

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Business Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2021

Board Business Meeting Minutes

- A - Doug Levinson
- B - Kari Sholtes
- C - Trish Mahre
- D - Tom Parrish
- E - Amy Davis

**Board of Education
Mesa County Valley School District 51
Business Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2021
Adopted: December 14, 2021**

	A	B	C	D	E		ACTION
						AGENDA ITEMS	
						BOARD RECEPTION ➤ An informal reception was held for outgoing members.	5:00 p.m.
						BUSINESS MEETING	6:02 p.m.
Present	x	x	x	x	x	A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL ➤ Dr. Davis attended the meeting virtually.	
Absent							
Motion	x					B. AGENDA APPROVAL	Adopted
Second			x				
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion			x			C. MEETING MINUTES AND SUMMARY APPROVAL	Adopted
Second	x					C-1. October 5, 2021 Board Work Session Minutes	
Aye	x		x	x	x	C-2. October 12, 2021 Board Special Meeting Minutes	
No						C-3. October 18, 2021 Board Special Meeting Minutes	
						C-4. October 19, 2021 Board Business Meeting Minutes	
						D. RECOGNITIONS	
						D-1. Girl Scouts of Colorado Woman of Distinction Award, Dr. Diana Sirko. [Resolution 21/22: 23]	
						➤ Mrs. Mahre requested Superintendent, Dr. Diana Sirko, step forward to be recognized for being named a Western Slope Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Colorado. Dr. Sirko was one of three women chosen for demonstrating remarkable achievements as business, community and civic leaders.	
						➤ The Board thanked Dr. Sirko for her forty-seven years in education and congratulated her on being chosen.	
						D-2. Southwest League Softball Coach of the Year, Ms. Windi Serrano [Resolution 21/22: 24]	
						➤ Mrs. Mahre asked Ms. Windi Serrano, head coach of the Grand Junction High School softball team, to step to the front of the room. Ms. Serrano was recognized for being named the Southwestern League Softball Coach of the Year. In only her third year of coaching, Ms. Serrano was chosen by her fellow coaches for her remarkable accomplishments with her team. This year, under her leadership, three of Ms. Serrano's players were named Southwestern League All-Conference Softball Players, despite having no seniors on the team.	
						➤ The Board and Superintendent Sirko congratulated Ms. Serrano on her being named Coach of the Year.	
						D-3. Southwest League Softball Player of the Year, Kennedy Vis [Resolution 21/22: 25]	
						➤ Mr. Parrish read the recognition to recognize Kennedy Vis for being named Southwestern League Softball Player of the Year. Kennedy, a senior at Central High School, was not present to be recognized.	

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AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
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Kennedy, who primarily pitches also played some at first base. Not only are her stats as a pitcher impressive but her batting averages for this year was .427. Next year, Kennedy intends to contribute her talents to the Colorado Mesa University's softball team.

D-4. Recognition for Campaign Committee Members Hard Work and Commitment for a Grand Junction High School Bond [Resolution 21/22: 26]

- Mr. Parrish requested the two co-chairs for the Campaign Committee, Mr. Tim Foster and Ms. Sarah Shrader, please step to the front of the room. The Board and Superintendent Sirko recognized and thanked, Mr. Foster, Ms. Shrader and all the other committee members for all their hard work and dedication in getting the bond measure passed for a new Grand Junction High School.

D-5. Recognition for Chatfield Elementary School Moving From Turnaround Status to Performance Status [Resolution 21/22: 27]

- Mr. Levinson invited Chatfield Elementary School principal, Mr. Dave McCall, and other staff, students and parents present to come to the front of the room. The Chatfield Elementary School community was recognized for going from a Colorado Department of Education rating of turnaround plan to a rating of performance plan in a matter of two years. The accomplishment of going from the lowest plan to the highest plan required a lot of work on the part of the administration, teachers, students and parents.
- The Board and Superintendent Sirko congratulated the entire Chatfield community on their accomplishments and improvements in student performance and growth.

D-6. Colorado Band Association State Marching Band Festival Bronze Medal Winner, Palisade High School Band [Resolution 21/22: 28]

- Dr. Sholtes asked Palisade High School band instructor, Mr. Jeff Mason, and band students to step to the front of the room. The Palisade High School Marching Band has placed in the top three spots in the Class 3A state festival every year since the festival began in 2012. This year the band finished in third place.
- The Board and Superintendent Sirko congratulated the band for again finishing in the top three at the Class 3A State Marching Band Festival.

E. BOARD REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS/REQUESTS

E-1. Executive Committee Update

- Mrs. Colleen Kaneda, Owners Representative, phoned into the meeting with a brief update from the Executive Committee. Mrs. Kaneda expressed how excited everyone was with the passage of the bond measure to replace Grand Junction High School. She shared information on the timeline for the new high school, with completion scheduled for the fall of 2024. Recent activity of the committee included completion of interviewing the two companies who submitted bids for the position of construction manager/general contractor. Following the interviews, committee members held a meeting to have discussions and choose

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which company to recommend the Board choose to act as construction manager/general contractor. Mrs. Kaneda will continue to brief the Board on the progress of the project at future Board Business Meetings.

F. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- None at this time.

G. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Jaime Gallob, Fruita, 81521
 Ms. Gallob thanked the Board for the work they have done over the past years. She is the mother of twins, adopted through the Mesa County Department of Human Services. She recalled it took counseling and many sleepless nights for her twins to overcome the struggles and trauma resulting from generations of foster to adopt cycles. She expressed concerns over the District's COVID protocols and the anxieties she has seen recently in her students. She feels these are due to mask usage. She requested the District review the protocols for K-5 requirements of mask usage. She feels mask usage is creating a barrier and causing anxieties with her students that she has not seen or had to deal with in several years. She complimented the staff at her students' school, Monument Ridge Elementary School, for their helpfulness and prompt communications. She would like to see all schools get back to normal learning without distractions.
- Mr. Chris Urbanski, Grand Junction, 81504
 Mr. Urbanski, the father of a fifth grade student at Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary School, expressed his frustration over the lack of resolution for a bullying problem his student experienced last year and is experiencing again this year. He reported the student who bullied his daughter last year, including threatening bodily harm to her and her family, is now trying to recruit other students to beat up his daughter. He stated he worked with the school administration, the Director's Office and with the Superintendent last year and nothing was done. He quoted from the District's website that "all students have the right to feel safe at the school, kids need to stand up and do what's right and take the lead and help when they see the bullying happening", he questioned how students are expected to do this when school administration is not acting. He noted his daughter used to draw nice pictures and now she draws pictures of people crying. He reported the bully is much larger than his daughter, giving the bully a physical advantage, and the bully has shown a pattern by continually targeting his daughter.
- Mrs. Heather O'Brien, Fruita 81521
 Mrs. O'Brien, resident of Fruita and an educator at Central High School, read a prepared statement to express her gratitude for the Board members. She noted serving on the Board is not a glorious job nor a paying job. She feels the Board is not deserving of the vitriol expressed in preceding weeks. She encouraged citizens to learn about others before striking out at them. She affirmed having a conversation with someone who does not agree with you does not require the other to change their mind. She reported she has had the privilege of knowing several of the Board members and feels their actions are above reproach, their hearts are full of integrity and minds to be singular in the

