

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Business Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

Board Business Meeting Minutes

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

Board of Education
Mesa County Valley School District 51
Business Meeting Minutes: February 21, 2023
Adopted: March 28, 2023

	A	B	C	D	E	AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present	x	x	x	x	x	BUSINESS MEETING	5:00 p.m.
Absent						A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL	
Motion				x		B. AGENDA APPROVAL	Approved as Amended
Second					x	➤ Motion to amend the agenda to delete agenda item G-1. Resource Conservation and Electric Vehicle Busing	
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion					x	C. MEETING MINUTES AND SUMMARY APPROVAL	Adopted
Second		x				C-1. December 19, 2022 Board Special Meeting Minutes	
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	C-2. January 3, 2023 Board Work Session Minutes	
No						C-3. January 11, 2023 Board Special Meeting Minutes	
						C-4. January 17, 2023 Board Business Meeting Minutes	
						D. RECOGNITIONS	
						D-1. Colorado Music Educator Association Hall of Fame Inductee, Ms. Amber Campbell [Resolution: 22/23: 61]	
						➤ Mr. Jones requested Ms. Amber Campbell, a retired orchestra teacher, to come to the front of the room. Ms. Campbell was recently inducted into the Colorado Music Educator Association Hall of Fame. She spent over thirty years with the District teaching orchestra at Central High School and Bookcliff Middle School.	
						➤ The Board and Superintendent Hill congratulated Ms. Campbell for earning this prestigious award and thanked her for her years of service with the District and her dedication to her students.	
						D-2. American Culinary Federation Certification, Career Center Culinary Program [Resolution: 22/23: 62]	
						➤ Ms. Lema invited Chef Christina Horn and any Career Center students present to come to the front of the room. Chef Horn and the Career Center Culinary team recently received accreditation from the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission. The Career Center Culinary Program is the first Colorado secondary school program to earn the accreditation.	
						➤ The Board and Superintendent Hill congratulated and thanked Chef Horn and her team for their hard work and congratulated them, for earning this accreditation.	
						D-3. Colorado High School Athletic Association Legislative Council Appointed Representative, Mr. Will Jones [Resolution: 22/23: 63]	
						➤ Mr. Levinson asked the Board's Vice President, Mr. Jones, to join him at the front of the room. Mr. Levinson read the recognition to acknowledge Mr. Jones' appointment to the Colorado High School Activities Association Legislative Council. Mr. Jones will be representing the Colorado Association of School Board's regions seven, eight and ten, and will serve for a three year period.	

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| <p>E. BOARD REPORTS</p> <p>E-1. Good Things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Jones noted a lot of District 51 wrestlers attended the State Wrestling Championship Tournament this past weekend, and basketball playoffs will start soon. ➤ Ms. Lema reported construction of the new Grand Junction High School is moving along on track. <p>E-2. Committee/Activity Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ None at this time. <p>F. D51 HAPPENINGS AND CELEBRATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moved to a later meeting <p>G. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT</p> <p>G-1. Resource Conservation and Electric Vehicle Busing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moved to a later meeting <p>G-2. School Based Health Center Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Jones reported on meeting with Marillac and looking at different ideas for a School Based Health Center (SBHC) at Grand Junction High School. ➤ Mrs. Haitz mentioned one suggestion was to have the health center outside of the main building, but still within close proximity of the school. She noted this was not something Marillac felt would work. ➤ Dr. Sholtes questioned the safety of having students leave the main building to receive services. <p>Audience Comments Regarding School Based Health Centers (SBHC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rosa Gardner, 81501
Ms. Gardner, a health care provider at the SBHC at Central High School shared the Center's mission is to keep students in school and improve access to health care, so students can be the best learners possible. She was asked to speak on behalf of others who did not have the resources to attend tonight. She shared stories on how the Center was able to help a student get her needed medication following the student's psychologist moving and getting help for another student with a stomach disorder. She reported in both cases parents were involved and grateful for the help. She read the law around minor consent noting the Center abides by the law and always encourages parental involvement. She believes the Center is a great resource for D51. ➤ Connie McDowell, 81504
Ms. McDowell, a registered nurse for thirty years, believes health care should be fostered between a doctor, parent(s) and the student. She believes a SBHC would diminish or by pass the primary care physician and it is vital to preserve the child doctor relationship. She noted the majority of pediatric offices accept most private insurances. ➤ Linda Arros, 81501
Ms. Arros reported on sending an email to Board members expressing her opposition to a SBHC. She would like the Board to look at other alternatives. ➤ Mr. Tom Keenan, 81526 | |
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Mr. Keenan shared he has thirty years of classroom experience. He questioned how much money will be spent on a SBHC. He believes District funding and school space should go to classrooms and library needs. He does not feel school principals should be tasked with or have the knowledge to monitor a SBHC. He reported hearing conflicting data from Marillac regarding the number of treatments obtained by students without parental consent and never seeing significant data showing educational improvements of students in a school with a SBHC.

- Anna Elliott, 81504
Ms. Elliott quoted language for the 2021 ballot for construction of the new Grand Junction High School. She read the Webster dictionary definition of sole, high school and project. She noted the ballot language did not list language regarding a SBHC. She does not believe a SBHC should be allowed at Grand Junction High School since it was not approved by the voters. She also quoted from a letter sent from the District to parents dated February 10, 2023, regarding student enrollment decline.
- Janet Drummond, 81507
Ms. Drummond read a portion of a January 22, 2023, Daily Sentinel article regarding the proposed SBHC at Grand Junction High School. The article noted the SBHC was listed as an add-on with no additional cost to the project. She reported the SBHC was included in the original design, meaning it was already in the works. She believes former Board member, Dr. Amy Davis, pushed for the center due to her relations with Marillac. She noted the bond was supported by Mesa County across the spectrum, with the understanding to build a school and nothing else. She is concerned about the lack of parental consent, medications prescribed and abortions, even though Marillac does not perform abortions.
- Reina Kyzo, 81504
Ms. Kyzo stated she is against SBHCs in schools.
- Jay Hosburgh, 81526
Mr. Hosburgh has been a resident for thirty years and has never had children or grandchildren within the District. Mr. Hosburgh is a tax payer and he expects to see value from his tax dollar. He feels tax money should only be used for basic education. He read off reasons behind the need for a new Grand Junction High School such as safety, security, foundation problems, and documented maintenance and mechanical issues. After reading the ballot language, he voted in favor of replacing the school. He believes transparency was lacking, under the previous Board and District administration, with no previous mention of a health center being a part of the new school. He is concerned that some services a SBHC could provide would be defined as indoctrination. He believes the District is setting a precedent for the future, by allowing the health center. He believes citizens feel betrayed and it will become harder to pass a bond.
- Kenya Contreras, 81504
Kenya is a senior attending Central High School. She reported the Warrior Wellness Center provides resources such as access to a primary care physician and a dentist and is a cheaper option for all students. She reported students must submit a parental permission slip before receiving services, and all SBHC in Colorado are legally required to provide reproductive services

