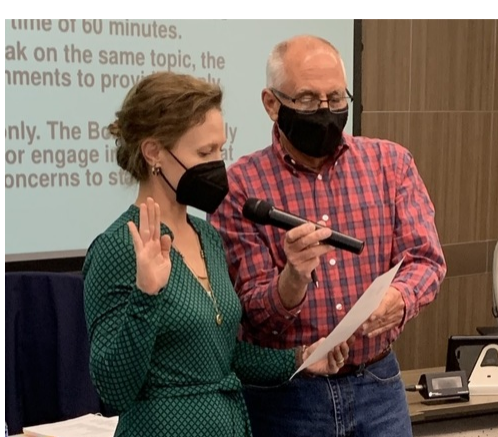


BOARD BRIEFS

October 19, 2021, Board Business Meeting
 All meeting agendas are posted at bit.ly/d51boardagendas21.
 All meetings are streamed live at vimeo.com/mcvsd51.



New D51 School Board member sworn in

New D51 School Board member Kari Sholtes took the oath of office shortly before Tuesday's board business meeting at the Harry Butler Board Room. Dr. Sholtes fills the Director District B

board seat vacated last month by Paul Pitton. Following Mr. Pitton's vacancy, the board followed vacancy procedures laid out in state statute and accepted applications, interviewed finalists, and decided unanimously to appoint Dr. Sholtes.

Dr. Sholtes is a D51 mom, a D51 graduate, and teaches engineering in the Colorado Mesa University and University of Colorado Boulder engineering partnership program. In accordance with state statute, her appointment will last through November 2023, when Mr. Pitton's term was set to expire.

Progress on School Improvement

Chatfield Elementary School is advancing from Turnaround status to Performance status following two years of thoughtful



planning, goal-setting, research, and action! The Colorado Department of Education rates schools based on their CMAS test scores and growth; the top rating is Performance, followed by Improvement, Priority Improvement, and Turnaround status. Chatfield's CMAS scores have improved so much from 2019 to 2021 (there was no CMAS testing in 2020), that the school rocketed from the lowest level to the highest level on state ratings!

"We're definitely just getting started, but it's nice to know our focus is making a difference. We have an amazing group of teachers who jumped right in," said Chatfield Principal Dave McCall.

Chatfield and five D51 schools assigned Priority Improvement in 2019 have worked hard to improve their performance. Their work has included reviewing test data to find where students can improve, finding the core issues that lead to lower academic performance, setting goals for improvement with measurable results, improving school culture and climate, and continuously reviewing best practices. The district created a tool to track progress and schools are encouraged to set aims each quarter. This approach appears to be working - four of the five Priority Improvement schools are waiting for news from the state that they may move up to Performance or Improvement status this year.



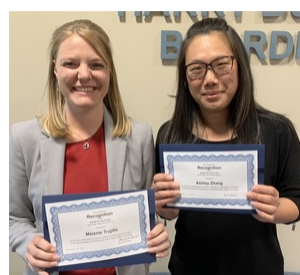
Financial Update

D51 ended the 2020-21 fiscal year on June 30 with some good news. COVID-19 grant dollars last school year helped finance D51 Online and retention of staff when

student enrollment decreased. As a result, the district was able to exceed the board's goal of keeping 10% of in General Fund reserves and keep 15% of expenditures and transfers in reserves. In 2019-20, just 6% of expenditures and transfers were kept in reserves.

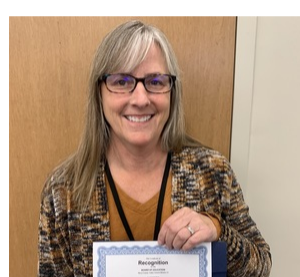
Reserves can help when some areas of the budget end up costing more than expected. The district's Medical Fund is currently experiencing higher costs due to more claims and more expensive claims. The Medical Fund ended the 2020-21 fiscal year with \$750,000 in reserves; a health plan of our size should have reserves of nearly 10 times that amount. As a result of changes in the volume and cost of claims in recent years, premiums will increase by 28% starting in January and the district contribution will increase by 22%. Adjustments will be reflected in the 2021-22 budget when it is readopted in January (the budget is adopted each June and readopted each January).

Recognitions



Melanie Trujillo, Ashley Zhang

Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting



Katie McKew

National School Nurse Certification



Bob Barrows

Arc of Mesa County Child Advocate of the Year



Business Items

D51 School Board members approved a resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the District Attorney and Colorado Mesa University. The board also had first reading of changes to Board Policy GBEB: Staff Conduct (And Responsibilities), Conflicts of Interest and School Board Policy FG: Acquisition of Land.

Future Meetings

Oct. 23 - Board Coffee, 9 a.m., University Center Room 222, Colorado Mesa University

Nov. 9 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room

Dec. 14 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room

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