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purpose of making the District the finest it can be. She noted without a free public education for every child, ignorance gives way to tyranny. On behalf of herself and thousands of others who agree with her, she sincerely thanked the Board members for all they have done, and she wished the best for incoming members.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

H-1. Strategic Plan Update

- Mr. Alex Carter and Mr. Paul Beck, Colorado Education Initiative, updated the Board on the progress for the development of a strategic plan for the District. Mr. Carter and Mr. Beck have been working with a Steering Committee comprised of educators, one student from each high school and community members, some who were invited and others who applied to serve on the committee. They reviewed the comprehensive process involved in developing a Graduate Profile. The Graduate Profile reflects the skills students should have mastered upon graduation. They explained the three major categories of the profile, Creative Problem Solvers, Culturally Connected and Ready for Career in Life, and the components within each of the three categories. They reviewed and explained the process to develop focus areas and strategic priorities to develop realistic goals. Some of the focus areas and strategic priorities shared were staff mental health and wellness, community partnerships, healthy social emotional students, academic success and robust career pathways following graduation. They expressed the need for a strategic plan to be clear and concise, so it is understandable, and for the plan to be measurable. Next steps were reviewed with a timeline of bringing a draft strategic plan to the Board in December and a final plan, for approval, in January.

H-2. COVID Update

- Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Brian Hill, gave a brief update on the number of schools currently having to mask, and a change to protocols at the secondary level. He reported staff would be able to access the rapid testing starting this week but there are still glitches in the system needing to be worked through before students can be tested. Parents would have to give permission before their student(s) could be tested. The hope is have the ability to start testing students soon. There is no cost to the District for the testing as this is a state wide initiative.

H-3. Board Training Grant

- Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Brian Hill, reported on a pilot program, through the state, which offers training for school board members. The District has applied for a state grant to cover the cost of the yearlong training. The training would focus on three main areas: 1) increase understanding of effective governance practices and board member rules and responsibility 2) increase board member understanding of and support of district improvement efforts and 3) develop an action plan for improving academic outcomes. If the grant is approved the program would begin in February.

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						<p>H-4. Expulsion Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Superintendent, Dr. Diana Sirko reported the District has seen an increase in fighting at the middle school level. Dr. Sirko will be meeting with the building administrators at the middle school reporting the majority of incidents. <p>H-5. Communication/District Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reviewed <p>I. CONSENT AGENDA</p> <p>I-1. Licensed and Administrative Personnel Actions [Resolution 21/22: 30]</p> <p>I-2. Gifts [Resolution 21/22: 29]</p> <p>[Recess 7:30 p.m. Resume 7:50 p.m.]</p> <p>J. Executive Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To discuss various real estate matters regarding the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest under 24-6-402(4)(a). Persons present for the Executive Session: Superintendent, Dr. Diana Sirko, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Brian Hill, Executive Director of Student Services, Mrs. Patti Virden, Director of Maintenance & Operations, Mr. Eric Nilsen, General Counsel, Mr. John Williams and Board members: Dr. Davis, Mr. Levinson, Mrs. Mahre, Mr. Parrish, and Dr. Sholtes. Dr. Davis attended virtually. <p>Time spent in Executive Session: 58 minutes</p> <p>K. BUSINESS ITEMS</p> <p>K-1. Resolution to Approve Easement Abandonment [Resolution 21/22: 31]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Sholtes acknowledged the easement is too much of a burden for the District to continue maintaining. She would like to pursue the possibility of retaining the easement but finding a volunteer organization to do the required maintenance. <p>K-2. Resolution to Approve Selection of Construction Manager/General Contractor [Resolution 21/22: 32]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Parrish expressed a desire and the ability to meet with the newly elected Board members, prior to voting on the resolution, to review the process followed in selecting a construction manager/general contractor. He acknowledge a need to act quickly to avoid delays in the construction process timeline and plans to meet with the new Board members the first part of next week. ➤ Board members agreed to meet virtually on Friday, November 19 to vote on the resolution. <p>K-3. Resolution to Purchase Lots at Dual Immersion Academy [Resolution 21/22: 33]</p>	
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x		Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x		7:50 p.m.
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x		Tabled
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x		Tabled
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x		Adopted

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Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	K-4. Resolution to Approve Sale of Property on Wildwood Drive [Resolution 21/22: 34] ➤ Item tabled to allow time for the District to get updated information on value and accessibility to the property.	Tabled
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	K-5. Resolution to Approve Lease of Property [Resolution 21/22: 35]	Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	K-6. Policy First Reading K-6.a. GBEB, Staff Conduct (And Responsibilities)/Conflicts of Interest ➤ Mr. John Williams, General Counsel, reported he added language to the policy to define what gifts staff could receive and to remove unnecessary and confusing language	Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	K-6.b. FB, Acquisition of Land ➤ Mr. John Williams, General Counsel, reported adding the requirements noted in the policy, to future purchase contracts, would insure properties could be used for the intended purpose(s).	Adopted
						L. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION ➤ Dr. Sholtes reminded everyone of the Board Coffee to be held on Saturday at Colorado Mesa University's University Center.	
						M. FUTURE MEETINGS L-1. November 30, 2021, Harry Butler Board Room, 6:00 p.m., Organizational Meeting L-2. December 14, 2021, Harry Butler Board Room, 6:00 p.m., Board Business Meeting L-3. Winter Break, December 20 – December 31, 2021	
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	N. ADJOURNMENT	9:20 p.m.
						_____ Bridget Story, Secretary Board of Education	

Can Diana Sirko please join me at the front?

The board would like to congratulate District 51 Superintendent Dr. Diana Sirko for being named one of three Western Slope Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Colorado. Each year, three Women of Distinction from the Western Slope, are chosen for this honor by a committee of their peers. Each exemplary Woman of Distinction has demonstrated remarkable achievements as business, community, and civic leaders. This year's honorees were recognized at a breakfast last Thursday at the Grand Junction Convention Center.

Dr. Sirko has served as the head of District 51 schools since 2018 and has led the District through some of its most trying times. She worked in school districts across the state as an educator, administrator, and superintendent, and served as Deputy Commissioner of Education for the Colorado Department of Education, as well as the coordinator for the Educational Leadership Masters Program at Colorado Mesa University.