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- She spoke on how fortunate she was to have free help, from a therapist, at the Center when battling depression. She believes without the help of the therapist she would have never been the first District 51 CHSAA sanctioned regional wrestling champion. She feels the Center treats students as people.
- Karami Lyle, 81501
 Karami, a Central High School junior, was present to speak on behalf of the SBHC at Central High School. She question why the District would take the Center away from those who need it. She reported since 2000 suicide rates have increased by thirty percent, but since the opening of the center at Central High School, there has not been one suicide. She noted the school counselors are amazing, but they are not therapists. She believe the access to counseling will help hundreds if not thousands of students. She spoke on how the Center has helped her manage her anxiety and seizures and how her parents have been involved and appreciate the help she has received. She is worried suicide rates could increase with the closure of the Center. She believes the students at Grand Junction High School should have the same benefits offered at Central High School.
 - Naya Horton, 81501
 Naya, a Central High School student, reported on speaking with the Board previously about the medical help she has received at the SBHC at Central High School. She reported her parents have been involved in every step, since parental consent is required to even obtain ibuprofen. She has heard others speak of fearing the types of procedures conducted at a SBHC and she listed off the types of services parents can select for their students, such as health diagnosis, illness and injury treatment, sports physicals, substance abuse screenings and treatment, and counseling. She questioned if people want students missing a half day of school or receive the services right at school. She noted, people need to focus on the needs of others, and just because it does not work for them, it may works for others.
 - Bryce Davis, 81504
 Bryce, a junior at Central High School believes SBHCs play a critical role in the overall wellness of the school and Warrior Wellness Center has been a tremendous asset. He believes the Center has helped student have higher attendance and higher grades. He shared data from a University of Michigan study and other publications on the benefits of SBHCs, noting SBHCs are particularly effective for low income students and those from rural areas. He noted the Nation Opinion Research Center showed students in rural areas are more likely to receive preventative care with SBHCs. He knows some people think school should focus on education only, but he feels SBHC are a benefit to students and he reiterated Marillac requires parent involvement and offers health benefits for the entire school community.
 - Jim Watson, 81506
 Mr. Watson, the grandfather of two students who attend Grand Junction High School, reported he sent a letter, several weeks ago, in opposition of a SBHC. He is concerned about parents being left out of the process. He would not allow anyone to have access to his children without checking credentials. He asked if the SBHC or the parents would be responsible for long term care for a student who receives a COVID shot at a SBHC, without parental consent, and the student has a reaction to the shot. He reported on Pacific Gas of

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- California being responsible for the Paradise Fire, four years ago, which caused fifty seven deaths.
- Lori Plantiko, 81501
 Ms. Plantiko, a school counselor, share information on several different scenarios necessitating the services of the SBHC, such as homeless students, a student living with a brother who does not have guardianship, a student whose parents cannot take off work or a student who would rather die than ask their parents about mental health services. She shared a student with a sore throat can get a throat culture in minutes at the SBHC rather than miss a half a day of school to go to a physician's office.
 - Justin Whiteford, 81501
 Mr. Whiteford, a Grand Junction High School teacher, spoke on the school staff utilizing the services of a SBHC as well as students. He noted the Board could set the tone and guidelines for the health center and he requested they approve a SBHC at Grand Junction High School.
 - Ileana Perkins, 81501
 Ileana, a Grand Junction High School tenth grader believes a SBHC is needed and would be a benefit. She noted there are a lot of students who need physicals and emotional help.
 - Dr. Michael Pramenko, 81505
 Dr. Pramenko, Chief Medical Officer for Monument Health, Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care Partners, the parent of two Grand Junction High School graduates and parent of a current student at Grand Junction High School, spoke in support of a SBHC. He believes the center will offer high medical care and reduce medical costs. He reported primary care physicians welcome the competition and the opportunity for students to go elsewhere for high quality health care. He also feels students may be more comfortable seeking mental health services at a SBHC. He noted many parents can't afford to take time off work and a SBHC would boost the health of the community as it is providing care for the next generation of teachers, custodians and other professionals. He believes if every item, going into a new high school, had to be listed in the ballot language, the ballot would be the size of a book.
 - Dermot Lynch, 81507 and Adam Pramenko, 81505
 Dermot and Adam, Grand Junction High School sophomore president and vice president, see the need for a SBHC at their school. Adam feels a center would benefit students who do not have a health care provider or who can't take time to get to a physician. Dermot reported he knows many students and has found a large population of students do not have a trusting relationship with their parents or who don't have an adult figure to turn to. For those students, he feels it would be better to speak with a trained professional than do nothing.
 - Maya McDaniel, 81507
 Maya, a junior at Palisade High School, was present to advocate for SBHCs, as they have been around for a while. She shared information from a 2010 study which found the SBHC was the most common place for most students to receive services. She noted many students will not seek out services elsewhere because of cost or access. She believes SBHCs have shown to make a huge difference for students and she feels a student's health should

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- not be up for debate.
- Orin Zyvan, 81501
 Mr. Zyvan, a parent of two District 51 students, requested the Board listen to the students and staff before deciding on a SBHC and in finding solutions to declining enrollment. He feels staff input can be beneficial in finding solutions and should be taken into consideration before decisions are made.
 - Michaelle Smith, 81506
 Ms. Smith, Executive Director of Rocky Mt. Health Foundation, a parent and a voter, reported she voted yes for a bond to build a new high school. She believes the SBHC is in the best interest for the students, as it cuts through barriers for students needing health care. She reported she has not heard from one parent saying the Central High School SBHC has been a detrimental thing. She requested the Board take a small risk and allow for the SBHC.
 - Grace Baraumbaye, 81504
 Grace, a Central High School student, feels a SBHC helps students, who have no transportation or funds, to receive services elsewhere. She believes a SBHC improves student attendance and decreases emergency and urgent care center visits, and empowers students to be involved in their health care. She reported Central High School has not had a single suicide since the center opened. She spoke on behalf of a friend who received help from the Center for a sleeping disorder and joint problems. She noted her friend could not attend the meeting tonight because of work, but her friend was able to receive the medical care she needed without having to miss school or work.
 - Donald Hunger, 81504
 Mr. Hunger reported he surveyed 400 people and 69% of respondents did not know they were voting for a SBHC when voting on for the bond. He is a process engineer and deals in the facts. He spoke on reviewing data and watching presentations but still not finding data or facts that clearly show the benefits of a SBHC. He does not believe there is evidence showing the District has a process in place to clearly analyze a SBHC or school closings. He feels the District needs to stick to education only.
 - Laura Campbell, 81507
 Dr. Campbell, a family practice doctor, noted her two students will be a senior and a freshman at Grand Junction High School next year. She expressed how proud she is of the students who have spoken, noting their statements were thoughtful, composed and full of research and statistics. She is an advocate for a SBHC. She has worked with children who have wonderful parents and whose parents have limitations. She believes not all kids tell their parents everything, and it's important to have another trusted adult in a child's life. She reported statistics show adult suicide has gone up, and as a person who lost her only sibling to suicide, she finds it critical to give students access to mental health. She is a firm believer schools do more than just educate.
 - Mike Stahl, 81505
 Mr. Stahl echoed what the students were saying. He is a proud graduate of Grand Junction High School and has two daughters attending Grand Junction High School. He noted when he voted for the bond he voted for a school representing the 21st century learning and where students can learn 21st century skills. As CEO of Hilltop and a Marillac Board Member, Mr. Stahl sees

