# Board of Education Mesa County Valley School District 51

**Board Work Session Minutes** 

May 3, 2022

# **Board Work Session Minutes**



**Board of Education** A - Doug Levinson Mesa County Valley School District 51 B - Kari Sholtes C - Andrea Haitz Board Work Session: May 3, 2022 D - Will Jones Adopted: June 21, 2022 E - Angela Lema D E **AGENDA ITEMS ACTION** Present **BOARD WORK SESSION** 6:04 p.m. Absent A. Teacher Appreciation Proclamation [Resolution 21/22: 95] Mrs. Haitz read the resolution to proclaim the week of May 2-6 as National Teacher Appreciation Week. The resolution noted the various challenges facing teachers in meeting the ever-changing needs of young people in our schools. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping and preparing students to become contributing members of the community through countless hours of hard work and dedication. B. Fruita Monument High School Pro Start Recognition [Resolution 21/22: 94] Dr. Sholtes invited Fruita Monument High School Pro Start Team members, Avelyn Benefield, Kyley King, Elizabeth Potter, Taylor Schimek and instructor, Cheryl Tennant to the front of the room. Pro Start is a nationwide program that teaches students culinary techniques and hospitality management skills. The team was recognized for winning the state competition and will represent Colorado at the national competition this month. The Board and Superintendent Sirko congratulated the students and wished them well at the state competition. C. Fruita Monument High School Career and Technical Education Family and Consumer Science Program Presentation > Fruita Monument High School Career and Technical Education Family and Consumer Science teacher, Ms. Cheryl Tennant, and students, Avelyn Benefield, Kyley King, and Tayor Schimek shared information on how the ProStart Team was formed and their experience at the state competition. The competition involved fifteen teams from across the state with each team preparing a three course meal consisting of an appetizer, an entrée and a dessert. The students described feeling like underdogs going into the competition and being surprised and elated at winning the competition. The team will be competing next month at the national competition in Washington DC against thirty-nine other teams. D. Fruita Monument High School Mission Abroad Club Fruita Monument High School seniors, Keeley Clark and Hailey Cox shared information on how the Mission Abroad Club was created. Keeley and Hailey created the club during their sophomore year as a way to get more hands on experience for students interested in the medical field. The club meets monthly at different hospitals and clinics to learn about casting, sutures, ventilation and intubation, injections, ultrasounds and other medical procedures. The experience gained from being a part of the club, with the opportunity for hands on learning, has helped many of the students decide which aspect of the medical field they would like to specialize in. The club has been working with an outside organization, Projects Abroad, to enable the students to go on a first ever District medical mission trip. The two week trip, scheduled for the end of May, to Cusco, Peru will enable students to learn about another culture, gain

A - Doug Levinson Mesa County Valley School District 51 B - Kari Sholtes C - Andrea Haitz Board Work Session: May 3, 2022 D - Will Jones Adopted: June 21, 2022 E - Angela Lema D E С ACTION **AGENDA ITEMS** hospital experience and serve as a community outreach in distributing donated medical, hygiene, and school supplies along with books and toys club members have been gathering. The students will be housed with host families while in Peru. Keeley and Hailey shared information on the various fundraising the club has held and plans put in place for the club to continue for future Fruita Monument High School students, following their graduation. E. Central High School Career & Technical Education Business Engineering Manufacturing Presentation Central High School teachers, Mrs. Tracey Arledge and Mrs. Mary Doane along with Central High School students, Gwen Parker and Jacob Knight, presented information on the Pathways of Technology Early College High School (PTECH) Programs. The school has created seamless programs for high school students to acquire the academic, technical and workplace skills that employers need and enables students to earn industry-recognized certificates, gain relevant work experience, enter into paid internships or earn an associate degree, along with earning their high school diploma all at no cost to the students. Information was shared on the six key principles of the program and the expectations of students. At this time, the PTECH programs being offered at Central High School are fire science, construction technology, land surveying and geomatics, early childhood education, pharmacy technician, construction electrical and electrical line worker. PTECH programs are also offered at the District's other high schools and the Career Center. Gwen, a senior, shared information on the time she has spent working as an intern at the library. The internship has given her the opportunity to learn all of the aspect of being a librarian, which is what she has wanted to be since she was a young child. She highlighted her work in helping to create the monthly themes and activities tied to the themes, used at the library. Jacob, a 2020 high school graduate reported on how he interned at Ariel Services for two years prior to graduating high school. He feels his internship helped him acquire his current position as a registered behavior technician. F. Fruita Monument Career & Technical Education Future Farmers of America Club Presentation Fruita Monument High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club members, Ryer Roberts, Trinity Armbruster, Magnolia Richardson, Johnny Surber, Logan Alford, Mark Armbruster, and advisors, Ms. Katharine Eshelman and Ms. Samantha Brewington, presented photos of FFA members attending last year's national convention and reported students would be attending this year's convention in July. Highlights were shared from this year's state convention noting the Vet Science team won bronze, the Floor Culture and Milk Quality teams won gold and the club president, Ryer Roberts, won the Employment Skills Contest and will represent Colorado at the national convention in October. Highlights of activities this past year were shared including the how some team members placed at the regional competition with one member, Logan Alford, winning a \$1,000 grant to start his own plant business and another member, Ryer Roberts, winning a scholarship to travel to Washington DC to learn about

