

BOARD BRIEFS

August 3, 2021, Board Work Session
All meeting agendas are posted at bit.ly/d51boardagendas20.
All meetings are streamed live at vimeo.com/mcvsd51.



Keeping Schools Open Plan

District 51 released the Keeping Schools Open Plan for the 2021-22 school year on July 16. The plan can be viewed [here](#). At Tuesday's Work Session, the Board of Education reviewed the plan and how it differs from the 2020-21 D51 Safe Schools Reopening Plan. The board also looked at health data and recommendations.

Features of this year's plan include:

- Face coverings are highly recommended but not required in D51 schools and facilities for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated.
- Parents will still be notified if their child was in a classroom with a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students or staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status, but can return earlier with a negative COVID-19 test and resolution of symptoms.
- Quarantining will only take place when a student or staff member who is unvaccinated has a member of their household test positive for COVID-19. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be asked by the health department to stay home for 10 days.

The district will continue to monitor local COVID-19 conditions and may make changes to the plan when needed. Depending on various factors surrounding COVID-19 in our county, this could mean reducing protocols and procedures or reintroducing protocols from the past.

The board reviewed current COVID-19 data in Mesa County, including vaccination rates. In Mesa County, 47% of eligible residents are at least partially vaccinated and 43% are fully vaccinated. Rates are higher amongst D51 staff, with 58.3% of all staff fully vaccinated (plus 2.1% partially). Two-thirds of teachers are fully or partially vaccinated. Among students eligible for vaccination, 16% of kids ages 12-15 and 22.1% of teens ages 16-19 are fully vaccinated in Mesa County, and 5.1% of kids 12-15 and 4% of teens 16-19 are partially vaccinated.

Last year, there were 374 staff who tested positive for COVID-19, 1,293 students who tested positive for COVID-19, 811 staff quarantined, and 10,183 students quarantined.

Also discussed were updated recommendations that have come out at the national level since the Keeping Schools Open Plan was released. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment suggests heightened COVID-19 protocols in areas with higher rates of COVID-19 transmission and low vaccination rates. Mesa County qualifies as an area of low vaccination (less than 70% of people 12 or older are vaccinated) and an area of high transmission, which means more than 35 cases per 100,000 residents over a seven-day period. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that everyone over the age of 2 wear a mask.

Next steps include a Keeping Schools Open Task Force meeting tonight, a weekly update from Dr. Sirko to students and staff this Friday, continued monitoring of local conditions, and a COVID-19 update at the Aug. 17 board meeting. The agenda for that meeting will be posted at d51schools.org (click the [purple button](#)).



Strategic Planning

District 51 hosted several meetings in early 2020 with the goal of using community, staff, and student input to create a Strategic Plan for the district. The Colorado Education Initiative - an education consulting and training firm - is hoping to build on that input and help complete the Strategic Planning process. CEI Vice President Alex Carter presented the board with a proposed timeline that includes planning, design, and strategic communication this month; more community engagement and data collection next month; development of a Strategic Plan and a Graduate Profile in October and November; and reporting and implementation of the plans by the end of 2021.



Bond Discussion

Discussion of a potential 2021 bond measure continued Tuesday, with the focus specifically on how to word a bond measure. The ballot measure would ask voters to fund a replacement building for Grand Junction High School. The bond funding, if passed, would be paired with a \$10 million [BEST grant](#) from the state.

The board will meet again at 4 p.m. this Friday, Aug. 6, over Google Meet (the board room was previously booked, and the meeting will be livestreamed) with the sole agenda item of discussing the bond language. The board is expected to vote on ballot language at a special meeting on Aug. 10.

D51 Communications
(970) 254-7912
communicate@d51schools.org

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

2115 Grand Ave
Grand Junction, CO | 81501 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.