



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

We've reached another Friday after another great week at District 51! February is full of national recognitions, and we have much to recognize within our district.

February is Black History Month. The Board of Education read a proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month at the BOE Work Session on Tuesday that you can read [here](#). One of our core behaviors is valuing individuality, inclusivity, and belonging. Throughout the month, D51 will team up with our community partners to bring excellent opportunities to our students. Click [here](#) for more information.

This week was National School Counseling Week. Every February, we recognize the invaluable contributions of our school counselors and focus public attention on their hard work and dedication to a challenging yet rewarding profession. I want to give a huge shout-out to School Counselor Coordinator Kayla Witzel for all her work ensuring our school counselors felt recognized and valued this week and throughout the school year. From working with our communications department to recognize counselors via social media, to going above and beyond during the School Counselor Learning Community meetings/celebrations, you put a lot of hours and dedication into ensuring our counselors felt appreciated and valued, and it didn't go unnoticed. I had the opportunity to attend the Elementary School Counselor Learning Community Meeting today to thank our counselors for all that they do to support our students, families, and staff. District 51 has fantastic people supporting and guiding our students, and we are thankful for the work that goes into ensuring we equip, empower, and engage each and every student each and every day.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

On Tuesday, our district demographer Shannon Bingham gave another presentation to the Board of Education, addressing the results and data collected from the two community surveys that were available to our families, staff, and community stakeholders. For more information on that data and the presentation, click [here](#).

DISTRICT 51 FBLA STATE QUALIFICATIONS

All four comprehensive high schools across the district showed exemplary skills during the Future Business Leaders of America State Qualifier competition a few weeks ago. As a result, select students from all four schools will advance to the FLBA State Championship held in April in Denver, CO. What an exciting time to be a part of this program! Read more [here](#).

STATE QUALIFICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

Grand Junction High School, Palisade High School, and Fruita Monument High School have swimmers who qualified for the CHSAA Swimming Championships this weekend. Read more [here](#).

MESA VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL, CO LEAGUE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

We have the best staff here at D51! Laurajeane Downs from Mesa Valley Community School was nominated for Leader of the Year through the Colorado League of Charter Schools 2023 Hall of Fame, along with Lisa Gonsalves from Independence Academy. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Learn more about the Colorado League of Charter School nominations [here](#).

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT SIGNING DAY

Years of hard work, practice, and dedication are what it takes to make your college sports dreams come true. And for athletes across District 51, this moment came to fruition on February 1 when they signed their Letter of Intent during NLI Day. Read more [here](#).

BOE VICE PRESIDENT WILL JONES APPOINTED TO CHSAA LEGISLATION COUNCIL

Board of Education Vice President Will Jones has been appointed to the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSSA) Legislative Council. Read more [here](#).

PALISADE CUT THE FLOW OR LET IT GROW

Palisade High School hosted its "Cut the Flow or Let it Grow" event today. Proceeds from the event, held during their Kindness is Contagious Kick-Off Assembly, will be donated to an organization whose mission is to support individuals with Multiple Sclerosis. In addition, the "locks" of hair donated by Mr. Fitz will help make wigs for children. Read more [here](#).

GJHS SHOUTOUT

Amazing things happen daily across our district, but I want to give a shoutout to Grand Junction High School this week. Not only did they have a student selected to receive the United States Congress-Bundestag Scholarship to study in Germany, but their very own Mariah McCune was selected to receive the prestigious Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program Award. Read more about these fantastic accomplishments [here](#).

DUAL IMMERSION DIA DE AMORE Y AMISTAD

Dual Immersion Academy is hosting its Dia de Amor y Amistad, Day of Love and Friendship, event on February 14th. Shoutout to DIA Counselor Becca Greene, who worked extremely hard to secure funds for this event, including a student art contest where submissions had to incorporate the school's three pillars of Bilingualism & Biliteracy, High Academic Achievement, and Sociocultural Competence. This event is a culmination of hard work and partnerships. Thank you to Ms. Greene and the DIA staff for providing inclusive and culturally enriching events for our students! Read more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Palisade High School Performing Arts Presents: Once Upon a Mattress**
February 16, 17, and 18 @ 7 p.m. in the Kamas Auditorium
- **Central High School Orchestra Concert**
February 16 @ 6 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

On February 7, the Board of Education held a work session in the Harry Butler Board Room. For highlights from the meeting, click [here](#).

Brian Hill

Dr. Brian Hill
Superintendent of Schools
Mesa County Valley School District 51
brian.hill@d51schools.org
970.254.5193



2115 Grand Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
d51schools.org
(970) 254-5100