

BOARD BRIEFS

September 21, 2021, Board Business Meeting
All meeting agendas are posted at bit.ly/d51boardagendas21.
All meetings are streamed live at vimeo.com/mcvsd51.



College and Career Readiness Update

District 51 students earned nearly 7,000 college credits from Colorado Mesa University and Western Colorado Community College last year, plus 274 industry credentials and 161 technical certificates.

The district's robust partnership with CMU/WCCC includes concurrent enrollment, summer camps (a record 1,546 students registered in summer 2021), and the recently expanded PTECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools) program. PTECH allows students to earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree in a specific program side-by-side at no cost to the student.

Central was the first high school in D51 to launch a PTECH program in 2019, with associate's programming available in welding, machining, and mechanical engineering technology (mechatronics was added as a fourth option in 2020). The program had its first graduate in 2021, Jacob Sturm, who earned an associate's in machining.

This fall, Grand Junction High School has joined PTECH with associate's pathways in medical office assistant, veterinary technician, medical laboratory technician, and information and communication technology programs. The Career Center is also part of PTECH now, with pathways in construction supervision, electrician, electric lineworker, and land surveying and geomatics.

Students don't need to be in PTECH to earn credits or gain experience. The district has a Career Center, a CareerWise apprenticeship program, and even had a student recently graduate from the Skywest Cadet program.

Brigitte Sundermann, vice president of community college affairs with CMU/WCCC, told the board her goal is to double the number of D51 students earning college credits. She added that programming is continuing to expand - WCCC recently added an associate degree in fire science and an associate's and technical certificate in pharmacy technician. WCCC is also considering adding HVAC specialization, a solar certificate, or an unmanned aircraft program.



COVID Update

The district is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to receive Binax rapid COVID-19 testing kits to have available at schools. Nurses are being trained today on how to

administer the tests once they arrive. Staff and any student with parental permission may be tested using the Binax kits if they show symptoms of COVID-19. Having these tests on site will be more convenient for parents, as they won't have to pick up their child from school and have them tested elsewhere. A student with a negative test result can return to class. The district is also working on plans to offer routine Binax testing to students and staff who volunteer for it.

The [D51 Data Dashboard](#) now tracks both the first day a COVID-positive person showed symptoms (new cases) and the period when a student is absent from the time of showing symptoms or testing to the time when their isolation period ends (active cases). The number of cases of COVID-19 among students and staff has been decreasing since Labor Day. The dashboard also tracks (separately) how many students are out sick for any reason.

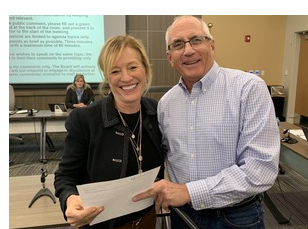
In addition, D51 worked with Mesa County Public Health to update guidance on outdoor sports. If a team had five positives in a 14 day period, the whole team would be shut down under the old guidelines. Now, the county will help the school with contact tracing to more precisely identify who may be at higher risk if five athletes on any one team test positive within 14 days.

Strategic Plan

Nearly 50 people attended the district's first Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting on Sept. 9, kicking off the group's important work in shaping a draft Strategic Plan for the School Board to review. The Colorado



Education Initiative, which is facilitating the planning process, hosted four Strategic Plan Listening Sessions in recent weeks, and will hold one more on Sept. 29. More than 100 people have registered for the sessions, but not all attended. More participation is encouraged at the final Listening Session; to register, [click here](#). The Listening Sessions gather input for the steering committee, and the steering committee will find trends and identify goals for future district actions. The steering committee will spend its October meetings reviewing data and building a graduate profile, which will list skills and competencies that a D51 student should have.



Recognition

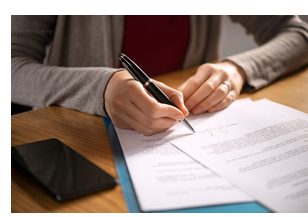
[Monica Heptner](#), principal of Dual Immersion Academy, received the Rich Lopez Award from the Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce.



Bond Update

The board received updates from the Executive Committee that is overseeing the design of a new Grand Junction High School and the Bond Measure Campaign Committee. Board member Doug Levinson offered a summary from the Executive Committee, saying Blythe has recently completed the schematic design for the potential new high school, the exact square footage of the potential building is being refined by the Design Team, and procurement for a general contractor will probably be released in early October, with selection and interviews to take place after the election.

Tim Foster, co-chair of the Bond Measure Campaign Committee, updated the board on the progress of the campaign to rebuild Grand Junction High School. He said the campaign has done presentations for the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce and the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, the bond website and social media pages are live, and advertising will be released soon. Mr. Foster added that the revised average cost to a homeowner if the bond measure passes is about \$3 per month on a \$300,000 home.



Board Policies

The board had second reading and adoption of Board Policy [GBI: Criminal History Record Information](#).



Future Meetings

[Oct. 5](#) - School Board Work Session, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room

[Oct. 12](#) - School Board Special Meeting, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room

[Oct. 19](#) - School Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m., Harry Butler Board Room

[Oct. 23](#) - Board Coffee, 9 a.m. Colorado Mesa University, Room 222 in the University Center.



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