

## BOARD BRIEFS

April 19, 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)

### District

#### Accountability Committee Presentation

Members of a District Accountability Committee subcommittee



focused on teacher and paraprofessional recruitment and retention presented their ideas at Tuesday's board meeting. District administration will be taking steps to analyze the subcommittee's recommendations and come up with an action plan. Subcommittee members said they want to reduce staff vacancies by 33% each year over three years, reduce turnover for paraprofessionals from 25% to 12%, and keep teacher turnover at less than or equal to 10% over the next three years. They also set goals for reducing student-to-staff ratios, increasing classroom staff support, and promoting high quality classroom staff, coaches and mentors, and school administrators.

The subcommittee proposed 14 actions to recruit new staff, with themes involving pay, benefits, partnerships, changes in the hiring process, and leveraging ESSER, Title I, or Title II funding. There are three proposed actions to reduce turnover, with themes of changing pay structure, staff position structure, and incentives for retention and hard-to-fill positions and locations. There are eight proposed actions for reducing student:staff ratios through policy change, partnership programs, community engagement, and reducing or eliminating time and resource waste and bottlenecks. There are 18 proposed actions to directly support classroom staff, with themes of policy change, internal process optimization, community engagement, and improving use of existing systems and feedback. Finally, there are 11 proposals for promoting high quality staff, including policy change and internal process optimization.



#### Capturing Kids' Hearts

Last August, middle school staff participated in Capturing Kids' Hearts, a nationwide training that promotes strong relationships between students and staff and helping students

connect to their school community. This training happened during the first two days of school for elementary and high school students. In August 2022, high schools and a few other schools will begin classes on Friday, Aug. 12 - two days later than other schools in the district - to allow high school and other teachers to participate in another Capturing Kids' Hearts training. The schools that will start school on Aug. 12 and have staff participating in this year's Capturing Kids' Hearts training are the Career Center, Central High School, Fruita 8/9 (both grades), Fruita Monument High School, Gateway School (all grades), Grand Junction High School, Grand River Academy (all grades), Palisade High School, R-5 High School, and Valley School.

#### Business Items

Board members approved the following actions. Materials can be found [here](#).

\* Approval of Alternative Calendars for Dual Immersion Academy, Independence Academy Charter School, Juniper Ridge Charter School, Mesa Valley Community School Grades K-5, Mesa Valley Community School Grades 6-12, New Emerson School, and R-5 High School.

\* Adoption of a resolution regarding an offer to purchase property at 450 Wildwood Drive. The board opted to decline the offer.

\* Policy Second Reading/Adoption of changes to policies IGA: Curriculum Development and IJJ: Instructional Resources Selection & Adoption. The board tabled IMB: Teaching About Controversial Issues.

\* Policy First Reading of changes to policies KE: Public Complaints, AC-1: Nondiscrimination, and AC-2: Sexual Harassment.



#### Financial Update

The district's finances are on track for 2021-22 at the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year. The Physical Activity Fund has been hit hard by inflation, given travel costs and the return to normal sports and activities levels after a slowdown in 2020 and 2021, but the fund should break even. So far this year, the district has had about \$10 million in expenses qualify for ESSER II and III funding, with more anticipated in the fourth quarter. The final ESSER funding, which is COVID-related grant funding from the federal level, is set to expire in 2024. The district is using ESSER funds to help schools increase support for students and staff through allowable expenses. ESSER funds have also been used to build up our district reserves closer to an acceptable level in order to be more fiscally responsible. The state legislature should have budget information for 2022-23 soon, which informs the district's 2022-23 budget process. D51 is anticipating an increase in funding per student in the state funding formula, though exact numbers are not yet known.



#### Note from School Board President Haitz

Hello, D51 and Mesa County community.

Over the past several meetings, the Board of Education has been reviewing and updating many Board Policies. At Tuesday's meeting, we had the second reading of Policy IMB – Teaching Controversial Materials.

The Board of Education is committed to looking at our policies and updating those that have not been updated in some time. In regards to Policy IMB: Teaching Controversial Materials, the board feels it's very important to have feedback from legal counsel, our community, parents and teachers, when it comes to this policy. We want to make sure that our students are protected, our parents are honored in being a primary stakeholder in their child's education and moral upbringing, and that it's clear to our teachers, so they are also protected when they are teaching in the classroom. My goal is to bring all of us together for the betterment of the students, and making sure that administrators, educators and parents are all on the same page. I feel that the Board of Education made a good decision in holding off on passing this policy until we can take more time to look at it. In turn, it will likely affect some other policies that are forthcoming for review.

Again, we appreciate all the community members, educators, and parents that show up to our board meetings each month.

### Recognitions

**Middle School All State Choir participants:**  
Madison Cox and Taylor Dean from East Middle School and Izzy Stevens from Fruita 8/9 School.



**GJHS Academic Team:**  
Class 4A State Knowledge Bowl Champions



**SWL Girls Basketball Player of the Year:** Kylie Wells and **SWL Girls Basketball Coach of the Year:** Michael Wells



**WSL Boys Basketball Player of the Year:** Donovan Maestas, **WSL Boys Basketball Co-coach of the Year:** Cory Hitchcock



**Sophia Feghali - Boettcher Scholar**



**Abby Dickenson - Daniels Fund Scholar**



#### Future Meetings

Board Coffee: April 30, 9 a.m., East Middle School Cafeteria.

Board Work Session: May 3, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room.

Board Business Meeting: May 17, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room.

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