

Jordan School District Transition Team  
Ralph J. Haws, Chair

**-MINUTES-**  
**April 3, 2008**  
**8:00 a.m.**

Dr. Haws welcomed everyone to the meeting. He excused team members Rick Horst and Sterling Nielsen who had previous business commitments.

1. Closed Session

The Transition Team met in closed session to discuss personnel issues.

2. Discussion – Proposed Joint Plan for the Division of the Jordan School District

Dr. Haws expressed appreciation to Ricky, Sterling, Devon, and Michael for their work on the Proposed Joint Plan for the Division of the Jordan School District. They spent long hours crafting this agreement. It was acknowledged that this was a very difficult task, but they did the very best they could considering the restrictions placed upon them. Dr. Haws then opened the discussion asking Team members to voice their opinions regarding the proposed plan. Team members indicated that they also had spent considerable time studying the proposed document. Many of the points contained within the document were logical and reasonable. However, there were two points of the document the Team felt very uncomfortable about. The first point refers to the \$196 million bond. The payment of \$112 million to the new district would require a yearly payment of \$10.6 million dollars for the next 15 years. When the bond came up for vote, it passed in every single precinct. The voters believed that the building of new schools was essential to the education of all students and therefore; voted overwhelmingly to pass it. After the bond's passage, the Board of Education voted on how the money should be allocated. This was done by full agreement of the Board members. All of the funds have been earmarked, encumbered, or spent on projects

throughout the District. The Jordan School District Transition Team feels that it would be a disservice to west side tax payers to have a tax increase to fund start-up costs for the new district, to cover refurbishing costs of the east side, along with raising taxes to build needed new schools on the west side, understanding that at the same time the east-side taxes would go down. It certainly does not make sense that the district which has the greater ability to generate revenue without raising taxes should have the benefit of reimbursement from the district with the lesser ability. None of this takes into consideration the great discrepancy between the number of students on the east side compared to the number of students on the west side. At present, the west side has 5,000 students who are unhoused. The feasibility study, commissioned by the east side, states that the east side is expected to have enough revenue to renovate the existing buildings. Therefore, if the goal of the transition teams and both districts is to provide a similar education to what the students had as part of the Jordan School District, the repayment of the bond would create a huge discrepancy. Transition Team members are currently receiving communication from patrons encouraging them not to vote for the current proposal. The Jordan School District Transition Team does not accept the proposed plan as equitable. It would not be equitable to educators, students, or taxpayers. In the beginning, the east side mayors willingly agreed to pay their share of the bond. The bond must be completely taken off the table for discussion.

The second point of discussion was regarding the proposed allocation date of June 30, 2008. In SB 71, the Legislature set the allocation date as June 30, 2009 or a date agreed upon by both Transition Teams. Managing the financial affairs of the District would become a nightmare if the allocation date were changed to June of 2008. This change would necessitate the creation of three sets of books, one for the existing district, one for the new, and one for the remaining district. Using this date would also make the work of the existing Board of Education difficult. The Board has the legal responsibility to govern the affairs of the District until June 30, 2009. The last day for operation of the existing District would be the best date to use for allocation. It would best serve the interests of the patrons, students, and employees of the District. June 30, 2009 was set by the Legislature, therefore, the Jordan

School District Transition Team concurs that this is the date they would like to use.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made to reject the proposal in its current form. The Jordan School District Transition Team voted unanimously to reject the document on the basis of the two primary points of disagreement, i.e. the allocation date and the repayment of the bond. The bond money was never intended to be part of division process. The Team also felt that it was in the best interest of the District to hold to the June 2009 date which was set by state statute. The desire and hope of the Team is to continue to work toward a resolution which is fair and equitable, and one which will do no harm to the students and their education.

**Next meeting date: Thursday, April 10 at 9:00 a.m.**

3. Approval of Minutes
  - February 28, 2008
  - March 13, 2008
  - March 27, 2008

The minutes from the previous three meetings were approved unanimously. They will be submitted for public view.