The Board of Education would like to recognize Dr. Sirko for her 47 years in education and celebrate her leadership in our district. Congratulations on being a 2021 Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction!

Can Windi Serrano please join me at the front?

The Board would like to recognize Windi Serrano, head coach of the Grand Junction High School softball team, for being named the Southwestern League Softball Coach of the Year.

This is Ms. Serrano's third year as head coach of the Tigers, and she has already made quite an impression on her players and the Grand Junction High School community. Her hard work has also made a big impression on her fellow coaches across the Southwestern League - they voted to make her Coach of the Year after witnessing her efforts to build and develop a young team. This year's Grand Junction High School softball team had just a dozen players, with no seniors and seven freshman. Still, three of her 12 players were named Southwestern League All-Conference Softball Players, this year, under her leadership.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Sirko would like to recognize Ms. Serrano for her commitment to Grand Junction High School athletics, and congratulate her on being named 2021 Southwestern League Softball Coach of the Year.

Can Kennedy Vis please join me at the front?

Kennedy Vis, a senior at Central High School, is the 2021 Southwestern League Softball Player of the Year. Kennedy is primarily a pitcher for the Warrior Softball Team, though she has played first base as well. She has an ERA of 2.26 and had 115 strikeouts this year alone.

Her stats off the mound are just as impressive: her batting average this year was .427, and she had 30 RBIs and five home runs. Next year, she intends to bring her talents to Colorado Mesa University's softball team.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Sirko would like to recognize Kennedy Vis for her outstanding athletic talent, and congratulate her for earning Southwestern L Softball Player of the Year!

Can Tim Foster, Sarah Shrader and any other members of the Campaign Committee please join me at the front?

In 2017, the district celebrated as voters passed the first bond measure in 13 years to benefit local schools. But one thing was missing from that ballot measure – a new Grand Junction High School. The board knew this had to be their next priority, and asked voters for a new Grand Junction High School in 2019, as well as improvements to other D51 high schools. Sadly, that bond measure narrowly failed, but the need for a new Grand Junction High School remained.

When the board began work on a new bond measure, Mr. Foster and Ms. Shrader stepped forward as advisors and helped make sure that the new ballot language was lean, concise, and direct. As co-chairs of this year's Citizens for School District 51 bond campaign, they organized volunteers, spoke at service clubs, gave media interviews, spent countless hours securing donations, brainstorming ideas, and informing the public of the very real needs of Grand Junction High School.

Mr. Foster and Ms. Shrader led the way to a decisive victory for Measure 4B in the 2021 Election. The voters of Mesa County approved the bond measure to rebuild Grand Junction High School with an unheard-of majority of 65%. In all, nearly 33,000 of our fellow citizens chose to put students first, in no small part due to the leadership of Mr. Foster and Ms. Shrader.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Sirko would like to recognize and congratulate Mr. Foster and Ms. Shrader for their leadership in this successful campaign and thank not only Mr. Foster and Ms. Shrader but also all the other members of the campaign committee and countless volunteers who helped with campaign efforts. Grand Junction High School and Mesa County in general have a brighter future thanks to volunteers like you.

Can Chatfield Elementary School Principal Dave McCall and any students or staff present please join me at the front?

The Colorado Department of Education assigns a rating to each school in the state based on their annual Colorado Measures of Academic Success in performance and growth. Schools have to create plans based on these ratings to either maintain success or work to achieve better scores. In order from top to bottom, the ratings are: Performance Plan, Improvement Plan, Priority Improvement Plan, and Turnaround Plan.

Two years ago, Chatfield Elementary School was placed on a Turnaround Plan. With a pause in CMAS testing and state ratings in 2020, Chatfield had two years to work on turning around their academic performance. Through thoughtful planning, goal setting, research, and action, Chatfield jumped all the way from a Turnaround Plan to a Performance Plan in 2021! This is the first time that they have been on a Performance Plan in eight years.

This accomplishment is a celebration for Mr. McCall and his staff, his students, and their families. The Board of Education and Dr. Sirko would like to recognize Mr. McCall and the entire Chatfield community for their commitment to academics and a belief that all students can learn. Congratulations, Chatfield Elementary!

Can Palisade High School Band Director Jeff Mason (and any students who may be here from the Palisade High School Marching Band) please join me at the front?

Under Mr. Mason's leadership, the Palisade High School Marching Band placed third last week in the final round of the Class 3A State Marching Band Festival in Pueblo. Palisade's marching band has a long history of excellence: PHS has placed in the top three bands in the state in Class 3A every year that the state festival has taken place since 2012.

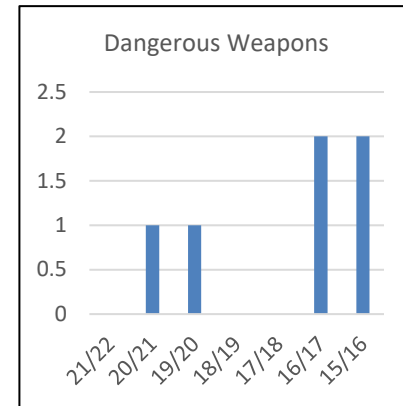
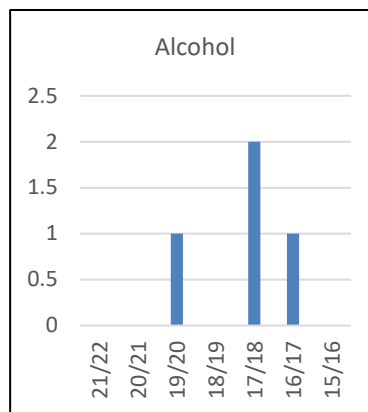
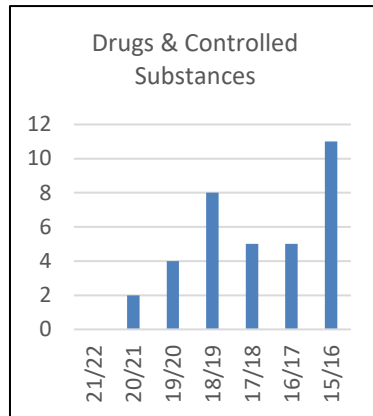
Palisade earned its ticket to state by placing first in Class 3A at last month's Western Slope State Marching Band Qualifier at Stocker Stadium. Palisade's marching band earned a score of 73.3 in the semifinal round of the Class 3A state competition, then earned an even higher score of 76.15 in the final round of the competition.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Sirko would like to congratulate the entire Palisade High School Marching Band for a successful year, and recognize the hard work Mr. Mason and his students put into this outstanding achievement!