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the need on a daily basis for SBHCs. He reported there is an overwhelming lack of doctors in this valley and it is very difficult for those without insurance or on Medicaid to receive services in places other than emergency rooms, which drives up medical costs. He encouraged the Board to support the SBHC.

- **Cindy Ficklin, 81505**
 Ms. Ficklin, reported she has a bachelor degree in business administration, two master degrees in education and is working on her PHD in psychology. She was an educator for twenty-five years, working nine years as a school principal. She reported on working hard to pass the bond, but had no knowledge of a SBHC and feels such language should have been listed in the bond. She is not in support of a SBHC as she believes it would place a barrier between parents and students. She noted Marillac can set up a health center where ever they want, but having it within the school would give them free rent forever. She feels the education system is too diluted and teachers need to be experts in curriculum, not psychology.
- **Tedi Gillespie, 81506**
 Ms. Gillespie is a parent of a Grand Junction High School graduate, voter and one whose professional career has been in fields that help youth. Her student attended high school in 2016-2017 when suicide rates were high. She wished a SBHC would have been in the school at that time. She reported three out of five women are at risk for mental health issues with 20% having suicide plans. She feels data from the SBHC at Central High School shows SBHCs help, as not all parents are available or are there for their students when needed and many students are homeless. She feels there should be a SBHC in every school.
- **Jeremy Carrol, 81501**
 Mr. Carrol, Chief Financial Officer at Marillac Health thanked everyone for considering a SBHC at Grand Junction High School. He encouraged everyone to look at the data. He reported Marillac is a private nonprofit 501-C3 entity and is managed by a community board of directors with less than ten percent of total revenue coming from federal funding. He noted the costs to operate a SBHC is paid by Marillac, not the District, and the SBHC at Central High School does not generate revenue for Marillac. He listed the top five reasons for visits at the Central High School SBHC, on the medical side and on the behavioral health side. He reported hearing concerns regarding parental consent, but noted only nine percent of students seen at the SBHC at Central High School have been seen without parental consent and all vaccines require parental consent.

[Recess 6:50 p.m. Resume 7:02 p.m.]

- G-3. Enrollment and Grade configuration Update
 - Superintendent Hill reported student enrollment has been declining since 2019. He shared information on the number of students the District has lost. He noted the District has been working with Mr. Shannon Bingham, Western Demographics Demographer, since November to address declining enrollment. Mr. Bingham's work has included reviewing student enrollment data, birthrates, surveying stakeholders, meeting with school administration

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- and organizing community "town hall" style meetings.
- Mr. Bingham shared information and answered questions from the Board on his findings and recommendations on school closures to address declining enrollment and improve school efficiency. Mr. Bingham shared information on the process and criteria he used in determining which schools to recommend for closure. Initially he identified ten elementary school for possible closure, but narrowed the number to three, due to factors he explained. Mr. Bingham recommended the District close Orchard Avenue Elementary (OAE), Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary (LOM) and East Middle School (EMS). He also recommend the District look at shifting the Fruita area secondary schools back to a traditional grade structure of sixth through eighth and ninth through twelfth.
 - Mrs. Melanie Trujillo, Chief Financial Officer, shared information and the financial ramifications of maintaining unfunded staffing positions at the different levels, elementary, middle and high. She shared information on difficulties in staffing schools and maintaining programming in schools with diminished student enrollment, noting it is harder at the middle school level because of specials. She reported putting resources into fewer buildings is a more efficient use of buildings and will help allow for better balancing of class sizes and less overhead to allow for more direct student supports.
 - Ms. Nikki Jost, Human Resource Executive Director, reported postings for any position for next year are on hold until school closure decisions are made. She shared projections on the number of impacted staff based on Mr. Bingham's recommendations. She explained the staff hiring process, should the District close one or more schools, for non-probationary teachers and counselors, probationary teachers and counselors and support staff.

[Recess 8:54 p.m. Resume 9:02 p.m.]

H. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Jerraun Dunhan, 81501 - Ethan Hoffman, 81501 - Leia Robinson, 81507 and Lilly Hoffman, 81501
 Jerraun, Ethan, Leia and Lilly, seventh grade EMS students, spoke on the need to consider students' mental health when closing schools. They spoke about high suicide rates, student depression and their fear school closure could cause student suicides and/or depression to increase, noting no one can predict how this drastic change can effect students. They feel it will be very challenging for some students to move to a different school. They shared data from a study on mental health issues students faced during the pandemic and school having to shut down.
- Mckenzie O'dell, 81505
 McKenzie, a seventh grader in the EMS Challenge Program, believes closure of schools will have a negative effect on students. She noted suicide rates in Mesa County are some of the highest across the country. She respects the tough decisions the Board members are faced with and understands school may need to be closed, but she feels, if given more time this transition could be made smoother. She feels the decision doesn't have to be black and white, or acted upon immediately. She suggested District staff and the

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community find other ways to cut spending, to allow more time to help make this a healthier transition for students and decrease the stress students are feeling.