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	the National FFA in July. Information was shared on the importance of paying affiliation fees and the challenges of paying the fees, without having to charge members. The fees have increased from \$1,660 in 2020 to \$2,745 in 2021. Members shared information on an upcoming plant sale fundraiser and invited Board members and administration to join them for their annual end of the year banquet.  G. Board Meeting Rules Discussion  Board members discussed reviewing policy regarding audience participation at meetings. Members unanimously agreed to review policy and make changes necessary to allow for audience members to clap during audience comments. It was reported audience members have started to stand to show solidarity, which some feel is more distracting than clapping.  H. Ascent Classical Academy Discussion  Mrs. Haitz explained at the time District 51 became an exclusive authorizer, which allows the District to grant or deny a charter school authority to work directly with the Colorado Charter School Institute, there was not a process in place to determine if authorization should be granted or denied. She highlighted the steps of the new process now in place to make a determination.  Dr. Sholtes clarified there has always been a process in place for charter schools to be chartered under the District, but not a process for charter schools to work directly with the Colorado Charter School Institute.  [Recess 8:29 p.m. Resume 8:42 p.m.]  I. Audience Comments  Shellina Sheeran, Grand Junction 81507  Ms. Sheeran spoke in support of the Ascent Classical Academy and shared a statement from their website. She reported attending the Board Coffee and listening to teachers speaking on how disruptive some students are in the classroom and the lack of administrative support in disciplining students. She noted the reporter from the Daily Sentinel focused on one comment from the Coffee and did not speak about the discipline problems.  Julie Fisher, Clifton 81520  Ms. Fisher spoke positively about Ascent Classical Academy. She	ACTION
	clerk and recorders office and is not always in support of taking away local control and giving it to the state. She questioned, in this instance, if it is the best use of time and money in having the state approve the Ascent Classical Academy. She would like to see a system in place that looks at what is most beneficial for the District when deciding if a charter school should go directly to	
	the state.  Wreadith Jacob, Grand Junction 81507  Ms. Jacob spoke in support of the Ascent Classical Academy and feels it has a tried and true curriculum and offers an American classical education. She also shared her grandson has told her he is tired of having to watch CNN News	

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	every day. She is opposed to CNN News being shown and does not believe it will be a part of the Ascent Classical Academy program.  Donald Hunger, Grand Junction 81504 Mr. Hunger reported he is a patriot and he believes in the United States. He believes Americans have been blessed and he sees the Ascent Classical Academy as an opportunity for democracy, educational diversity and an opportunity for students to have another educational opportunity. He is in full support of the Ascent Classical Academy and shared he is a current student of Hillsdale College, which is a part of the Ascent Classical Academy.  Caryn Romero, Grand Junction 81504 Ms. Romero has a granddaughter in District 51 whose mother could not be present tonight. She reported her granddaughter's mother has turned in a letter of interest for Ascent Classical Academy and would like the option of her student to attend the Ascent Classical Academy.  Ana Elliott, Grand Junction 81504 Ms. Elliott spoke in support of Ascent Classical Academy and her desire for her two grandkids to attend Ascent Classical Academy. She pointed out that on the District website it speaks about school of choice and she quoted from the website about students being able to attend a school or program located in an area other than their assigned school. She believes Ascent Classical Academy would be a good thing to include in school of choice. She noted Ascent Classical Academy will provide core knowledge in English, grammar, phonics, Singapore math, Latin, history, science, art, music and physical education in a school that will not have CRT, CSE or SEL.  Rina Kopp, Grand Junction 81503 Mr. Hosburgh, Grand Junction 81503 Mr. Hosburgh, Grand Junction 81503 Mr. Hosburgh spoke in favor of Ascent Classical Academy to give parents more choices and opportunities for students.  Tom Keenan, Palisade 81526 Mr. Keenan reported parents need choices such as Ascent Classical Academy. He reported he has subbed for the District for about five years and subbed at Caprock Academy. He noted not one	ACTION
	The students are removed from the classroom, talked to and learn quickly that inappropriate behaviors are not acceptable. He reported Caprock Academy is	
	full and he feels there needs to be more choices for students who are currently being homeschooled.	
	<ul> <li>Betty Baltzer, Grand Junction 81507</li> <li>Ms. Baltzer reported she had three children, one who is very intelligent and one with special needs. She also has three grandchildren and believes we need as many educational choices and options as possible. She noted her daughter, who is now a teacher, teaches in a school similar to Ascent Classical Academy in Colorado Springs and her second grade classes are writing reports, whereas</li> </ul>	