Category	High School				Middle School				Elementary School				Total		Total for previous years as of October 31 of:					
	21/22		20/21		21/22		20/21		21/22		20/21		21/22	20/21	19/20	18/19	17/18	16/17	15/16	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F								
100			1	1										2	4	8	5	5	11	
200															1		2	1		
300																				
400	3	1	3		1	7								12	3	3	1	1	1	
500	1		1		1										1			2	2	
600																				
700																				
DSP																				
VOO			2												2	2		1		
Total	4	1	7	1	2	7								14	8	11	11	8	9	14

Category Description

- 100 - drug or controlled substance
- 200 - alcohol
- 300 - tobacco
- 400 - felony assault
- 500 - dangerous weapons
- 600 - robbery
- 700 - other felonies
- DSP - destruction / defacement of school property
- V00 - other violations





November 2021 Communications Report

Press Coverage

Advertising

Newsletters

Board Briefs

Social Media

Oct. 12, 2021-Nov. 3, 2021

Press Coverage

KKCO/KJCT

- Oct. 12 - [Slap a staff member: Tik Tok challenge for October](#)
- Oct. 14 - [West Middle hosts annual Rock-a-Thon](#)
- Oct. 14 - [Board of Education to host coffee event](#)
- Oct. 15 - [School board forum held for District C](#)
- Oct. 15 - [D51 to hold Career Fair on Saturday](#)
- Oct. 18 - [Kari Sholtes chosen as new board member](#)
- Oct. 19 - [D51 Foundation fundraiser at Dillard's](#)
- Oct. 19 - [D51 Finance Award](#)
- Oct. 21 - [Marching bands to compete at Stocker](#)
- Oct. 21 - [Marching bands return to Stocker Stadium](#)
- Oct. 22 - [Free COVID rapid tests offered to D51 staff, students](#)
- Oct. 25 - [County signs contract for D51 property](#)
- Oct. 26 - [Chatfield advances performance](#)
- Oct. 27 - [FMHS senior fights pink tax](#)
- Oct. 29 - [CHS hosts Trick or Treat Street](#)
- Oct. 29 - [D51 schools host Halloween activities](#)
- Oct. 29 - [Candidate accused of criminal past](#)
- Oct. 31 - [Community members campaign for 4B](#)
- Nov. 2 - [Calendar Committee wants to hear from students](#)
- Nov. 2 - [Ballot issue 4B passes](#)
- Nov. 3 - [Next steps after the passing of 4B](#)

KREX

- Oct. 14 - [New mask mandates for 3 D51 schools](#)
- Oct. 15 - [D51 wants to fill 60 jobs during Career Fair](#)
- Oct. 15 - [School Board forum held for District C](#)
- Oct. 21 - [Colorado Free Application Days](#)
- Oct. 21 - [CBA State Marching Band Qualifier](#)
- Oct. 22 - [Dillard's donates to D51 Foundation](#)
- Oct. 23 - [Volunteers support Measure 4B](#)
- Oct. 27 - [Fruita student makes products accessible](#)
- Oct. 29 - [Halloween activities at D51 schools](#)
- Nov. 2 - [Voters approve bond measure for GJHS](#)
- Nov. 3 - [Golden Apple: Josh King](#)



Sentinel

- Oct. 12 - [3 D51 schools masking due to COVID](#)
- Oct. 13 - [Three candidates vying for District C school board seat](#)
- Oct. 14 - [Two candidates vying for District D seat](#)
- Oct. 15 - [Two candidates vying for District E seat](#)
- Oct. 15 - [School Board schedules vacancy decision for Monday](#)
- Oct. 15 - [Charter schools change applications in response to civil rights complaints](#)
- Oct. 15 - [Deal to keep OM Pool open to continue, long-term outlook unknown](#)
- Oct. 17 - [Column: Sharing D51 Successes](#)
- Oct. 18 - [GJHS hosts final tour as voting begins](#)
- Oct. 19 - [School Board selects Kari Sholtes to fill vacancy](#)
- Oct. 21 - [Sholtes sworn in; D51 finance award](#)
- Oct. 21 - [School board race tops \\$125k](#)
- Oct. 22 - [Local bands celebrate qualifying for state marching band competition](#)
- Oct. 24 - [GJHS bond supporters cautiously optimistic in home stretch](#)
- Oct. 24 - [Column: Listening to our Better Angels](#)
- Oct. 24 - [Column: A chance for a do-over](#)
- Oct. 26 - [MVEA endorses school board candidates](#)
- Oct. 28 - [Fruita senior dispenses with taboo](#)
- Oct. 28 - [Will Jones responds to social media posts](#)
- Nov. 2 - [GJHS bond draws overwhelming support](#)
- Nov. 2 - [Editorial: New high school a decisive win](#)
- Nov. 2 - [Update: Hartz, Jones, Lema take lead in school board race](#)
- Nov. 3 - [Totals solidify wins for conservatives](#)

Advertising

Summary

Between mid-September and mid-October, our advertising included:

- Sentinel ad on Oct. 17 (pictured at right).
- KREX Golden Apple award and banner ads.
- Continued job openings ads on billboards and Local Focus Digital screens around town.
- Welcome Home Grand Valley info and materials delivered to 100 new homeowners monthly.
- Continued Mesa Mall directory ad advertising CTE and academic options.
- Continued PR and news release postings at d51schools.org/news

Have Coffee with the School Board!

Saturday, Oct. 23

9 a.m.

Room 222

Colorado Mesa University
Center



School District 51
MESA COUNTY VALLEY

Newsletters



School District 51 Family and Community Newsletter | October 2021



CMAS growth outpaces state
Being the largest school district to remain in person last year appears to have had a huge impact on student learning in District 51. Students in D51 grew at a much higher rate in their CMAS scores from 2019 to 2021 than the state average. [Click here to see how much growth students have made.](#)



New School Board member
This Tuesday, Kari Sholtes was sworn in as the Director District B representative on the Board of Education. She replaces Paul Pitton on the board, who resigned last month. [Learn more about the board's newest member here.](#)



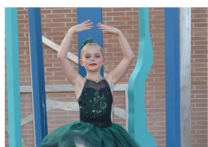
Have Coffee with the Board
Join the District 51 Board of Education for a [Board Coffee](#) event at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, in Room 222 at the Colorado Mesa University Center! This is an informal gathering for residents of District 51 to chat with members of the D51 School Board.



MESA Milk Jug Contest
D51 middle school students raced across the Orchard Mesa Pool with rafts they made out of milk jugs in MESA Club's annual Milk Jug Competition on Oct. 7. MESA, which stands for Math, Engineering, Science Achievement, gives students the chance to compete monthly in hands-on STEM challenges.

Data Dashboard

Keep up to date on active and new student and staff COVID-19 cases by visiting the [D51 Data Dashboard](#). The dashboard is updated every school day with the previous school day's data.