- Jason Thorndall, 81521, William Gustafson, 81507
 Jason believes the closure of EMS would have negative impacts on the Challenge Program. He shared information on students in the Challenge Program needing to attend high school classes for some subjects and there is no high school close to Orchard Mesa Middle School. He noted moving the program would cause transportation issues for those families who do not live on Orchard Mesa. Jason reported he lives north of Fruita and moving the Challenge Program will extend his drive. William spoke on the need to have qualified teachers to teach in the Challenge Program. He shared his concerns on how the Challenge Program could be compromised by having new teachers, similar to how the program is effected by having substitute teachers.
- Alivia Nicodemus, 81504
 Alivia acknowledged the closing of schools is a hard decision. She feels moving the Challenge Program would be horrible and have a negative impact on students' mental health. She shared information on a survey, which showed half of the students in the Challenge Program would quit if the Program was moved. She noted some students in the Program take classes at the high school and recommended the Program be moved to a closer middle school.
- Taylor Dean, 81503
 Taylor, an EMS eighth student, supported earlier statements of not closing EMS. She shared data on Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) scores for the school and the school's ranking among other District schools. She feels the geographical location, centered between Grand Junction High School, Colorado Mesa University and the library, offers students better options for curriculum. She reiterated, many fellow students attend classes at the high school and some teachers will lose their jobs and the ability to support their families.
- Grace Robinson, 81501
 Grace, a former EMS student, loved middle school and the Challenge Program which enabled her to earn three high school credits while in middle school. She reported the teachers are dedicated and caring. She noted closing the school will cause the teachers to lose their jobs and could have impacts on the Challenge Program as the teachers make the Program a success. She feels closing the school would do more harm than good and small class sizes are better than large class sizes. She spoke on behalf of her brother who also requested to keep EMS open.
- Cloe Shrader (no zip code listed)
 Ms. Shrader, graduated from the Challenge Program seven years ago, which she feels prepared her for the International Baccalaureate Programme. She noted many students in the Challenge Program score higher on testing. She is currently a junior premedical student at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) studying cellular, molecular and developmental biology, volunteers as an emergency medical technician, is the head drum major for the CMU marching band, a CMU admissions representative and leader in Fellowship Christian athletes. She feels she serves as a testament to the Challenge Program

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and her story is similar to many who attend the Challenge Program and the International Baccalaureate Programme by pushing students to do their best. She requested the District open up more seats in the Challenge Program instead of closing the school.

- **Jamie Lewis, 81506**
 Ms. Lewis is a parent of four students, one a seventh grader in the Challenge Program and a fifth grader at New Emerson who will apply to the Challenge Program. She listed off all the schools her students have attended in the District, noting she has three students on advance learning plans and all of her children are thriving educationally and emotionally, which is a testament to the District. She made three recommendations: 1) take another year to fully study the issue as changes could have long lasting effects 2) allow the Challenge Program to remain in tact with current staffing and open it up to more students to increase enrollment 3) honor and preserve family choices and preserve smaller class sizes.
- **Whitman Robinson, 81507**
 Mr. Robinson, a parent of a seventh grader student at EMS spoke on the presentation fundamentally missing the human consequences of closing schools. He questioned how many kids will be impacted and how many teachers will lose their jobs. He believes a second opinion is needed, as this is too serious and too big of an issue, and nothing has shown this has to be done by next year. He believes students and teachers deserve more time to prepare and to adjust.
- **Ben Hoffman, 81501**
 Mr. Hoffman shared similar sentiments as he is a father of two students in the Challenge Program and his wife works as an instructional coach at OAE. He asked what other factors were considered besides demographics and if parents, staff and students will be involved in making decisions beyond public comments. He asked if changes in demographics were considered, will other school level data be considered and how is the District going to justify closing performance rated schools to move students to non-performance rated schools. He further asked if there will be high school level teachers available to teach Challenge Program students needing high school level classes, will current teachers follow with the Challenge Program and will transportation be provided.
- **Sarah Robinson, 81507**
 Ms. Robinson, a social worker, spoke on having money to choose options others do not, such as riding in the front of the plane. She feels the schools being recommended for closure are Title I schools and as such she feels the District needs to give parents more time to transition, especially those with lower incomes and those who are homeless.
- **Teal Maxwell-Richards, 81526**
 Dr. Maxwell-Richards read a letter on behalf of the OAE staff. The letter acknowledged staff understands the gravity of decisions needing to be made by the Board and recognized the reality of the situation and understands school closures may be necessary, but also knowing schools are communities and places where students feel safe and connected. OAE is a thriving school community where care and value is at the center. The recommendation to close OAE has already had an impact of their community and people will be

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- speaking on how OAE has changed lives. Staff requested the Board listen to those stories and the lasting impact school closures could have and ensure all options be investigated as children are at the forefront of the decisions.
- **Aubrey Hoffman, 81501**
 Ms. Hoffman, an OAE instructional coach, elaborated on several questions, she asked: 1) what other options beside school closures have been considered 2) were communities and rubric ratings used 3) what values drove the process 4) will a second opinion be obtained 5) why wasn't academic growth and staff and student culture considered and 6) what assurance is there that staff and students will be supported?
 - **Janet Neil, 81501**
 Ms. Neil, secretary at OAE and a parent of students who attended OAE asked numerous questions: 1) was a thorough and transparent process used 2) what other options, other than school closure, have been considered 3) was an analysis to define highly effective schools such as parent satisfaction data or neighborhood data used 4) was relevant community input gathered and 5) did anyone visit and spend time with the staff and students at the schools to learn what makes the school unique?
 - **Megan Bennett, 81504**
 Ms. Bennett, a special education teacher reported OAE has been a performance rated school for ten years and was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2010. She shared other statistics on staff satisfaction ratings and student performance ratings. She questioned if the other schools have the ability to absorb the extra students as OAE is home to two unique programs for students with disabilities. She requested the District have a rigorous and transparent process in place, as a school is more than just a building.
 - **Vicki Woods, 81504**
 Ms. Woods, a former principal at OAE, thanked the Board for the time given to hear public comments. Ms. Woods reported on being with the District for thirty years, noted having experience as a behavior specialist, serving as a special education coordinator, and special education being near and dear to her. She spoke on behalf of the students and families served in the Neuro Diversity Special Education Classroom at OAE. She asked if the program will remain intact as the students have severe needs. She feels it will be an extreme challenge for those students, some who may face setbacks, if having to transition to another location.
 - **Valerie Hansen, 81501**
 Ms. Hansen noted seeing nothing in the presentation on safety and student outcomes. She believes moving students from OAE, a performance school, to Nisley Elementary School will highly affect the students as Nisley Elementary School and the neighborhood around it has known safety and security issues. She spoke on the challenges she faced in finding a school for her son who is autistic. She reported her son was kicked out of two preschools, but is doing well and thriving at OAE in the Compass Program. He is mainstreamed but uses the Compass Program for support. She feels the entire school supports all the students.
 - **Mary Orzechowski, 81501**
 Ms. Orzechowski, parent of a fourth grade student at OAE reported she purchased her home, two years ago, within the OAE attendance boundary, so

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her child could attend OAE. She shared her daughter struggles and OAE is the third school her daughter has attended. Her daughter is excited and progressing well at OAE. Ms. Orzechowski credits her daughter's turn around to the staff at OAE. She researched the Colorado Department of Education website and other districts but could not find statutes on school closures. She feels the process should be clear and concise with set data points and set rubrics. She feels Mr. Bingham's information was not quantifiable but rather objective. She questioned if Colorado Department of Education school performance ratings were considered in Mr. Bingham's data.

