

BOARD BRIEFS

March 15, 2022, Board Business Meeting
Agendas, Minutes, and materials: bit.ly/d51boardagendas21
Live and recorded video: facebook.com/schooldistrict51

Safety Update

District 51's security efforts have ramped up significantly over the years in response to tragedy across the country and a determination to prevent



similar events from happening here. District 51's security and safety protocols have been recognized as some of the most exemplary in the nation by the National Institute of Justice. The district's security director, Tim Leon, is the only school security director currently serving on the Colorado Association of School Resource Officers Association, and his team combined has more than 100 years of law enforcement experience.

The D51 Security Team includes a safety and security director, a safety coordinator, a crisis coordinator, an administrative assistant, and 10 security officers. All D51 Security officers need a minimum of three years of law enforcement experience; POST (Police Officers Standards and Testing) certification; a background check; and polygraph, psychological, and physical fitness tests. Officers patrol schools, provide security at school events with large crowds (such as band events, proms, and board meetings), create a safety plan for each event, and give presentations on everything from vaping to de-escalation training.

In addition to D51 Security officers, D51 has five School Resource officers and a supervisor from the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, four SROs and a supervisor from the Grand Junction Police Department, two SROs from the Fruita Police Department, and one SRO from the Palisade Police Department. There's also support for schools in a crisis situation from the District Crisis Response Team, which is made up of personnel from schools across the district who activate in an emergency to provide counseling, administrative help, communications, security, and more during an incident.

D51 is in full compliance with the Claire Davis Act which, in part, requires districts to have an anonymous reporting system for safety concerns. D51 encourages students to use Safe2Tell, which is a statewide system, and gives all sixth-graders a presentation on how to use Safe2Tell. The district's crisis coordinator, Jason Talley, said the district receives about 575 Safe2Tell tips per year, and less than 5% are false reports. Last year, 181 tips were about depression, self harm, or suicide. Sixty-nine tips last year requested a welfare check for a student, and 36 were about bullying. Schools use a bullying reporting tool to determine if the actions are bullying (signs include the behavior is happening as a pattern over time, there's an imbalance of power, the action is targeted and intended to hurt a person) or peer conflict. Climate and culture is crucial to mitigating bullying.

The Claire Davis Act also requires that districts use a threat assessment tool to investigate and document potential threats of harm or acts of violence. These investigations are completed by a building crisis team and reviewed by Mr. Leon and Mr. Talley. Incidents that are deemed to be serious or serious substantive are further investigated using a risk for violence assessment. Schools have completed 133 threat assessments this year (37 at the high school level, 67 at the middle school level, and 29 at the elementary school level). This year, 32 high-risk students have been placed on safety plans, and 11 students have received a high risk for violence assessment. School staff have received training twice so far this year on completing threat assessments.

Preparation is critical to ensuring schools respond to actual crisis in the right way. Each school performs 11 fire drills, two lockdown drills, and one shelter-in-place drill every year. A D51 Security officer created a grading system for drills, and D51 schools are in the 90th percentile for full proficiency in drill procedures.



Business Items

The Board approved personnel actions, including the hiring of [Clint Garcia as Chief Operations Officer](#), effective July 1. In addition, the Board

had [second reading and adoption](#) of changes to Policy GCC: Licensed Staff Leaves and Absences, Policy GCD: Administrator Leave and Absences, Policy GDC: Support Staff Leave and Absences, and Policy LBD: Relations With Charter Schools. The Board also had [first reading](#) of proposed changes to Policy IGA: Curriculum Development, Policy IIJ: Instructional Resources Selection & Adoption, and Policy IMB: Teaching About Controversial Issues.

Future Meetings

- April 2 - Board Coffee, 9 a.m., Grand Mesa Middle School
- April 5 - Board Work Session, 6 p.m., CMU University Center
- April 19 - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m., CMU University Center

Recognitions



CHSAA Hall of Fame 2021 Inductee

D51 Athletics and Activities Director Paul Cain



All State Jazz Band

Director Jeff Mason and students Jacob Mason, Rogelio Montes, and Paolo Reitz, all of Palisade High.



Space Foundation International Teacher Liaison

Dual Immersion Academy teacher Katharine Smushkov.



Fee Schedule

Board members voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt the student fee schedule for next school year. The 2022-23 fee schedule can be viewed [here](#). Changes of note include adjusting the charge later in the year to order a yearbook at Grand Junction and Central High and setting the OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Lab) fee at \$150.



GJHS Bond Executive Committee Update

The committee had its sixth routine update for the Board on Tuesday. Highlights from the presentation include: 1) final design development documents are due Monday, 2) the Design Development estimate should be ready in late April, 3) Blythe (design) and FCI (construction) have been proactive in coming up with ideas to stay within budget amid inflation concerns, 4) crews are scheduled to mobilize for some utility work in the alley behind the school on April 18, and 5) a groundbreaking will be scheduled this summer.

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