

**BOARD BRIEFS**

February 15, 2022, Board Business Meeting  
Agendas, Minutes, and materials: [bit.ly/d51boardagendas21](https://bit.ly/d51boardagendas21)  
Live and recorded video: [facebook.com/schooldistrict51](https://facebook.com/schooldistrict51)

**Curriculum Adoption for Middle School Social Studies Resources**



On Tuesday, the Board voted unanimously to adopt new curriculum resources for middle school social studies. Middle School social studies primary curriculum resources were last adopted 11 years ago. The new resources will be implemented in 2022 and 2023.

The new resources were selected through a rigorous process. An Instructional Resource Selection Team comprising D51 teachers, a librarian, an instructional technology coach and a school administrator researched and discussed primary and secondary resources and made their picks based on how well the materials fit Colorado Academic Standards, the D51 Teaching and Learning Framework, legislation, and other factors. In January, the public was invited to open houses where parents and citizens could peruse the proposed resources and share their feedback on them. Final selections were made on Feb. 8.

The primary resources adopted Tuesday night are "Voices and Perspectives: Western Hemisphere" for 6th grade, "Voices and Perspectives: Eastern Hemisphere" for 7th grade, and "Voices and Perspectives: U.S. History, Early Years" for 8th grade, each from McGraw Hill. Supplementary material will be provided by the DBQ Project.

The team found these resources expose students to several primary resources, support literacy, and were the best at matching state standards. Funding for the new curriculum materials and professional development around the materials will come from the 2017 Mill Levy Override. [Click here](#) to read the curriculum resolution.



**Legislative Update**

Amy Attwood, contract lobbyist for the district, shared an update on the current legislative session. Exact district funding amounts from the School Finance Act will not be known until the Long Bill is passed on or around May 1. One proposed bill in the legislature suggests creating another pathway for teacher licensure. Another proposes temporary changes in teacher evaluations; currently, half of a teacher's evaluation rating is based on their students' growth. The new bill proposes excluding student growth from ratings this year and last year and having it count for 30% of a teacher's rating next year.

**Legal Services Presentation**

Dr. Sirko presented board members with the results of a survey taken by 84 D51 staff members who currently work with or have worked with in-house and/or outside legal services for the district. The survey found that 80% of respondents prefer working with in-house counsel and 18% have no preference. The survey also showed high marks for timeliness and accessibility of in-house counsel. Dr. Sirko pointed out that there are times when outside counsel is needed for certain topics, such as special education services. Board President Haitz said the board will review the survey data and come back in open session at a later date with any clarifying questions.



**Business Items**

Board members voted to authorize a Committee to Study Affordable Staff Housing and had Policy First Reading of changes to the following board policies: GCC: Licensed Staff Leaves and Absences, GCD: Administrator Leave and Absences, GDC: Support Staff Leave and Absences, and LBD: Relations With Charter Schools.

**Recognitions**



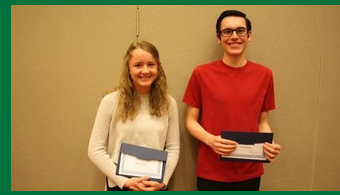
**National High School Snowshoe Champions**

Twenty-one CHS students won the state and national championships for high school snowshoeing. [Learn more here.](#)



**All State Choir**

Nineteen D51 students qualified for 2022 All State Choir. [Learn more here.](#)



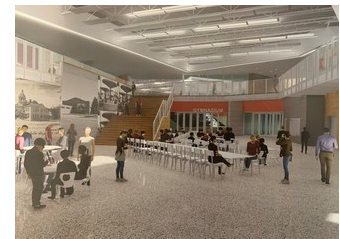
**All State Orchestra**

Four D51 students qualified for All State Orchestra. [Learn more here.](#)



**Lions Club Volunteers**

Local Lions were recognized for their work with the Colorado Kid Sight Program. [Learn more here.](#)



**Bond Executive Committee Update**

Colleen Kaneda, owner's representative for the GJHS construction project, updated the board on the project, which is in the design development phase. There were user group meetings last week for people who will be using the building and a pile test was done on site last week to check soils. Ms. Kaneda is expecting design development documents in mid-March to get an updated cost estimate in April, and a ground-breaking is being planned for this summer, likely in June.



**Future Meetings**

- March 1: Board Work Session, 6 p.m.
- March 12: Board Coffee, 9 a.m., Monument Ridge Elementary School
- March 15: Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.



**Note from the School Board President**

As I reflect on this past week, I want to remind our community, parents, teachers and students that we do our best work when we work together. As a board, we are committed to improving conversations, opening dialogue, bringing questions forward that can lead us to finding solutions. Disagreements and different points of view are okay. We do have common threads that can bring us together.

I received an email from a community member that stated this well: "...continue asking why are we doing things this way? How can we do it better? How can we make it more efficient? We have great educators who work very hard. How can we get them to work together? ...How can we create resources and tools that are more accessible to educators and less burdensome to use? You are that team. You are the ones who can ask the hard questions. Continue on your path and never stop asking Why? or How?"

I look forward to listening to all the community, parents, staff, teachers, and students as we move forward. The board would love to hear from different student clubs/groups in our district. We'd like to give you 5-7 minutes to come present at a school board meeting on what your club is about, what goals you have and how the community can support you. Please email if you'd like to present at an upcoming board workshop, [andrea.haitz@d51schools.org](mailto:andrea.haitz@d51schools.org).

D51 Communications  
(970) 254-7912  
[communicate@d51schools.org](mailto:communicate@d51schools.org)

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