Gift of the Dance

District 51 has its first-ever Gifted Student in the Area of Dance, Bookcliff Middle School sixth-grader Kaitlynn Olds! Colorado students can be classified as gifted in seven specific talent aptitudes, including dance. [Learn more about gifted education here](#), and read more about Kaitlynn's story [here](#).



Twenty-three years of excellence

D51 just received the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 23rd straight year! [Learn more about this honor here.](#)

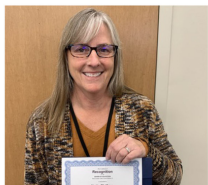


Congrats, D51 Athletes!

Congratulations to the following All-Conference athletes:

[Boys SWL All Conference Tennis](#)

[Boys SWL All Conference Golf](#)



National School Nurse Honors

District 51's incoming nursing coordinator, Katie McKew, is now a [Nationally Certified School Nurse](#)! The certificate can be earned by people with 1,000 or more hours of experience as a school nurse who pass a four-hour exam.



Running for a cause

District 51 had its own team at the [Men in Heels Race](#) Oct. 14! Pictured above, left to right, are former CMU President and GJHS alumnus Tim Foster, St. Mary's VP and GJHS alumnus Dan Prinster, GJHS teacher Justin Whiteford, Assistant Superintendent Brian Hill, GJHS Assistant Principal Jared Burek, and School Board President Tom Parrish.

Important Dates

Oct. 23 - School Board Coffee, 9 a.m. Room 222 at the Colorado Mesa University Center.

Nov. 13 - School Board Coffee, 9 a.m., Room 222 at the Colorado Mesa University Center.

Nov. 22-26 - Thanksgiving Break, No school.

Nov. 29 - Middle School In-Service, Elementary Planning, High Schools in session.



D51 Foundation Update

Shop at the new Dillard's location in Grand Junction between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. this Friday to support the D51 Foundation! A portion of all sales at our local Dillard's this Friday will go to the foundation to support our mission. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Colorado Free Application Days

All Colorado residents can apply free of charge today to any public institution of higher education in the state, plus some private ones, as part of Colorado Free Application Days. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Marching Band State Qualifier

Congratulations to our D51 marching bands, who each qualified for the state marching band competition today at the Colorado Bandmasters Association State Qualifier at Stocker Stadium! Central, Fruita Monument, and Grand Junction high schools will compete in the Class 4A/5A CBA State Marching Band Festival on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 29-30, at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and Palisade will compete with Class 1A-3A bands on Monday, Nov. 1, at Colorado State University at Pueblo.

October Family and Community Newsletter

October Staff Newsletter



School District 51 Staff Newsletter | October 2021

Thank you!

Through it all you have endured and done more than we could ask of you! Because of you, all of you, our D51 students surpassed the state average in growth in their CMAS testing. Give yourselves a pat on the back, because of you our students excelled!

[Click here to see how much growth students have made.](#)

October Board Briefs

Board Meeting Livestreams

The semi-monthly board meetings will continue to be livestreamed, now on Vimeo. This option is more accessible for viewers, as an account is not required to watch the livestream. Livestreams and recordings will be available at <https://vimeo.com/mcvsd51>.

Want more D51 news?

[Click here to sign up](#) for the monthly Community Newsletter to hear about MORE great things happening in District 51.



D51 Staff Concern Line

D51 employees can report concerns anonymously through the new D51 Staff Concern Line. Report concerns about things like workplace conditions, inequitable treatment, board policy violation, etc.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Open Benefits Enrollment for 2022

Reminder! Complete your benefit elections before November 5th! These will take effect on January 1st. The new Benefits [platform](#) has been launched so be sure to participate even if you are not making changes - double check your current elections and update any necessary benefit-related information. Your current elections will carry forward into the new plan year *except for Flexible Spending Account and Dependent Care Account elections.*

Check your email for detailed information.

Men in Heels!



The 2021 Men in Heels Race came back Higher and Faster this year at the Grand Junction Regional Airport. Tim Foster, Dan Prinster, Justin Whiteford, Brian Hill, Jared Burek and Tom Parrish joined forces to help support the fundraiser. This was a fun way to raise awareness and funds for the Latimer House and the very serious issue of domestic violence and sexual assault. This team was a sight to see as they ran across the finish line and gave it their all! For information on how to support Latimer House click [here](#).



D51 Foundation Update

Grand Opening Celebration

Dillard's In-Store shopping event!

Discover the Dillard's difference as you shop for fashion, beauty, accessories, home products and so much more. Help us raise funds for academic growth and achievement that will benefit kids and community. A portion of sales on Friday, October, 22 (11 am - 8pm) will benefit D51 School District Foundation.

D51 Sports in Action!



We want to give a huge shout-out to our local athletes who are conference or state. GJHS men's tennis team sent 9 students to state, CHS/ PHS tennis team sent 4 students to state, CHS Softball team is currently playing in the state tournament, PHS, GJHS, and FMHS all sent golf students to state. And all of our local schools have students on all-conference teams. This is no small feat to be a student-athlete and we applaud them and the support that you give your students to make this happen!

Grand Junction Lions Grants

Do you know of a club or organization in school that needs funding? Maybe new computers or instruments or something else? The Grand Junction Lions Club has extended its grant application deadline to October 29! This is a great opportunity to receive funding! [Apply today!](#)



Behavioral Health Services available to staff

D51 staff on the CHP plan can access therapists through Community Hospital's Behavioral Health office, with appointments available Monday-Friday. [Click here for more information.](#)

Board Briefs

Oct. 19 Business Meeting

Social Media Report

Available upon request.



Mesa County Valley School District 51
Licensed and Administrative Personnel Action

Board of Education Resolution: 21/22: 30

Adopted: November 9, 2021

Name	Location	Assignment	Effective Date
Retirements			
None at this time.			
Resignations/Termination			
COLLISON, OLIVIA M	GRAND MESA	8TH GR LANGUAGE ARTS	11/5/2021
DRUCE, MACKENZIE LAUREN	MESA VIEW	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	11/5/2021
GARCIA, RACHEL L	GRAND MESA	6TH GR SCIENCE	11/5/2021
HAYNES, KATHERINE W-M	FRUITA MS	7TH GR MATH	12/17/2021
MAXWELL, ROGER L	EAST	TECH ED/INDUSTRIAL ARTS	11/19/2021
WILLIAMSON, BRADLEY S	NISLEY	COUNSELOR	10/27/2021
Leave of Absence			
None at this time.			
New Assignments (Transfer/New Hires)			
CARLSON, COURTNEY LYNNE	GRAND MESA	6TH GR SCIENCE	11/1/2021
EARLY, JORDIN L	GRAND MESA	SPED - SNB	10/11/2021
GATES, SONIA R	SPED	SPECIAL EDUCATION	11/15/2021
MCCLURE, KELSEY L	BTK	SPECIAL EDUCATION	11/15/2021
RISNER, MAIRI A	MT GARFIELD	SOCIAL WORKER	10/18/2021
SAWYER, HEATHER MARIE	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	SPED - MODERATE NEEDS	11/1/2021
SCHAPER, KIMBERLY TERESA	CHATFIELD	CLD - ELEMENTARY	10/18/2021
WARING, PAUL R	GJHS	SCIENCE	11/4/2021
Return from Leave			
None at this time.			

