

BOARD BRIEFS

Dec. 14, 2021, Board Business Meeting
Agendas, Minutes, and materials: bit.ly/d51boardagendas21
Live and recorded video: vimeo.com/mcvsd51

Mill Levy Certification

Each December, the D51 School Board certifies the mill levy for district funding from local property tax revenue. The mill amount is used to



calculate property taxes in parts of Mesa County that are within District 51 boundaries. The 2021-22 mill rate for District 51 is 43.845, which is an increase of 1.86 mills from 2020-21. Some of that increase (1.616 mills) is for the bond redemption fund, which is expanding to include the 2021 bond measure. There's also an increase of 1 mill due to House Bill 20-1418. Subtract from that tally 0.756 mills, because property values increased this year, so the mills for the 1996, 2004, and 2017 mill levy overrides are decreasing to keep override collections stable. The overall increase in property taxes for the owner of a \$300,000 home will be \$3.32 per month, with \$2.89 of that going to GJHS construction. Mill levy certification materials can be found [here](#).



District Legal Services

A business item to approve a contract with Miller Farmer Law for District 51 legal services was tabled by unanimous vote at Tuesday's board meeting. In early 2020, the district moved from having an outside law firm

perform legal duties to hiring an in-house general counsel, which is standard practice for a district of this size. In 2018-19 and 2019-20, the district spent \$565,262 and \$492,080 on legal services, respectively. In 2020-21, after making the switch to in-house counsel, the district spent \$266,000 on legal services. As of now, the 2021-22 costs so far are \$120,873. Documents regarding Miller Farmer Law are available in board materials [here](#). Some board members said they hope for a fresh perspective from outside the community, while others expressed an interest in a Request for Proposal process to compare options. The board plans to continue discussion at a later meeting.

Audit Presentation

The district's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year dated July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, is complete. The purpose of the annual report is to provide financial transparency and accountability for district finances. Rating agencies also use the report for the district's credit rating. The financial section of the report includes the auditor's opinion, management discussion and analysis, basic fund statements, notes, required supplementary information, and combining and individual statements. The statistics section of the report has 10 years of information on D51 operations, property tax collection, debt, financial trends, and the local economy. Chadwick, Steinkirchner, Davis & Co., P.C. performed this year's audit of district finances and didn't find any financial weaknesses in the process.



The district received its 27th GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its annual report. The report will be posted this week in the Financial Transparency section at d51schools.org. The D51 Finance Department will also make required filings with CDE, OSA, and MSRB (EMMA) by the end of 2021.

Public Comment

Nearly 60 people signed up for public comment at Tuesday's meeting. All public comment can be viewed in the video at vimeo.com/mcvsd51 and facebook.com/schooldistrict51, and all 58 comments will be summarized in board minutes, which will be posted at d51schools.org after they are approved by the board in January.

Recognitions



Volleyball Honors

Western Slope League Volleyball Player of the Year Gabriella Yanowich and Western Slope League Coach of the Year Wendy MacAskill, both of Palisade High School.



Football Honors

Western Slope League Defensive Player of the Year Kevin Sjogren and Western Slope League Co-Offensive Player of the Year Malakhi Espinosa, both of Palisade High School.



Bond Executive Committee Update

Meetings that will be taking place this week in regards to the Grand Junction High School construction project include meeting with the environmental consultant, meeting with the city about the alley by the school, and a design planning session. Plans for the future include finalizing design development and costs; procuring a commissioning agent, abatement company, and moving company; getting furniture, fixtures, and equipment; and opening the new school to students in Fall 2024.



Future Meetings

Dec. 18, - Board Coffee, 9 a.m., CMU University Center Room 222.

Jan. 4 - Board Work Session, 6 p.m., Location TBD.

Jan. 15 - Board Coffee, 9 a.m., Palisade High School Cafeteria.

Jan. 18 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m., Location TBD.

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