

Jordan School District Transition Team  
Ralph J. Haws, Chair

-MINUTES-

March 27, 2008  
11:00 a.m.

Dr. Haws welcomed the team members and expressed appreciation to Rick Horst and Sterling Nielsen for their work on the Proposed Joint Plan for the Division of the Jordan School District. He also welcomed those visitors in attendance.

1. Transition Team Questions and Answers Regarding Proposed Plan

Each member of the Jordan School District Transition Team expressed appreciation to Rick Horst and Sterling Nielsen for their diligence and hard work in preparing the proposed plan.

Both Rick and Sterling acknowledged that the process was a struggle in the beginning. They came to realize that if either Team wanted to win on every point, they would never reach a resolution. Each side had good reasoning behind their ideas, therefore; a compromise would have to be reached. The key to success, they felt, was to take a step back and impartially take a look at both sides of the issue and ask what would be a reasonable solution that both Teams could agree upon. It was a long fought battle, but they felt like the resultant document achieved the task given to the Teams.

Dr. Haws opened up the discussion by asking for observations and recommendations from the other members of the Transition Team. Dr. Haws and others agreed that they had major issues regarding the following points:

3. The \$196 million of bond proceeds shall be allocated 57% to the New District and 43% to the Remaining District. If bond proceeds are unavailable to meet the allocation, a combination of the following methods shall be used to rectify the deficit:
  - a. Allocate a greater percentage of the unrestricted cash to the receiving district.
  - b. Allocate raw land out of geography to the receiving district. An allocation of this type would also include an option for the repurchase of that land by the providing district at a price equal to the same amount re-allocated as a result of the out of geography distribution, plus interest.
  - c. Cause a note to be booked by the providing district to the receiving district in the amount required and on terms acceptable by both parties.

It was noted that last October the Jordan School District Board of Education voted on and passed a plan which allocated the majority of the \$196 million to fund necessary new and remodeling capital outlay projects which were part of a major planning cycle. The question was asked what impact the re-allocation of the bond money would have on the previous allocations. Since how the bond money is spent is determined by the School Board, the schedule of new building and remodeling should not change. What would change is how the bond money would be paid back. This could be done by allocating a greater percentage of the unrestricted cash to the receiving district, allocating raw land to them, or by causing a note to be booked by the providing district. None of these options seemed to be ones the Transition Team felt comfortable with since the remaining district would have a large bill to pay back and the only way to do this would be to significantly raise property taxes on the west side. The Team members agreed they would like to study the issues surrounding the bond before making a decision on item number 3 of the proposed plan.

Another concern was not including population in the division formula. With growing population, the west side has the issue of unhoused students. By having a large debt to pay back to the new district, the remaining district would face the problem of not being able to build new schools to house the growing population of students. How would this inequity be handled?

The proposed date of July 1, 2008, for the division of allocations is also a concern to the Transition Team. Senate Bill 71 outlines the date as June of 2009 or a date agreed upon by both Transition Teams. The Jordan School District Transition Team feels more comfortable using the date outlined in the statute.

The consensus of the Transition Team was that each member needs to have time to study the document thoroughly. Since not all Team members totally agree with the stipulations in the proposed plan, they felt that it was important to take some time to carefully think through each item before they come to a decision regarding the adoption of the prepared document. If Team members have any questions regarding the proposed document, they are encouraged to contact Rick Horst or Sterling Nielsen for clarification. If it is determined that a legal opinion is deemed necessary, the Team requested that Superintendent Newbold put forth the request.

**Next Meetings – April 3, 2008 – 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., April 10, 2008 – 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**