Mesa County Valley School District 51 B - Kari Sholtes C - Andrea Haitz Board Work Session: May 3, 2022 D - Will Jones Adopted: June 21, 2022 E - Angela Lema D E С **ACTION AGENDA ITEMS** she feels some second graders don't even know their ABC's. She believes the more choices the better. Carol Bremmer, Whitewater 81527 Ms. Bremmer agreed with the other speakers. She noted, based on the presentation given earlier, she believes the District cares about students finding the right path and education for each student and having another classical education program would offer another choice. Katlyn George, Grand Junction 81501 Ms. George agreed with the other speakers. She is looking forward to having another option and requested the Board vote to allow Ascent Classical Academy to work with the state. Nina Anderson, Grand Junction 81501 Ms. Anderson, owner of a staffing company and parent of two, gave thanks to Principal Walker at West Middle School for accepting her daughter as a choice student and helping her daughter get the best education possible. She reported her son was a third grader when he entered District 51 and attended summer school to help with his reading. When it came time for him to attend middle school, East and West Middle Schools were not an option, so he enrolled in Caprock Academy. She believes the classical education and Singapore math taught at Caprock Academy helped him be successful in high school and graduate from Colorado State University with a mechanical engineering degree. She believes choice matters and parents need to be educated on what programs are available so they can do what is best for their students. She requested the Board consider the Ascent Classical Academy as a viable option for the District. Jacqueline Anderson, Grand Junction 81505 Ms. Anderson, who described herself as the local capitalist, believes in free thought and free market. She requested the Board recognize the steps Ascent Classical Academy has taken in recognizing there is a need for this type program. She feels the program offered by Ascent Classical Academy will help students to achieve their goals. She noted Ascent cannot only help students but is also another option for teachers. She reported her daughter, when they lived on the front range, needed a smaller classroom environment and she was lucky to be able to get her daughter in a charter school. She believes the education and confidence her daughter achieved while attending the charter school enabled her to be successful in a public school when they moved to District 51. She believes students need different options so student have the path of least resistance. Cory Anderson, Grand Junction 81505 Mr. Anderson noted his daughter struggled when attending public school, and just one year in a charter school made an incredible difference. He noted he is proud of his daughter and mentioned she went to state this year for DECA. He would like to see as many options in the Grand Valley as possible for students. Jeff Leany, Fruita 81521 Mr. Leany noted phonics and cursive writing are not being taught in our schools and students are not doing well in math. He reported the Ascent Classical Academy program offers phonics, cursive and Singapore math, which is the best

**Board of Education** 

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A - Doug Levinson Mesa County Valley School District 51 B - Kari Sholtes C - Andrea Haitz Board Work Session: May 3, 2022 D - Will Jones Adopted: June 21, 2022 E - Angela Lema D E С **ACTION AGENDA ITEMS** math program available. He believes the most streamline process would be for Ascent Classical Academy to work directly with the Charter School Institute. He noted it is hard to get into Caprock Academy as there is a waiting list, the sooner Ascent Classical Academy can open a school, the better. Gary Hunt, Fruita 81521 Mr. Hunt, a graduate of District 51, thanked the District for his education. He is excited about having another charter school in the valley and an additional option for students. He reported having five grandchildren and he worries about their education. His brother and sister-in-law, who live in Utah, pay a large sum for their children to attend private school. He believes the Ascent Classical Academy is a good thing for the District. Sue Kupdian, Grand Junction 81501 Ms. Kupdian reported on having several neighbors with grand children who are excited about having another choice in the valley for a K-12 school which will offer a classical education with high emphasis on standards and building character. Sarah Fletcher, Grand Junction 81507 Ms. Fletcher expressed her appreciation, after hearing the student presentations, on the opportunities students have to join various clubs and different career pathways. She reported her son, who is fourteen, is kind of a square peg in a round hole and she was hoping the Ascent Classical Academy would be an option for him, but feels he may be too old. She will be promoting the program for other students who are a square peg in a round hole to give them the opportunity for smaller class sizes. She was glad to hear Ascent Classical Academy works with students who have an Individual Education Plan, like her student. She encouraged the Board to streamline the process in moving forward to allow Ascent Classical Academy to submit their application to the Ricki Howie, Grand Junction 81501 Ms. Howie wished to speak on the rules the Board would be establishing for meetings. She noted she disagreed with the second sentence of the second paragraph of Policy BEDH which reads, "Public comments at regular business meetings may be on any subject of interest to the public". She reported coming to the meeting from a public rally against the Roe vs Wade decision and she wouldn't want to listen to three minutes of that subject. She requested the sentence be changed so the subject relates to school district. She spoke about Board rules referring to respect at all times, and how she resented comments made by one lady at the Board Coffee. She believes the Board needs to have a means to stop people from being disrespectful. Janet Drummond, Grand Junction 81507 Ms. Drummond spoke about how impressed she was with the presentation by Ascent Classical Academy, especially with their affiliation with Hillsdale College. She believes Ascent Classical Academy is a desperately needed asset for the community and is happy they are willing to come here. Penny Hunt, Fruita 81521 Ms. Hunt spoke on the community's largest asset being our young people and the best way to promote our community is to support our youth. She spoke on