- **Chris Prickett, 81506**
Mr. Prickett has been a teacher for over 15 year and has two students at OAE and one former OAE student. He believes the only thing done by the demographer was to send out emails and surveys, over a period of less than one month. He feels the District is railroading this project and not looking at other options. He noted the District recently posted a job for an assistant superintendent and teaching and learning design director, and questioned if the District should be hiring with declining enrollment. He reported there are fifty positions in the District with personnel making over \$100,000. He questions if the District should be looking at eliminating some of those jobs.
- **Carol Cowgill, 81506**
Ms. Cowgill has been a part of OAE community for more than thirty four years, with children having attended the school for seven years. She feels there has been poor planning and lack of insight by the District, especially following the 2017 bond, where funds were used to improve schools. She questioned if declining student enrollment was being considered at that time? She feels the District needs to keep high performing schools open, and keep teaching teams, with a proven track record, together. She reported the teachers at OAE go above and beyond for their students and focus on a student's emotional and social learning, noting two teachers just received national certification. She listed off numerous after school programs offered at OAE. She feels there are too many unanswered questions still needing to be addressed and requested the District form a task force to examine the issue of low enrollment and possible solutions.
- **Courtney Melgares, 81506**
Ms. Melgares, a Central High School teacher and parent of an OAE student, Emery, and a two year old, reported Emery has made huge growth because of personalized learning programs. She questioned why any OAE parent would send their student to a full Tope Elementary School and a low performing Nisley Elementary School. She noted OAE is a neighborhood school with many choice students and strives to be the best, thus the reason they are a Blue Ribbon School. She feels the District should be leveraging their many successful practices. She noted the District has been working with Relay and the Colorado Education Initiative to do what OAE is already doing. She questioned why the District would build two schools in the Fruita area, with enrollment declining.
- **Denise Hactor, 81521**
Ms. Hactor has been an OAE teacher for sixteen years and was at OAE when the school received a Blue Ribbon Award. She is astonished at how fast the District is moving to close schools. She realizes District 51 is one of the lowest

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funded districts but noted, in the past when faced with a problem, the District always came up with a plan and involved staff and the community. Previously everyone worked together and every department gave something up to keep cuts as far from the classroom as possible. She believes the recommendations being made will affect this community for a long time and are a big mistake.

- **Randy Foster, 81507**
Mr. Foster, LOM principal, noted teaching teams are important and it would be best if the teams can move with the students. He spoke about the Chicago Bulls building a team around Michael Jordan as a comparison. He reported from 2017 to 2022, LOM has won four awards for academic growth and leads the District in moving students in benchmarks. He shared information on student academic growth and reiterated the importance of keeping a well performing team together.
- **Amy Gustavson, 81505**
Ms. Gustavson, a speech and language specialist and a parent of two LOM students and a student in the Challenge Program at EMS, noted special education positions are hard fill. She reported she has been with the District for twenty-four years, and in that time the special education department has never had a full staff. She believes students from LOM will increase the workload of special education teachers at Mesa View and Dos Rios Elementary Schools, which already have full caseloads. She spoke from personal experience of the challenges in serving the needs of all students with large class sizes and what can be accomplished with having fewer students. She also noted in the past, when the District closes school, choice programs have moved into the vacated buildings: Lincoln Park Elementary now houses Grand River Academy and Columbus Elementary School now houses New Emerson. Ms. Gustavson read a letter from a third grade student at LOM on the emotions students are feeling about their school closing and the District treating them like they are nothing but revenue.
- **Alicia Pedraamomes, 81501**
Ms. Pedraamomes spoke on behalf of students and families receiving special education services. She reported the moment her student walked into OAE she knew it would be a good fit. She commented on how her questions are always answered, how the specialist on her son's team work together and how everyone from the custodians to principal are there for her son. She reported a private therapist told her, her son would never be able to read or write, and yet today he can read a little and can write his name. She asked how the District plans to honor requirements listed in her son's Individual Education Plan (IEP) with three schools closing and a new special education director. She reported she will be monitoring the minutes on her students IEP.
- **Nicole Goodknight, 81506**
Ms. Goodknight is a parent of a special education student at OAE and one in the Gifted and Talented Program at EMS, both by school of choice. She listed possible issue with closing the schools such as larger schools with crowded classrooms, increased behavior issues, traffic and transportation problems and more parents choosing to leave the District. She noted, yesterday, on a holiday, teachers and staff at OAE spent the day figuring out the best way to approach students regarding school closures. She does not feel OAE parents

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- will tolerate having their students moved from a performance school to a non-performance school but many are willing to work to find other solutions.
- Jeff Gustafson, 81506
 Mr. Gustafson has a son in kindergarten at OAE and couldn't find any words of comfort when he received the news about closing OAE. After listening to the presentation he feels the District is treating students as inventory and not as people. He spoke on how highly qualified the OAE gym teacher is the type of teacher parents want teaching their students. He believes Nisley Elementary School is an unsafe place for children as there are sex offenders living near the school. He reminded Board members they are representatives of the whole community and hope they will do the right thing.
 - Mandy Brown, 81506
 Ms. Brown, a parent for an OAE first grade student, reported on buying a house six years ago and was excited to tell everyone her student would attend OAE. She noted the teachers and staff at OAE have exceeded her expectation and shared examples of student supports at the school. She believes the level caring and support shown to OAE students should not be compromised and the school should not even be on the table for closure consideration.
 - Ed Clark, 81506
 Mr. Clark, special education manager at EMS shared information on the percentage of special education students and students receiving free and reduced lunch at EMS. He believes students at the school receive one to one attention they will not receive at a larger middle school. He reported prior to working in special education, he was a high school social studies teacher. He felt he had more questions than answers after listening to Mr. Bingham's presentation. Mr. Clark checked with the Colorado Department of Health and reported their numbers differ from the numbers Mr. Bingham was using. He urged the District to recheck the demographer's data and rating system.
 - Laura Jordan, 81501
 Ms. Jordan, a District speech and language specialist, spoke on how consolidating the schools, especially for students needing specialized services could cause a ripple effect. She shared information on the different types of student disorders, the number of special education students served, and the number of staff, at the schools recommended for closure and the schools expected to absorb the students. She reported on training sixteen new employees in the last two years to try and keep up with staffing for special needs students. She requested the Board consider the teachers and staff on the front lines.
 - Alicia Saunders, 81503
 Ms. Saunders questioned a statement made by Mr. Bingham regarding people purchasing homes on the Redlands and paying cash. She questioned if LOM was recommended for closure due to the community's income level. She noted she would send her students to learn in a tent as long as the LOM staff were there to teach them. She shared she grew up here and attended OAE and EMS and Grand Junction High School. She wants her children to have the same experiences she had growing up. She noted one of her children is on an Individual Education Plan and she is very connected with his teachers and providers. She questioned the safety of students walking in the

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rural areas on Orchard Mesa with no sidewalks. She noted her students can now walk to school in five minutes but if moved to another school, the walk would take over forty-five minutes.

