

BOARD BRIEFS

March 1, 2022, Board Work Session
Agendas, Minutes, and materials: bit.ly/d51boardagendas21
Live and recorded video: facebook.com/schooldistrict51

Central High School Marillac Clinic Update

Since opening inside of Central High School in 2020, the Warrior Wellness Center has served more than half of the CHS student population. The center provides convenient access to physical and behavioral wellness services and even dental exams and cleanings. It is one of 66 School-Based Health Centers in the state and operates through a partnership with Marillac Clinic. Central High provides the space, utilities, and custodial services for the clinic, and Marillac provides everything else, including supplies, staff, and operational funding. Funds come from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, various donors, and patient fees. The clinic accepts insurance and has the ability to charge uninsured students lower fees or waive them altogether.



The center provides sports physicals, comprehensive health assessments, immunizations, chronic condition consultations, and basic dental services. The clinic can also write prescriptions, provide testing (such as glucose and strep tests), administer over-the-counter medications, triage medical emergencies, and treat acute illnesses and minor injuries. Even with all of these services, though, the most-used services provided by the clinic are behavioral health services. The top five diagnoses at the clinic are all mental health-related, and the clinic has already had 843 behavioral health visits in the year-and-a-half that it has been open.

Central senior and Warrior Wellness Center Committee member Sydni King told the board Tuesday that more kids are genuinely excited to be at school since the center's opening, and that students are helping to lift each other up because they realize it's okay to ask for help.

"This center is some children's only source of mental health care and physical health care, due to a plethora of reasons," she said. "We really needed this in our building."

The location for this School-Based Health Center was selected based on various factors, including health outcomes, economics, youth risk factors, health insurance coverage, and survey and focus group results. SBHC's are proven to have several positive impacts on students and the community, including greater attendance at school, fewer Emergency Room visits, and easier access to medical care because travel to an off-site clinic is not a factor for students or their parents.

Central High School Principal Lanc Sellden said the Warrior Wellness Center was also a huge help with COVID-19 because his school had access to on-site tests (through the clinic) before any other D51 school, saving countless hours of time in class for students who could test negative and not have to go home and wait for results.



Mesa Valley Community School Request for Amendment to the Contract Presentation

Mesa Valley Community School is seeking an amendment to its contract in light of new information from the Colorado Department of Education. Mesa Valley provides its families with local educators to oversee instruction that parents provide to their children. CDE recently reviewed online school operations in the state and declared that instruction delivered in the home by parents cannot be counted as student-teacher contact time for the purposes of the Colorado School Finance Act. This means MVCS cannot receive funding for full-time students under CDE and state law with its current operations, but it can receive half-time funding per student if it makes changes. The State Board of Education is allowing Mesa Valley to make changes in stages. The school would like to implement K-5 changes for the 2022-23 school year and implement middle and high school adjustments in the 2023-24 school year.

The plan for 2022-23, if the board agrees to adjust Mesa Valley's contract, is to create a new offering called the Mesa Valley Enrichment Program for K-5 students. MVEP students must be homeschooled students whose parents are their primary educators; MVEP will be used to enhance what is provided at home, not replace it. This proposed enrichment program would offer a minimum of six hours of on-campus education per week and parents could pick from two tracks. Track 1 would meet for a minimum of three hours on Mondays and three hours on Wednesdays and focus on three to five subjects of the parents' choosing, such as English Language Arts, math, science, art, engineering, and technology). Track 2 would meet for six hours on Fridays and offer enrichment in art, social studies, English Language Arts, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

MVCS is requesting a decision from the board as soon as possible to give parents and staff time to prepare. General Counsel John Williams will work on drafting a resolution to approve the school's request and contract amendment language before the March 15 meeting.



GJHS Mock Trial Club Presentation

This past weekend, 11 Grand Junction High School students won the school's eighth regional Mock Trial competition in a row! Their win at the

Western Slope Regional for Mock Trial was the school's 15th regional win in the past 19 years. Coach Mark T. Carris told the board the goal of Mock Trial is to provide any student interested in law with hands-on learning about courtroom procedures, rules of evidence, and respect for our legal system. The group can use financial assistance as well as coaching from local attorneys and judges.

Future Business Leaders of America Club Presentation

FBLA is an organization that helps students develop leadership skills, contribute to their community,



and prepare for a future in business through activities and competitive events. FBLA had a District Leadership Conference in February and the State Leadership Conference will take place April 18-20. Fruita Monument had 35 students qualify for State this year, and Palisade High had 24. FBLA students shared that the group has helped them learn professionalism; confidence; job skills; and prepare for scholarship, job, and college applications and interviews. FBLA can benefit from financial assistance as well as coaching and presentations from local business experts.



Note from the School Board President

In the last Board Brief, we invited school clubs to reach out to come present to the board. We had the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and GJHS Mock Trial clubs come present to the board last night. Both were great presentations and it was great hearing from our students why they are involved in these clubs. Both clubs expressed that the community can help with monetary support and with individuals that can come help or present at the clubs. If you or someone you know would like to help, please reach out to the Advisor (contact information below). For FBLA, they would love business owners that could come speak to the club. For Mock Trial, they would love to have some local attorneys and law offices help. Please reach out to:

Kathaleen Recker, FMHS Business Teacher and FBLA Adviser
Kathaleen.Recker@d51schools.org

or

Mark T. Carris, Social Studies Teacher and Grand Junction High School Mock Trial Club Adviser
Mark.Carris@d51schools.org

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 can community support you. Please email me if you'd like to present at an upcoming Board workshop, andrea.haitz@d51schools.org

Last but certainly not least, Director Will Jones is looking for parent volunteers that would like to help eliminate bullying and be an additional positive role model for our students by putting a group together like [Watch D.O.G.S.](#) If you're interested, please email him at Willj@d51schools.org.

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