**Board of Education** A - Doug Levinson Mesa County Valley School District 51 B - Kari Sholtes C - Andrea Haitz Board Work Session: May 3, 2022 D - Will Jones Adopted: June 21, 2022 E - Angela Lema D E С В ACTION **AGENDA ITEMS** the biggest gift as being the gift of choice. She reiterated what had been said and asked the Board to vote to allow the Ascent Classical Academy to work with the state. **BUSINESS MEETING** Present Χ Χ Χ Call to Order/Roll Call 8:16 p.m. Absent Motion 2. Agenda Approval Χ Second Χ Aye Χ Χ Χ Χ Х Motion Personnel Action Adopted Χ Second Χ 3.a. Licensed and Administrative Personnel Actions [Resolution 21/22: 96] Х Aye Χ Χ Χ Χ 3.b. Administrator New Hire [Resolution 21/22: 97] No Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Brian Hill, shared information on Mr. Tyler Jones, the new principal at Rocky Mountain Elementary School and reminded everyone that staff and parents are involved in the hiring process. Adopted Motion Resolution Regarding Ascent Classical Academy [Resolution 21/22: 98] Χ Second Aye Х Χ Χ Χ Х No **Executive Session** Moved to Executive Executive session for the discussion regarding the purchase, acquisition, lease, Session transfer or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest; except that no 8:30 p.m. executive session shall be held for the purpose of concealing the fact that a member of the local public body has a personal interest in such purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a). Present at the executive session: Superintendent, Dr. Diana Sirko, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Brian Hill, Operation and Grounds Director, Mr. Eric Nilsen, Maintenance and Operations Coordinator, Mr. Eddie Mort, General Counsel, Mr. John Williams and Board members Mrs. Haitz, Mr. Jones, Ms. Lema, Mr. Levinson and Dr. Sholtes. Time spent discussing real, personal or other properties: 51 minutes Adjourned 9:21 p.m. Motion Χ Motion to adjourn executive session. Second Aye Χ Χ Χ Х No Motion Adjournment 9:21 p.m. Χ Second Χ Aye Χ Χ Χ Χ Χ No

Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary



# **Teacher Appreciation Proclamation**

Presented: May 3, 2022

### Board of Education Resolution 21/22: 95

WHEREAS, teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators and mentors; and

WHEREAS, through their dedicated efforts to ensure children learn the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in college, career, and life, District 51 teachers are vital in their communities and in building the future; and

WHEREAS; because of the varying needs of students, teachers must constantly hone new skills so they can adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of young people in our schools, and

WHEREAS; teachers play a crucial role in shaping our children into the people they will become, supporting them through their childhood and adolescent years and teaching lessons that have an impact that will carry throughout their adult lives; and

WHEREAS: the teaching profession benefits from educators who are empowered to lead within and beyond the classroom, allowing them to best prepare young people to become contributing members of our community, thereby strengthening our democracy; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of dedicated educators working in District 51 schools, putting in countless hours and extra effort to help students achieve, preparing them for further education, the workforce, and their civic duties; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby proclaim May 2-6 as National Teacher Appreciation Week, a time to recognize the efforts of educators in our district, encourage the young people who are training to become tomorrow's teachers, and thank the many teachers who work with children in District 51schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District 51 Board of Education strongly encourages all members of our community to join with us in personally expressing appreciation to our teachers for their dedication and devotion to their work.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on May 3, 2022.

Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Recognition: FMHS ProStart Team State Champions

Presented: May 3, 2022

Board of Education Resolution 21-22: 94

Would Avelyn Benefield, Kyley King, Elizabeth Potter, Taylor Schimek, and Cheryl Tennant please join me at the front?

ProStart is a nationwide program that teaches high school students culinary techniques and hospitality management skills using industry-driven curriculum and hands-on experience. In February, Fruita Monument High School's ProStart students had the opportunity to put their knowledge to the test by preparing a three-course meal at the Annual ProStart Student Invitational & Sysco Denver Hospitality Cup Competition in Aurora.

This competition provided an opportunity for these students to compete against ProStart students from 29 other Colorado high schools. The team with the most culinary and hospitality management points by the end of the competition won the title of state champion. This year, Fruita Monument High School took top billing at the competition and will represent Colorado at the National ProStart Invitational May 6-8 in Washington, D.C.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Sirko would like to recognize and congratulate Cheryl Tennant and her ProStart students on their win at state and wish them luck at nationals later this week!

### **FMHS ProStart Team**

Avelyn Benefield Kyley King Elizabeth Potter Taylor Schimek



# **Contract Non-Renewal Personnel Action**

Board of Education Resolution: 21/22: 96 Adopted: May 3, 2022

# Temporary, Part-Time and Full-Time Probationary Teacher/Counselor Non-Renewal

ALLEN, SUSAN R		
BLOUNT, DYLAN S		
BUCKLEY, ROBERT K		
CARLSON, COURTNEY		
DAUGHERTY, KACEY		
DIXON, WILLIAM R		
FOX, JONATHAN D		
HAMILTON, MITCHELL		
HESTER, SARAH M		
KNOB, JORDAN L		
KOHLS, MADISON M (.5 Only)		
LEWIS, KATARI J		
LOVATO, AMARA		
MACDONALD, RUSSELL		
MARTENS, CHERYL D		
MCATLIN, BRENNA D		
MCGINNISS, WILLIAM		
MOORE, KATHERINE		
OBRIEN, MEGAN		
OWEN, MARISSA P		
PRUITT, ALISSA CLARK		
SILVANO, LILIANA		
STATON, CARA DYANN		
TALUCCI, MARIAH ALAIR		

TRUSTY, LAURA ANN	
TRUTER, ROXANNE	
WEATHERS, ELIZABETH E	

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on May 3, 2022.

Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary
Board of Education



# **Administrator New Hires**

Board of Education Resolution: 21/22: 97 Adopted: May 3, 2022

### **Tyler Jones**

# **Rocky Mountain Elementary School Principal**

Mr. Jones comes to this position with a wealth of knowledge and experience having worked in District 51 since 2007. He began his career in D51 teaching at Shelledy Elementary School until 2019 and then was hired as the Assistant Principal of Rocky Mountain Elementary School.

Mr. Jones received his Bachelor's Degrees in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Elementary Education in 2005 from the University of Northern Colorado and his Master's Degree in Reading and Curriculum Development from Grand Canyon University in 2009.

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on May 3, 2022.

Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary Board of Education



# **Resolution Regarding Request From Ascent Classical Academy**

Adopted: May 3, 2022

Board of Education Resolution 21/22: 98

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2022, representatives from the Ascent Classical Academy presented information about the Ascent Classical Academy Program to the Mesa County Valley School District Board of Education (Board); and

WHEREAS, at the presentation on April 5, 2022, Ascent Classical Academy requested the Board grant permission for the charter school to work directly with Colorado Charter School Institute to bring a charter school program to the Grand Valley; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Mesa County Valley School District became an exclusive authorizer, which requires those wishing to open a charter school, whether through the Colorado Charter School Institute or with Mesa County School District 51, to obtain permission from the Board;

WHEREAS, following the authority to become an exclusive authorizer, the Board did not develop a process to determine whether a charter school should or should not receive permission to work directly with the Colorado Charter School Institute; and

WHEREAS, following this request from Ascent Classical Academy the Board developed a process; and

WHEREAS, following the developed process and additional discussion regarding the Ascent Classical Academy's request at this meeting on May 3, 2022, the Board wishes to grant Ascent Classical Academy request to work directly with the Colorado Charter School Institute as permitted under C.R.S. 22-30.5-504(8).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby grants permission for the Ascent Classical Academy to work directly with the Colorado Charter School Institute.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on May 3, 2022.

Bridget Story Assistant Secretary, Board of Education