- **Randi Overturf, 81501**
Ms. Overturf has two students at OAE and she looks forward to them staying there.
- **Cameron Marshfield, 81501**
Mr. Marshfield, a parent of an OAE first grade student and possible kindergartener in the fall, reported his main focus is to fight to keep OAE open. He reported on growing up here and going to college here and he feels this is not the District he grew up in. He noted his students are within walking distance of OAE and EMS. He commented on the need to have moved the meeting to allow for more space so more parents could have commented. He noted failure to move the meeting demonstrates how disorganized the District is. He feels the District is moving too fast on this issue and is not being fully transparent. He commented Mr. Bingham's presentation was bogus and overwhelming and he would like to know what Mr. Bingham is being paid. He feels the process is moving too fast and adding stress to parents and students.
- **Lathan Johnson, 81506**
Mr. Johnson, a parent who has had students attending OAE for over twelve years, noted his youngest child is a fourth grader, attending on school of choice. He volunteers for the school's Parent Teacher Association and has worked with much of the staff. He does not believe the culture of the staff and team can be recreated. He feels consideration needs to be given to the number of students on subsidized lunches and the walkability in the neighborhood. He asked about looking at other schools as the security of OAE is amazing and the school is an excellent neighborhood school.
- **Rachelle Roberson Welch, 81506**
Ms. Roberson Welch is a parent and works as a child protection agent. She feels the environment created at OAE needs to be repeated at other schools. She shared how her adopted child, a special education student, was kicked out of preschool, prompting her to purchase a home in the OAE attendance area. She reported several OAE staff members were at work yesterday, a holiday, to make a plan for the students and strategize on how to approach a school closure. She reiterated what a wonderful place OAE is, and how staff have been there for her every day. She believes the school can absorb more students and is a learning environment needing to be duplicated at other schools.
- **Phil Ochoa, 81503**
Mr. Ochoa has four students who have attended LOM. He spoke on being blessed to have his children at the school, how every teacher has impressed him and the help his student, with a speech impediment, has received. He reported Orchard Mesa has numerous housing developments happening and reminded everyone the pandemic was something never experienced before, so there is no way of knowing if there will be a rebound in students. He requested the District look at more economical perspectives to solve the issue, such as marijuana money. He believes displacing students from their school and close friends should be a slow and tiered transition.

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- Jerycho Behr, 81503
 Ms. Behr spoke about her son, an autistic student, having to be physically restrained due to issues with an open gate in kindergarten. She heard about the Neuro Diversity Cottage at OAE and was able to get her student enrolled. She feels this has been the safest place she has found for her son. She believes taking away the Neuro Diversity Cottage would be not be a good thing for him.
- Collin Robinson, 81502
 Mr. Robinson noted it requires courage to make the hard decision needed to keep the District in a sustainable financial course. He commented on the deficiencies at other schools, insufficient criteria, not factoring in school performance and no information on the magnitude of savings, mentioned by previous speakers. He shared information on the performance ratings for LOM and OAE.
- Juli Larsen, 81506
 Ms. Larson, the mother of five children who have attended OAE and EMS, noted her youngest son is now attending EMS. She requested the District slow down on the process to give the community more time and to allow her youngest to be finish at EMS, a school with high student growth rates. She questioned why families are leaving the District. She wants students to know they are an assets and the District needs to value students as assets.
- Nicole Thomas, 81503
 Ms. Thomas, the mother of a former student at LOM and two students at LOM, shared parents want the best for their kids. Her two boys are going through the same teachers as her daughter and her students have never been bused. She spoke about growing up in a city with 335 schools and her high school having over 3,000 students. She believes combining schools will take away the one on one interaction students need. She feels closing three schools and possibly creating overcrowded schools is not right and will take the District down. She questioned what will happen with the teachers and noted birthrates are not going down, so schools need to stay open. She believes if the District would bring things back as they were, families would not be leaving for home school.
- Ricki Howie, 81501
 Ms. Howie, reported the City of Fruita and the City of Grand Junction have a lot of American Rescue Plan money and are using the money to develop affordable housing. She noted Mesa County is building a community center in Clifton with a new library which will attract more families and three blocks from EMS an apartment complex is being built, which will bring in more families. She spoke on birthrates from 1920 to 1960 increasing until 1960 when birth control was introduced. She believes the birthrate will increase again in 2026 based on statistics for the United States.
- Megan Sherbenos, 81501
 Dr. Sherbenos, a scientist, wonders about the survey, sent to the community, having qualitative data. She noted closing schools affects communities and their sense of belonging especially in low income areas. She feels growth is being used as a proxy for higher income areas and low income areas are being ignored. She asked how the closing of EMS will affect the intergovernmental agreement the District has with the City of Grand Junction

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						<p>and what will happen with the empty buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lisa Friel-Redifer, 81506 Ms. Friel-Redifer is a CMU professor and Elementary Education Coordinator in charge of assisting new teachers to find placement in schools. She reported on seeing around twelve CMU graduates at OAE and four at LOM. She believes smaller schools are an important part of the community and give new teachers a unique opportunity. She reported on the benefits of smaller schools giving uniqueness to new teachers and the close proximity of OAE and EMS assists CMU students, who are involved in other activities the opportunity to student teach at schools within walking distance. She requested the District reconsider closing schools as every school is special. ➤ Rhiannon (no last name or zip code given) Rhiannon is a registered nurse and an OAE graduate and a EMS Challenge Program graduate. She noted how the schools provided her a sense of community which made a difference in her life. She credits her knowledge and thinking skills on her District education. She requested the District reconsider the closure of OAE. ➤ Caleb Cinceneros, 81503 Mr. Cinceneros, parent of three LOM students reported on working all over the country, living in numerous different areas and attending eleven different schools himself. He chose to settle down in the Grand Valley and, after researching the various schools, he chose to school of choice his students into LOM, with his second choice being OAE. He noted, his school search was not for the biggest or the fanciest school but for the quality of the school and LOM has lived up to his expectations with teachers going above and beyond. He does not feel it is right to close a school which has built a quality culture, but if closure is the only option he feels the District should ease into it. <p>[Recess 11:26 p.m. Resume 11:33 p.m.]</p>	
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>I. CONSENT AGENDA</p> <p>I-1. Licensed and Administrative Personnel Actions [Resolution 22/23: 64]</p> <p>I-2. Gifts [Resolution 22/23: 65]</p> <p>I-3. Grants [Resolution 22/23: 66]</p>	Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>J. BUSINESS ITEMS</p> <p>J-1. Resolution Regarding Independency Academy Charter School Renewal [Resolution 22/23: 67]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Sholtes requested clarifying information as to discipline policies used at Independence Academy Charter School. She questioned if the school used the same policies as the District or policies unique to Independence Academy Charter School. She also asked for clarifying information regarding special education service providers and if those services are contracted with the District. ➤ Mrs. Haitz reported not finding anything concerning in the application. 	Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x	x		x	x	<p>J-2. Resolution Regarding Mesa Valley Community School Application [Resolution 22/23: 68]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Sholtes requested confirmation that administration has reviewed and was 	Adopted

