

BOARD BRIEFS

September 14, 2021, Board Work Session
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Board Vacancy Declared

After nearly six years as a valued member of the D51 School Board, Board Vice President Paul Pitton has resigned. His fellow board members accepted his letter of resignation at Tuesday's meeting and declared a vacancy on the board in the district he represented, Director District B.

After accepting the resignation, Board Member Doug Levinson said all board members past and present make a commitment to serve on the board because they care about students, staff, and children.

"There hasn't been anybody probably any more than Paul Pitton who really worked tirelessly" for kids and the school community, Mr. Levinson said.

The board must appoint a person to fill the vacancy within 60 days of the vacancy, according to Colorado Revised Statute 22-31-129, which also states that the appointee will serve out the remaining two years of Mr. Pitton's term. The appointee must be a registered voter living in District 51 boundaries for at least the past 12 months, and must currently live in District B (boundaries can be found [here](#)).

Those interested in the vacancy must submit a letter of interest, resume, answers to a questionnaire, and a sworn affidavit attesting to their qualification for office to 2115 Grand Ave. before 4 p.m. on Sept. 28. The board will decide on Oct. 5 whom to interview, then conduct interviews and select an appointee.



Business Items

The board had First Reading of changes to Board Policy, GBI: Criminal History Record Information, adopted a resolution to amend the terms of sale for a property next to Rocky Mountain Elementary School, and read a proclamation recognizing Sept. 15-Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

Public Comment Policy Changes

On Tuesday evening, the board voted to adopt changes to Board Policies BE: School Board Meetings, BEDH: Public Participation at Board Meetings, and BEDH-R: Public Participation at Board Meetings.

The board made the changes for several reasons, including an interest in updating the policies to better match current practice, specify clear parameters for the audience comment section of meetings, encourage decorum, and ensure comments are timely, relevant, and aid the board in making decisions. The revised policies can be viewed [here](#).



Capturing Kids' Hearts Update

A total of 437 staff members from D51 middle schools and the Summit School Program experienced the transformative Capturing Kids' Hearts training Aug.

9-10. On Tuesday, the board heard from those who took the training that it has already made a difference in efforts to create a student-centered climate at these schools.

All nine principals from the schools who participated in the training responded in a survey that they have set an expectation for teachers to greet all students at the door and develop a social contract with each class to set expectations, along with other Capturing Kids' Hearts strategies. There is also a playbook of strategies and tools that students are aware of that can be consulted if students aren't following the classroom contract.

There will be a training on Oct. 15 for middle school and Summit staff who weren't able to attend the Aug. 9-10 training, plus ongoing one-on-one training with principals. Other schools are interested in the training as well, and the next goal is to provide Capturing Kids' Hearts training for high school staff.

Summer School Update

One of the largest summer learning programs in District 51 history served a total of 1,256 elementary school students, 205 middle school students, and 926 high school students this June. D51's summer extension programming ran from June 2-29 at 22 elementary schools, four high schools, and three middle schools, staffed with 478 employees. High school students recovered or completed a total of 694 classes, and most elementary and middle school students showed growth from spring 2021 to summer 2021, as measured by NWEA and DIBELS testing. Planning for next year's summer learning will begin in November, with hiring planned for December and January, and student invites being shared at conferences in February.



Click here to view last night's meeting on Vimeo.

Future Meetings

Sept. 21 - School Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room, 455 N. 22nd St.

Oct. 5 - School Board Work Session, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room, 455 N. 22nd St.

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