

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Work Session Minutes

March 1, 2022

Board Work Session Minutes

- A - Doug Levinson
- B - Kari Sholtes
- C - Andrea Haitz
- D - Will Jones
- E - Angela Lema

Board of Education
Mesa County Valley School District 51
Board Work Session: March 1, 2022
Adopted: April 19, 2022

	A	B	C	D	E		ACTION
						AGENDA ITEMS	
Present Absent	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x	<p>BOARD WORK SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The meeting was held at the Colorado Mesa University Ballroom to accommodate a large audience. <p>A. Future Business Leaders of America Club Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Kathaleen Recker, Fruita Monument High School (FMHS) business teacher and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) advisor, introduced Ms. Melissa Wright, Palisade High School (PHS) business teacher and FBLA advisor. Ms. Recker was present with students from FMHS and PHS to speak about FBLA. She noted FBLA is a career technical student organization within the District's career technical education program. FBLA's mission is to inspire and prepare students to become community minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. She noted FBLA's focus is on leadership development through a community service partnership and the national organization they partner with is the March of Dimes. She reviewed data on the number of students involved in the program over the past several years, and accomplishments of the students. Ms. Recker shared some of the changes students experienced in keeping the club active and competitions the past two years, during the pandemic. ➤ The students present shared information on the category of competition they are focused on and what FBLA has done for them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nate Blehm, a senior at FMHS and Vice President of Recruitment for FBLA, is competing this year in Marketing. He feels FBLA has helped him learn professionalism and formalities through presentations. • Ross Winters, a senior at FMHS and FBLA President, focused this year on the category of Job Interviewing. He noted FBLA has helped him with choosing his future career and with college applications, in being able to list his club presidency on his applications. • Rachael Park, a FMHS sophomore, earned a spot at the state competition by taking a test called Information Technology and she competed in the Intro to Public Speaking category. She spoke about being a second generation immigrant from South Korea and being interested in FBLA because American business inspired her family and helped them understand English and the American culture. • Claire Elise Rasmussen, a sophomore at PHS and Vice President of FBLA Membership, joined FBLA to earn college credit and to expand her horizons. She feels FBLA has taught her business skills and has helped her grow as an individual. • Claudia Quijada Bermudez, is a senior at PHS and Chapter President. Her focus for competition is Business Management. She shared she joined FBLA as a freshman to learn about business because she would like to pursue a career in business. She noted this experience has helped her with socializing and to be more confident in public speaking. ➤ Ms. Recker shared community members are always welcome to get involved with FBLA by serving as judges or coaches or giving classroom presentations. The clubs are always looking for individuals or businesses to help with donations or sponsorships to cover the cost of travel for competitions. 	6:00 p.m.

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- B. Grand Junction High School Mock Trial Club Presentation
- Mr. Mark Carris, Grand Junction High School (GJHS) social studies teacher, geographer, football coach and official and coach for the GJHS Mock Trial Team. He reported the team recently won their fifteenth regional championship, with this year's win making it eight years in a row. He shared the purpose for the team is to help students, who are interested in law, to learn more about how the courts work and legal proceedings. This year's team of eleven students is comprised mostly of freshman, but in year's past there has been as many as thirty students involved with three ten member teams. He noted student participation has dropped off since the pandemic. He would love to see more support from attorneys and judges to assist with coaching, and more financial support from the community as this is not a Colorado High School Activities Association sanctioned event. Mr. Carris presented along with two students who shared information.
 - Kiah Thompson, a freshman, shared she has wanted to be involved in law since the age of six, when she wanted to be a police officer. She feels being a part of the team has given her a better understanding of how the law works. She is currently considering pursuing a career as a detective.
 - Tessa Eegge, a freshman, heard about the team and thought it would be a fun thing to do. She shared being a part of the team has helped her to be more outgoing and she enjoys the competition.
- C. Central High School Marillac Clinic Presentation
- Marillac Health Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Kay Ramachadran, Chief Medical Officers, Dr. Ivan Coziahr and Dr. Shannon Keel and Medical Provider, Ms. Rosa Gardner, presented information on the Marillac Clinic located at Central High School.
 - Ms. Ramachadran reviewed historical information on how the school based health clinic came to be. She shared information on the community wide, diverse committee formed to study the feasibility of a clinic at both Grand Junction High School and Central High School. The committee utilized the services of the Colorado Association of School Based Health Centers to assess the needs, based on data collected from students, parents and the community. Central High School was chosen as the first site due to space availability. Ms. Ramachadran noted funding for the clinic comes from the state, donors, foundations and fees with the District contributing in-kind donation only of space, utilities and custodial services.
 - Dr. Keel, shared information on services provided at the clinic and the federal and state laws governing health clinic. Ms. Gardner along with other qualified staff are able to offer sports physicals, COVID testing, immunizations, triage of medical emergencies, oral health assessments, glucose and strep testing, mental health screenings, reproductive health education and services, substance abuse screening and other services. The clinic follows the same rules as any other medical provider. State guidelines regarding consent for medical treatments were reviewed. She noted the staff at the clinic encourage students to involve their parents regarding decisions made, but the clinic must follow federal and state laws. Data was reviewed on the number of students the clinic has served and types of services provided.