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 November 9, 2021.

 Bridget Story, Secretary
 Board of Education

Board of Education Resolution: 20/21: 29

Adopted: November 9, 2021

Donor	Alpine Bank
Gift	Cash
Value	\$3,000.00
School/Department	Clifton Elementary School / Family Center

Donor	Ciara's Cantina
Gift	Dinner for one-hundred
Value	\$600.00
School/Department	R-5 High School / Golf Tournament Dinner

Donor	GJ Golf
Gift	Driver, golf bag, sunglasses and gift cards
Value	\$1,770.00
School/Department	R-5 High School /Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Donor	The Gear Junction
Gift	Cash
Value	\$450.00
School/Department	Orchard Mesa Middle School / OWL scholarships for students

Donor	Meredith Weidner
Gift	Cash
Value	\$500.00
School/Department	Orchard Mesa Middle School / OWL scholarships for students

Donor	Krissy Dewitt
Gift	Cash
Value	\$380.00
School/Department	Orchard Mesa Middle School / OWL scholarships for students

Donor	Hill People Gear
Gift	Hip Pack
Value	\$125.00
School/Department	Orchard Mesa Middle School / OWL to transport medical products

Donor	Loki Outdoor Shop
Gift	Cash
Value	\$125.00
School/Department	Orchard Mesa Middle School / OWL scholarships for students

Donor	Wild Birds Unlimited
Gift	Cash
Value	\$50.00
School/Department	Orchard Mesa Middle School / OWL scholarships for students

Board of Education Resolution: 20/21: 29

Adopted: November 9, 2021

Donor	Various Donors at Downtown Art Festival
Gift	Cash
Value	\$45.00
School/Department	Art Heritage Program / Elementary Schools

Donor	Susan Mathews
Gift	Cash
Value	\$1,000.00
School/Department	Outdoor Wilderness Lab / Miscellaneous supplies

Donor	Western Colorado Community Foundation / Dorothy Ross Fund
Gift	Cash
Value	\$10,000.00
School/Department	Prevention Services / Regulation Station Pilot Program

Donor	Western Colorado Community Foundation / Mesa County Small Grants Foundation
Gift	Cash
Value	\$2,836.00
School/Department	Broadway Elementary School / Playground activity equipment, rainy day games & storage

Donor	Linda Gardiner
Gift	Cash
Value	\$100.00
School/Department	Palisade High School / Friends of Choral Music

Donor	Kristy Green
Gift	Wood lathe
Value	\$300.00
School/Department	Palisade High School / Shop classes

Donor	Robinson & Co Realty LLC
Gift	Cash
Value	\$2,500.00
School/Department	Fruita Monument High School / Future Farmers of America Program

Donor	Jim Bollinger
Gift	Lumber
Value	\$7,200.00
School/Department	Palisade High School / Word working classes

Donor	Blythe Group & Co
Gift	Twenty \$50 gift cards
Value	\$1,000.00
School/Department	Appleton Elementary School / Families in need

Board of Education Resolution: 20/21: 29

Adopted: November 9, 2021

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education, in accepting the donations listed above, extends their appreciation and acknowledges these important partnerships within the community which support learning for all students.

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on November 9, 2021.

*Bridget Story
Secretary, Board of Education*

Resolution to Terminate Easement

Board of Education Resolution 20/21: 31

Tabled: November 9, 2021

WHEREAS, the District has been asked by a property owner to abandon/terminate an easement the District owns that runs across the owner's land and which has been used by students going to and coming from Scenic Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the Easement was created by written instrument dated April 9, 1985, and recorded April 19, 1985 in Book 1536 at Page 259 of the records of Mesa County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the County has built and improved sidewalks in the area and the easement is no longer used by students to get to Scenic Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult and expensive for the District to adequately maintain and repair the easement and it has become overgrown and in disrepair; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined it no longer has a use for the easement; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems the proposed abandonment/termination to be in the best interest of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education declares that the easement described in this resolution is no longer needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the Superintendent to abandon and terminate the District's interest in and to the easement upon terms and conditions reasonably required by the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to take such further steps in conjunction with legal counsel and execute such other documents as may be required to abandon and terminate the easement.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on November 9, 2021.

Bridget Story
Secretary, Board of Education



Approval of Construction Contractor Agreement For Construction Manager/General Contractor- New Grand Junction High School

Board of Education Resolution 21/22: 32

Tabled: November 9, 2021

WHEREAS, the voters of Mesa County approved a bond measure at the November 2, 2021 election to replace Grand Junction High School; and

WHEREAS, in response to a Request for Proposal, two general construction companies submitted sealed proposals for the contract for Construction Manager/General Contractor; and

WHEREAS, a committee made up of District employees and Board members reviewed the proposals and interviewed key representatives of both general contractors about the proposals submitted; and

WHEREAS, the committee recommends that Contractor be the Construction Manager/General Contractor to build Grand Junction High School and recommends to the Board that it select Contractor to be the Construction Manager/General Contractor; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Construction Manager/General Contractor fee is ___% of the Cost of Work; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the proposal, substantial completion of the project is to be achieved the summer of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board accepts the recommendation of the committee and desires for the District to enter into a contract with Contractor in accord with the District’s Request For Proposal and Contractor’s Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that the Superintendent negotiate the final terms of such contract and execute the same on behalf of the District; and

WHEREAS, Colorado law requires that a good and sufficient Labor, Material and Performance Bond be posted on public works construction projects in excess of \$50,000 before any work may proceed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby selects Contractor to be the Construction Manager/General Contractor for the construction of Grand Junction High School according to the terms of the Request For Proposal and Contractor’s Proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate the details of the contract with Contractor in accordance with the general terms of the Request For Proposal and the Proposal, and then to execute the Contract once acceptable to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Counsel be and is hereby authorized to review the Labor, Material and Performance Bond when the same is submitted by the contractor and, if found to be in conformity with the requirements of law and Board Policy, approve the same on behalf of the Board and authorize the commencement of work on the Project.

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education November 9, 2021.

