

Building Needs

Our top priority in this district must always be safety first, followed closely by education. Our students cannot learn if they don't feel safe, and it is our responsibility to expose children to the world and its opportunities through education in buildings that have access to the tools necessary to learn in today's technological environment. We can economize our buildings to meet these needs. Our board has done thorough research and I believe we have found the sweet spot of spending enough on a building without going overboard. By electing to follow similar building floor plans we have reduced costs compared to other districts by millions of dollars.

One of the most difficult things I have done in my service on the board was the closure of West Jordan Elementary. A school that was originally built in a unique way. This particular structure contained a main central building that was brick-and-mortar, the gym and lunchroom areas. Then the rest of the structure was built by butting trailers up against the central building. Over time the jacks that supported these trailers, despite maintenance, weakened and became dangerous for students. When our crack maintenance team alerted the Board to the increasing problem, we were left with the decision of a rebuild or a closure. Consideration was given to enrollment trends in the area as well as the needs of students. Nearby schools had the space to absorb these students, and so, while the decision was heart-wrenching I voted to support closure. I have since advocated that we increase study on the buildings in the area to ensure that we are preventing future problems. I have also advocated that we postpone determining the ultimate fate for the property West Jordan Elementary existed on so that we would have options should critical needs arise. We received great news with the additional seismic studies we requested, but I am committed to not only making the hard decisions but keeping students safe in the process. These sorts of difficult decisions require a board member who listens and researches. I spoke to, emailed, and made phone calls to hundreds of constituents during that process. I am committed to being accessible to my community and listening with an open mind before making a decision. I have asked for a thorough consideration for the future of our district and am in the process of completing a 5 year building plan so we can be proactive in making fiscally responsible decisions for our communities.