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Innovative School Approved

Jordan School District and Kennecott Land to build joint-use school

The Jordan School District approved construction of Utah's first joint-use public elementary school at last night's school board meeting. Upon completion, the new school will feature an integrated community center and an innovative, clustered layout. The school stems from a public-private partnership between Jordan School District and Kennecott Land, developer of the Daybreak community where the school will be located.

The school's innovative features include the following:

- **Integrated community center**
A community center will be integrated within the new elementary school. Parents and grandparents will be able to drop off their youngsters and then enjoy fitness classes, and educational and social activities. This approach makes it economically feasible to offer a greater range of recreational facilities for the school children. It also ensures more efficient use of the building well beyond the confines of the school day.
- **Clustered teaching spaces**
The school's design clusters multiple classrooms around a common area for each grade. The clustered layout, combined with movable walls and visibility among rooms, provides flexible and collaborative teaching opportunities.

Kennecott Land helped fund the joint-use design and will contribute funding toward the community center. "We believe great schools make great communities," said Peter McMahon, President of Kennecott Land. "It's been an exciting exercise to work with Jordan School District and design a school that integrates education into the fabric of the community."

The school's efficient design prompted Jordan School District Superintendent Barry L. Newbold to comment, "This school will share space such as the kitchen, cafeteria, gymnasium, athletic fields and parking with the community center. Because of the shared space, taxpayers will get more facility for every dollar spent. We are very pleased to be a partner with Kennecott Land to benefit our students."

The new school will represent one of only a handful of joint-use schools in the United States. The concept of a joint-use facility, allows the school district to offer significantly more facilities and programs. Construction of both the school and adjoining community center will commence next month.

Local architect Jim Christopher from Brixen & Christopher Architects helped design the joint-use structure. "We've carefully scaled the school's spaces to be responsive to the needs of students and faculty," comments Christopher. "You won't find any long halls with blank walls."

The modular design focuses on providing an ideal learning environment for students with flexibility and maximum contact time for teachers."

Kennecott Land's involvement in this project is indicative of the company's long-term commitment to the south-west valley. In April, Kennecott Land further expressed this support by partnering with Midvale, Murray, South Jordan, West Jordan and the Utah Transit Authority to jointly fund the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Mid-Jordan Light Rail Line.

Daybreak is a ~4,200-acre community located at approximately 11400 South and 4500 West in South Jordan. In addition to the joint-use school and community center, Daybreak will feature more than 1,000 acres of open space and a large lake. Homebuyers are responding to Daybreak's energy efficient homes designed in traditional architectural styles. Since opening less than a month ago, Daybreak's homebuilders have sold over 100 homes.

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