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- Central High School Principal, Mr. Lanc Sellden, shared information on how the clinic has enhanced the health of students and has been a benefit to not only the students but also the community. Mr. Sellden noted during the pandemic, students would have lost valuable class time had they not been able to receive COVID testing at the clinic, during a time when no other schools were able to offer testing. He reported it would be hard to estimate cost savings as some students now being treated at the clinic would have delayed seeking medical services until a trip to the emergency room was necessary.
- Sydni King, a senior at Central High School, spoke on the benefits she has seen from the clinic. She served on the Warrior Wellness Committee which was formed to design, name and advertised the clinic. She shared the clinic has not only been a benefit for herself, but she feels many other students' health, moral and energy has improved. She believes the clinic has helped create a healthier student body and students are learning it is okay to reach out for help. Following involvement with the clinic she has decided to seek a career in nursing.
- Ms. Gardner reported the clinic works in conjunction with and supports the school's health assistance office. She reported many students will initially check in with the health assistant office first and then go to the clinic for further examination if needed.

[Recess 7:07 p.m. Resume 7:32 p.m.]

- D. Mesa Valley Community School Request for Amendment to the Contract Presentation
- Ms. Laurajean Downs, Mesa Valley Community School (MVCS) Director, and Ms. Cami Costello, Assistant Director, joined the meeting electronically to share information on the reason MVCS needs to change their teaching structure for grades K-5.
 - Ms. Downs noted the Colorado Department of Education, following a review of how on-line schools count teacher-pupil contact time, redefined what can and cannot be counted as teacher-pupil contact hours for the purpose of state funding. As of the 2022-2023 school year, instruction time provided by parents cannot be counted as teacher-pupil contact time. She shared the goal of MVCS is to find a model to serve parents who choose to school at home, but still provide funding for MVCS. She shared information on the proposed plan to offer students in grades K-5 two enrichment classes, which would qualify the school for half time funding. Students attending the program would be considered home school students by the state and would not be entitled to federal or state funding for special education services. With this change, students needing special education services would need to enroll in a regular District school. Ms. Downs reported the Colorado State Board of Education granted a request from MVCS to allow their 6-12 grade programs to remain as is until the 2023-2024 school year. She noted, at this time, MVCS is requesting the Board allow MVCS to amend their charter school contract to reflect the proposed changes for the K-5 grade programs, with changes to the 6-12 grade program being reflected in MVCS renewal contract scheduled to be renewed in 2023. Ms. Downs shared feedback from families currently in the K-5 program reporting some are excited about the change while other are apprehensive. She noted students, parents, and staff are

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anxious and looking for assurance that the Board is supportive of the proposed changes, so they can plan for next year.

- Superintendent, Dr. Diana Sirko, shared MVCS has been a viable program for many parents and school administrators are trying to morph it into a similar program to continue supporting the students. She reported the Colorado Department of Education has been supportive in helping MVCS and the District navigate the changes. The proposed changes to the K-5 program will allow MVCS to fall within state statute and still be able to serve their students.

E. Audience Comments

- Ms. Risharra Stulc, Grand Junction 81501
 Ms. Stulc is a parent of students attending MVCS. She felt the presentation by Ms. Downs was thoughtful and she believes school administration is trying to do what is best for the community, as a whole. She has several questions she would like the Board to ask MVCS administration such as: What are the barriers for serving students with disabilities? What help will be noted in writing, and provided to students with special needs? How much flexibility will the program offer to accommodate the needs of all students? She reiterated her kids attend MVCS and she prefers the program because it offers her students the freedom to learn in a way which works for them. She requested the Board ensure all students, including those in a home school program, have equal access to what is in the public school. She believes the school is doing a wonderful job, but she wonders what the plan will be moving forward for students with special education needs.
- Ms. Shallini Sheeran, Grand Junction 81507
 Ms. Sheeran was upset to learn parents are not being informed if their child, twelve or older, has been given birth control or other treatments at the Central High School Marillac Clinic. She questioned where were the parents of those students who spoke at the last Board meeting. She reported seeing teachers with the students but not parents. She does not believe children should be able to receive any medical treatment without parental consent, some treatments can be considered an abortion and if this is happening at a clinic it is not right. She is appreciative of students being able to get mental health services. She believes the actions of the District, during the COVID pandemic, created dysfunctional students who are now in need of mental health treatment. She reported she home schooled her children for their elementary years and feels parents should receive funding for teaching their children.
- Ms. Ana Elliott, Grand Junction 81504
 Ms. Elliott was pleased to hear the presentation from the Central High School Marillac Clinic. She shared her students attended Central High School and she believes being in high school can be stressful. She noted some of the funding for the clinic comes from grants. She spoke about the Colorado Healthy Kids Survey and reported she learned, from information on the survey, that the Colorado Department of Education works with the Educational Data Advisory Committee. She wondered, when seeing the word data, if some grant money was obtained in exchange for data. She asked if the clinic is required to report data back to the grantor(s) of the money on a weekly or monthly basis. She asked what strings are tied to obtaining grant money.

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						F. Adjourn 8:13 p.m.	
						<hr style="width: 25%; margin-left: auto;"/> Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary Board of Education	