and that the financial burden for this travel should be shared among other schools/districts. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Young volunteered to represent the Board at the UHSAA hearing and Board members supported his request.

MOTION: At 5:58 p.m., it was moved by Janice L. Voorhies to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

JL/jc

[Minutes approved 12-13-16]