*Bridget Story
Secretary, Board of Education*



Approval for Purchase of Real Estate For Parking at DIA

Board of Education Resolution 20/21: 33

Adopted: November 9, 2021

WHEREAS, the District has been leasing two lots located at 542 West Main Street and 552 West Main Street, Grand Junction, Colorado, from the Riverside Task Force to use for parking at Dual Immersion Academy; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the parcels, Riverside Task Force, desires to sell the lots, and

WHEREAS, an appraisal was obtained to determine the value of the lots; and

WHEREAS, the District’s administration received an offer from Riverside Task Force that it will sell the lots to the District for the appraised value of \$60,000 each, for a total purchase price of \$120,000; and

WHEREAS, the offer to sell the two lots is contingent upon the negotiation, acceptance and execution of a written agreement by and between the District and Riverside Task Force for the use by Riverside Task Force of the Riverside School Building at such times as it is not in use by Dual Immersion Academy or Riverside Education Center (after-school tutoring program); and

WHEREAS, the written agreement for use of the Riverside School Building has not yet been finalized; and

WHEREAS, funds for the purchase of the Lots are available in the Capital Projects Building Fund, to be reimbursed, at the discretion of the Board of Education, from funds deposited in the School Site Development Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education approves the purchase of the Lots as outlined in this Resolution, contingent upon the negotiation, acceptance and execution of the written agreement for use of the Riverside School Building by Riverside Task Force on terms and conditions acceptable to the Superintendent; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the District’s General Counsel and the Superintendent to take such further steps and execute such other documents as are necessary and appropriate to close the purchase transaction and enter into the agreement to use the Riverside School Building.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the administration is authorized and directed to treat the purchase as an expenditure from the Capital Projects Building Fund to be reimbursed, at the discretion of the Board of Education, from funds disbursed from the various county and municipal school site development funds, as the same become available to the District.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on November 9, 2021.

Bridget Story
Secretary, Board of Education



Resolution to Negotiate a Contract for the Sale of Property Located at 450 Wildwood Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado

Board of Education Resolution 21/22: 34

Tabled: November 9, 2021

WHEREAS, the District received a written offer from COOR-B Farms, LLC (“Buyer”) for Buyer to purchase from the District the parcel of property located at 450 Wildwood Drive, Grand Junction, CO. 81507 (“Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has been briefed by the District’s lawyer concerning the terms and conditions of the offer and about the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the Property will not be used by the District in the foreseeable future and, as such, is surplus property not needed by the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to sell the property to the Buyer along the general terms stated in the offer; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate terms of the sale with the Buyer and, if terms can be agreed to by and between the Buyer and the Superintendent, enter into a contract for the sale of the Property to the Buyer; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems the proposed sale to be in the best interest of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education declares the Property located at 450 Wildwood Drive, Grand Junction, CO. 81507 to be surplus property not needed within the foreseeable future for any purpose authorized by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the Superintendent to negotiate, enter into and execute a contract with Buyer for Buyer to purchase the Property at a price equal to or better than the offered price and upon other terms and conditions as reasonably required by the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to take such further steps in conjunction with legal counsel and execute such other documents as may be required to close the transaction.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on November 9, 2021.

Bridget Story
Secretary, Board of Education

Board of Education Resolution 20/21: 35

Adopted: November 9, 2021

WHEREAS, the Hawthorne building is no longer suitable as a location for staff, students and parents; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to consolidate some of the staff at Basil T. Knight with staff from Hawthorne in one location; and

WHEREAS, the District has located a leasehold space in the Compass Building located at 2768 Compass Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81506 that is available and suitable for lease by the District to locate employees from Hawthorne and Basil T. Knight; and

WHEREAS, the Owner of the Compass building has offered to lease the office leasehold space to the District at the rate of \$14 per square foot gross, which rate and terms are at or below market lease rates in Grand Junction; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to occupy such space beginning on or before January 1, 2022, or at such time as certain tenant improvements are completed by the owner; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a lease upon terms and conditions that are acceptable to the District; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby approves entering into a lease with the owner of the Crossroads Building on terms and conditions acceptable to the District; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate and sign said lease on behalf of the District.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on November 9, 2021.

Bridget Story
Secretary, Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

GBEB

STAFF CONDUCT (AND RESPONSIBILITIES)/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Related: GBEA, GBEA (1), GBEA (1)-E

Adopted as GBEA (2): April 22, 1975

Revised: June 17, 1997

Amended Document Presented/Revised and Renamed: December 13, 2011

Adopted: January 24, 2012

Adopted: December 8, 2015

Adopted: November 9, 2021

Page 1 of 4

Staff Conflicts of Interest

No employee of the District shall engage in or have a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any activity that conflicts or raises a reasonable question of conflict with his/her duties and responsibilities in the school system.

Employees shall not engage in work of any type where information concerning customer, client or employer originates from any information available to them through school sources.

No employee may supervise and/or evaluate an employee that is related to him/her.

Staff Conduct (And Responsibilities)

As representatives of the District and role models for students, all staff shall demonstrate and uphold high professional, ethical and moral standards and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the educational mission of the District. Interactions between staff members must be based on mutual respect, and any conflicts must be resolved in a professional manner. The Superintendent is authorized to develop and promulgate by regulation a code of conduct applicable to all employees that is consistent with this policy. Such code of conduct shall set forth ethical and moral standards for behavior and core principles of professionalism to guide day-to-day staff behavior, interaction and decision-making.

Prohibited Conduct

An employee shall not:

1. Disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of his/her employment to further substantially his/her personal financial interests.
2. Accept a gift in excess of the limit on gifts to public employees stated in Article XXIX Section 3(2) of the Colorado Constitution, which is \$65 effective 2019. The limit is scheduled to change in 2023 and every four years thereafter based upon the rate of inflation in Colorado.
3. Accept a benefit of substantial value which would tend to improperly influence a reasonable person in his/her position or which he/she knows or should know is primarily for the purpose of rewarding him/her for action taken in which he/she exercised discretionary authority. A benefit of substantial value includes a commercial loan at less than market rate or compensation for private services at a rate substantially exceeding market value.
3. Engage in a substantial financial transaction for his/her private business purposes with a person whom he/she supervises.
4. Perform any action in which he/she has discretionary authority which directly and substantially confers an economic benefit on a business or other undertaking in which he/she has a substantial financial interest or in which he/she is engaged as a counsel, consultant, representative or agent.

Permissible Conduct

It is permissible for an employee to receive:

1. An occasional nonpecuniary gift which is insignificant in value.
2. A nonpecuniary award publicly presented by a nonprofit organization in recognition of public service.
3. Payment or reimbursement for actual and necessary expenditures for travel and subsistence for attendance at a convention or other meeting at which he/she is scheduled to participate.
4. Reimbursement for or acceptance of an opportunity to participate in a social function or meeting which is not extraordinary when viewed in light of his/her position.
5. Items of perishable or nonpermanent value including but not limited to meals, lodging, travel expenses or tickets to sporting, recreational, educational or cultural events.
6. Payment for speeches, debates or other public events reported as honorariums.
7. Use school facilities and equipment to communicate or correspond with constituents, family members or business associates on an occasional basis.

Staff Responsibilities

Essential to the success of ongoing school operations and the instructional program are the following specific responsibilities which shall be required of all personnel:

1. Faithfulness and promptness in attendance at work.
2. Support and enforcement of policies of the Board and regulations of the school administration in regard to students.
3. Diligence in submitting required reports promptly at the times specified.
4. Care and protection of school property.
5. Concern and attention toward their own and the school system's legal responsibility for the safety and welfare of students including the need to insure that students are supervised at all times.
6. Maintenance of proper professional boundaries with students at all times.

The superintendent shall develop and promulgate by regulation a non-exclusive list of actions or conduct that are not in keeping with reasonably expected standards of interaction between a staff member and students and that, in the absence of a legitimate educational purpose, may be regarded as a violation of professional boundaries. Failure to maintain or observe professional boundaries with a student or students or engaging in a pattern of conduct with one or more students that is outside proper professional boundaries in violation of this policy shall be grounds for discipline, including dismissal.

Felony/Misdemeanor Convictions

If, subsequent to beginning employment with the District, the District has good cause to believe that any staff member has been convicted of, pled nolo contendere to, or received a deferred or suspended sentence for any felony or misdemeanor

other than a misdemeanor traffic offense or infraction, the District shall make inquiries to the Department of Education for purposes of screening the employee.

In addition, the District shall require the employee to submit a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency or other designated entity. Fingerprints must be submitted within 20 days after receipt of written notification. The fingerprints shall be forwarded to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of conducting a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history record check utilizing the records of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Disciplinary action, which could include dismissal from employment, may be taken against personnel if the results of fingerprint processing provide relevant information. Non-licensed employees shall be dismissed from employment if the results of the fingerprint-based criminal history record check disclose a conviction for certain felonies, as provided in law.

Employees shall not be charged fees for processing fingerprints under these circumstances.

Child Abuse

All District employees who have reasonable cause to know or suspect that any child is subjected to abuse or to conditions that might result in abuse or neglect must immediately upon receiving such information report such fact in accordance with Board policy and state law.

The superintendent is authorized to conduct an internal investigation or to take any other necessary steps if he receives information from a county department of social services or a law enforcement agency that a suspected child abuse perpetrator is a District employee. Such information shall remain confidential except that the superintendent shall notify the Colorado Department of Education of the child abuse investigation.

Unlawful Behavior Involving Children

The Board may make an inquiry with the Department of Education concerning whether any current employee of the District has been convicted of, pled nolo contendere to, or received a deferred or suspended sentence or deferred prosecution for a felony or misdemeanor crime involving unlawful sexual behavior or unlawful behavior involving children. Disciplinary action, including termination, may be taken if the inquiry discloses information relevant to the employee's fitness for employment.

Personnel addressing health care treatment for behavior issues

School personnel are prohibited under state law from recommending or requiring the use of psychotropic drugs for students. School personnel are also prohibited from testing or requiring testing for a student's behavior without giving notice to the parent/guardian describing the recommended testing and how any test results will be used. Prior to the conducting any such testing, school personnel shall obtain written permission from the parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with applicable law. School personnel are encouraged to discuss concerns about a student's behavior with parent/guardian and such discussions may include a suggestion that the parent/guardian speak with an appropriate health care professional regarding any behavior concerns school personnel may have. Only those persons appropriately certified or licensed may expose a student to any psychiatric or psychological method or procedure for the purpose of diagnosis, assessment or treatment of any emotional, behavioral or mental disorder or disability. Such methods or procedures may only be performed after acquiring written permission from a student's parent or guardian, or from the student in those circumstances in which federal or state law allows the student to obtain such services in confidence or without prior notice to the parent/guardian.

Possession of Dangerous Weapons

The provisions of the policy regarding public possession of dangerous weapons on school property or in school buildings also shall apply to employees of the District. However, the restrictions shall not apply to employees who are required to carry or use dangerous weapons in order to perform their necessary duties and functions.

- Legal References:
- C.R.S. 18-12-105.5 (unlawful carrying/possession of weapons on school grounds)
 - C.R.S. 18-12-214 (3) (b) (school security officers may carry concealed handgun pursuant to valid permit)
 - C.R.S. 19-3-308 (5.7) (child abuse reporting)
 - C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1) (ee) (duty to adopt policy prohibiting personnel from recommending certain drugs for students or ordering behavior tests without parent permission)
 - C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (8) (policy requiring inquiries upon good cause to department of education for purpose of ongoing screening of employees)
 - C.R.S. 22-32-109.7 (duty to make inquiries prior to hiring)
 - C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (6) (requirement to terminate non-licensed employees for certain felony offenses)
 - C.R.S. 22-32-109.9 (licensed personnel-submittal of fingerprints)
 - C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1) (k) (power to adopt conduct rules)
 - C.R.S. 24-18-104 (government employee rules of conduct)
 - C.R.S. 24-18-109 (local government employee rules of conduct)
 - Article XXIX Section 3(2) Colorado Constitution
- Cross Reference:
- JLC, Student Health Services and Records
 - JLDAC, Testing of Students
 - JLF, Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection
 - KFA, Public Conduct on District Property

Mesa County Valley School District 51

FG

ACQUISITION OF LAND

Adopted: November 9, 2021

All contracts for the acquisition of land for use by the District shall be approved by resolution of the Board of Education after consultation and review by the District's General Counsel. Each such contract shall include terms which provide for specific conditions to be satisfied prior to the actual closing of, payment for and title transfer to the land. At minimum, these conditions shall include the following:

- Zoning for the land that is suitable for the intended use of the land by the District.
- Legal access (ingress and egress) to the land that is suitable for the intended use by the District
- The reasonable availability of all necessary utilities to the land
- Appraisal of the land showing that the current value of the land is approximately equal to or less than the price to be paid by the District pursuant to the contract; provided that the Board may approve a purchase price that is higher than the appraised value after considering other relevant factors such as the location, size, and need for the land, in the Board's sole discretion.
- Appropriate soils and environmental testing of the land showing the geotechnical and environmental conditions of the land to enable the Board to make reasonable decisions concerning the suitability of the land for the District's intended use.
- The District will receive good and marketable title to the land as shown by a title insurance commitment that is acceptable to the District's General Counsel.

All contracts for the acquisition of land by the District shall be in compliance with the laws of the state of Colorado. The contract form used shall be a current Colorado Real Estate Commission approved contract form or other format approved by the District's General Counsel.

Prior to the actual closing of the contract, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall report to the Board regarding the satisfaction, or the ability to satisfy, the conditions of the contract on or before closing.