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Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>comfortable on the way special education services were being provided and clarification on services for students only attending the Enrichment Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Haitz recused herself from voting because she has a student attending Mesa Valley Community School. <p>J-3. Policy Second Reading/Adoption J-3.a. BE, School Board Meetings J-3.b. CBB, Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent</p> <p>K. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Haitz requested Board members be flexible as the Board may have to call a special meeting, over the next couple of weeks, to decide on the School Based Health Center at Grand Junction High School and school consolidation. <p>L. FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>L-1. March 4, 2023, Tope Elementary Cafeteria, 9:00 a.m., Board Coffee L-2. March 7, 2023, Harry Butler Board Room, 6:00 p.m., Board Work Session L-3. March 28, 2023, Harry Butler Board Room, 6:00 p.m., Board Business Meeting</p> <p>M. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS</p>	Adopted
Motion Second Aye No				x		<p>N. ADJOURNMENT</p>	11:45 p.m.
						<hr style="width: 25%; margin-left: auto;"/> Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary Board of Education	

The Board would like to invite Ms. Amber Campbell to the front.

Ms. Campbell dedicated a lifelong career to our D51 students, families, and community. She spent 30 years as a D51 orchestra teacher at Central High School and Bookcliff Middle School. Known for her hard work ethic, kind demeanor, and passion for her job, Ms. Campbell left a lasting impact on her students and colleagues.

Last year, numerous people throughout the local musical industry nominated Ms. Campbell for the Colorado Music Educators Association Hall of Fame. On January 25, 2023, Ms. Campbell was inducted into the CMEA Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. This a prestigious award, as less than 150 music educators have been inducted into the CMEA Hall of Fame since 1985.

Though Ms. Campbell is retired and is no longer teaching, music has always been a part of her everyday life. The induction into the CMEA Hall of Fame recognized her incredible hard work, dedication to her students, and commitment to continually raising the bar for our D51 music program.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate Ms. Campbell on this fantastic accomplishment and thank her for her 30 years of service to our students, staff, and the District 51 music program.

The Board would like to invite Christina Horn and the Career Center Culinary Team up to the front of the room.

The Career Center Culinary Team is Colorado's first secondary school program to earn accreditation by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission.

This accreditation assures a program meets or exceeds minimum standards and competencies for faculty, curriculum, and student services. It is a self-review process for improving academic quality and public accountability of culinary arts/baking and pastry programs.

Under the leadership of Head Chef Christina Horn, the Career Center's Culinary Program continues to excel, propelling students forward with a greater knowledge of the industry and an unmatched skill set as they venture into the workforce outside of D51.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate Head Chef Christina Horn and her entire Culinary team for their continued support and encouragement of their students and for their hard work to ensure this program received accreditation.



The Board would like to invite Will Jones to the front.

Board of Education Vice President Will Jones has been appointed to the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSSA) Legislative Council.

At the end of January, Vice President Jones was appointed by the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) President to fill the vacant Representative D Seat on the CHSSA Legislative Council. This seat represents CASB Regions 7, 8, and 10 for a three-year term that ends in December 2025.

CHSAA'S 75-member Legislative Council comprises representatives from across Colorado and is charged with making decisions in the best interests of all student participants across the state.

Vice President Jones has been an integral part of the athletic community here in the Grand Valley. He previously served as a high school football coach at Grand Junction High School and is currently a coach at Central High School. For the past 15 years, Mr. Jones has been a coach and board member of Grand Valley Youth Football, where he now serves as the Director. He has coached and mentored hundreds of young athletes in our Valley and will be an asset to our district and the state of Colorado during his tenure on the CHSSA Legislative Council.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate Vice President Jones on being appointed to this council and thank him for being a voice for District 51 and our student-athletes.



Mesa County Valley School District 51

Licensed and Administrative Personnel Action

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 64

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Name	Location	Assignment	Effective Date
Retirements			
NONE AT THIS TIME.			
Resignations/Termination			
NONE AT THIS TIME.			
Leave of Absence			
NONE AT THIS TIME.			
New Assignments (Transfer/New Hires)			
DAEHN HARVEY, VERONICA E	GRAND RIVER	STUDY LAB	2/8/2023
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 February 21, 2023.

*Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary
 Board of Education*

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 65

Adopted: February 21, 2023

Donor	Teyen and Michelle Shiao
Gift	Camera and tripod
Value	\$4,500.00
School/Department	Grand Junction High School / Athletics

Donor	Diana Smith
Gift	Cash
Value	\$50.00
School/Department	Grand Junction High School / Haberdashery and Boutique

Donor	Faith Heights Church
Gift	Clothing, shoes and a game
Value	\$520.00
School/Department	Clifton Elementary School / Family Center

Donor	Palisade Lodge #125, AF & AM
Gift	Cash
Value	\$200.00
School/Department	Palisade High School / Girls basketball

Donor	Family Health West
Gift	Cash
Value	\$9,999.00
School/Department	Fruita Monument High School / General SBA

Donor	Reynolds Polymer Technology Inc.
Gift	Cash
Value	\$500.00
School/Department	Grand Junction High School / Girls' basketball

Donor	Irene Thomas
Gift	Grinders and tools
Value	\$5,000.00
School/Department	Career Center / Construction classes

Donor	Tami Brown
Gift	Cash
Value	\$50.00
School/Department	Palisade High School / Choir

Donor	James Eitel
Gift	Cash
Value	\$131.00
School/Department	Palisade High School / Choir

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 65

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Donor	Lourdes Ortega
Gift	Clarinet
Value	\$250.00
School/Department	Grand Mesa Middle School / Band

Donor	Fraternal Order of Eagles Benefit Fund Aerie 595
Gift	Cash
Value	\$188.00
School/Department	Dos Rios Elementary School / Clothing for Family Center

Donor	Leslie Capehart
Gift	Cash
Value	\$100.00
School/Department	Pomona Elementary School / Supplies for SSN Room

Donor	First Watch
Gift	Muffins and ground coffee
Value	\$90.00
School/Department	Bookcliff Middle School / SSN Coffee Cart Fundraiser

Donor	Safeway
Gift	Pasteries
Value	\$20.00
School/Department	Bookcliff Middle School / SSN Coffee Cart Fundraiser

Donor	Einstein Bros. Bagels
Gift	Bagels
Value	\$770.00
School/Department	Bookcliff Middle School / SSN Coffee Cart Fundraiser

Donor	Starbucks
Gift	Pastries and ground coffee
Value	\$50.00
School/Department	Bookcliff Middle School / SSN Coffee Cart Fundraiser

Donor	Daylight Donuts
Gift	Donuts
Value	\$30.00
School/Department	Bookcliff Middle School / SSN Coffee Cart Fundraiser

Donor	Logan and Caro McDanel
Gift	Cash
Value	\$200.00
School/Department	Bookcliff Middle School / Technology

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 65

Adopted: February 21, 2023

Donor	Palisade Sunrise Rotary Club
Gift	Cash
Value	\$353.72
School/Department	Palisade High School / Interact Club Fundraiser

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 February 21, 2023.

Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

Board of Education Resolution 22/23: 66

Adopted: February 21, 2023

Grant Title	GEER II – Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund – Bright Spot
Source	Governor’s Office
Fund Number	22-114-6427
Site	Chatfield Elementary
Description	Implementation of GEER II learning loss activities
Budget Amount	\$50,000
Fiscal Year	06/30/2023
Authorized Representative	Dave McCall

Grant Title	GEER II – Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund – Bright Spot
Source	Governor’s Office
Fund Number	22-270-6427
Site	Bookcliff Middle School
Description	Implementation of GEER II learning loss activities
Budget Amount	\$50,000
Fiscal Year	06/30/2023
Authorized Representative	Jim Butterfield

Grant Title	Resilient Playgrounds
Source	Colorado Health Foundation
Fund Number	22-117-0046
Site	Chipeta Elementary
Description	Playground planning
Budget Amount	\$25,000.00
Fiscal Year	06/30/2023
Authorized Representative	Jayme Chiaro

Grant Title	Colorado Computer Science Education Grant
Source	Colorado Department of Education
Fund Number	22-611-3239
Site	District wide
Description	Professional development for staff related to computer science education
Budget Amount	\$26,087.00
Fiscal Year	06/30/2023
Authorized Representative	Cheri Taylor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education approved the above identified grant funds for expenditure purposes February 21, 2023.

Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

**Approval of Charter School Contract
Independence Academy Charter School**

Board of Education Resolution 22/23: 67

Adopted: February 21, 2023

WHEREAS, by Resolution 17/18:106 dated June 19, 2018, the Board of Education approved the a Renewal Application of Independence Academy Charter School (“IACS”), and directed the Superintendent to negotiate and present to the Board for consideration and approval a proposed charter school contract for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, a contract, hereto attached, dated July 1, 2018, was entered into by IACS and the Mesa County Valley School District 51 with said contract to expire on June 30, 2023, and

WHEREAS, prior to December 1, 2022, IACS requested the Board of Education approve a renewal of the contract, hereto attached, dated July 1, 2018, for an additional five years, to run from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028, and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the request for renewal a District Administrative Team review the IACS program and scored said program based on the District’s scoring rubric; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education was presented the rubrics ratings at the Board of Education February 7, 2023 Work Session; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby wishes to renew the contract with IACS; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the renewal of the attached Charter School Contract with IACS, and authorizes the Board president and secretary to execute on behalf of the Board a copy of same in form substantially similar to the attached copy, after any minor or technical changes or corrections as may be recommended by District legal counsel have been made.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on February 21, 2023.

*Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education*



**Approval of Mesa Valley Community School
Charter Renewal Application**

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 68

Adopted: February 21, 2023

WHEREAS, the District and Mesa Valley Community School (“MVCS”) entered into a Charter School Renewal Contract dated July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract dated July 1, 2018 expires June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, MVCS was required to redesign its learning program to comply with changes to Colorado funding laws; and

WHEREAS, MVCS submitted a new application to operate within the District pursuant to the Charter Schools Act, § 22-30.5-101 *et seq.*, C.R.S., and in support of its request submitted to the Board of Education a Charter School an Application dated December 1, 2022, pursuant to section 22-30.5-110, C.R.S. (the “Application”), hereto attached; and

WHEREAS, following the review process by the District Accountability Committee and a District Administrative Team, as required by regulation LBD-R, Relations with Charter Schools (Procedures for Establishment), the Board of Education received the rubric ratings from the District Accountability Committee and Administrative Team; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education held meetings on February 1 and February 4, 2023, to receive community feedback on the MVCS application as per requirements of regulation LBD-R, Relations with Charter Schools (Procedures for Establishment); and

WHEREAS, following receipt of the rubrics ratings and community feedback; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education wishes to approve the MVCS Application hereto attached; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent, with the assistance of the District’s legal counsel, to enter into contract with MVCS for a term commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2028.

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 February 21, 2023.

*Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education*

Mesa County Valley School District 51

BE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Adopted: October 10, 1972, Revised: May 15, 2001

Revised: September 3, 2002, Adopted: June 16, 2009

Adopted: February 20, 2018, March 19, 2020

Adopted: August 17, 2021, September 14, 2021

Policy Second Reading/Adoption: February 21, 2023

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All meetings of a quorum of three or more members of the Board at which any public business may be discussed or any formal action taken shall be open to the public at all times except for periods in which the Board is in executive session. Any person who disturbs good order may be required to leave.

A recording shall be made of regular and special meetings as required by law and at a minimum shall be an audio recording. Recordings shall be maintained for 90 days.

All regular meetings of the Board of Education shall be held in the Harry Butler Board Room, 455 N. 22 Street, Grand Junction, Colorado, at 5:00 pm, unless otherwise publicly announced.

1. Regular Meetings

- a. The Board, as a decision making body, is confronted with a continuing flow of problems, issues and needs which require action. The Board is mindful of the importance of planning, brainstorming and thoughtful discussion prior to any action. Therefore, the Board will schedule a Work Session for discussion of educational and business issues to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of November and December when a work sessions is optional, depending on the needs of the Board and calendar scheduling. Business items may be added to the agenda when necessary under a business meeting format.
- b. Business meetings shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of the November, December, January, March and May meetings, when the business meeting may be scheduled on an alternative Tuesday to accommodate Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break and/or high school graduations. Business meetings may be held during the month of July, if needed. Adjournment will be no later than 9:30 p.m., except for good cause.

2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the president at any time, and shall be called by the President upon the request of two or more of the members.

The secretary of the Board shall cause written notice of any special meeting to be emailed to each member of the Board stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting. The notice shall be sent no later than 24 hours prior to the hour set for the meeting. Hand delivery shall be a valid substitute for email.

Any member may waive notice of the time, place and purpose of a special meeting before, during or after such meeting, and attendance there at shall be deemed to be a waiver. No business other than stated in the notice of the meeting shall be transacted unless all members are present and consent to consider and transact other business.

The Board shall adopt an agenda setting forth the business and the order of business to be transacted, discussed or considered at each regular meeting of the Board.

Except as otherwise specified by state law or Board policies pertaining to its own operating procedures, the Board generally shall operate by the rules prescribed in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Electronic Participation

Mesa County Valley School District 51

BE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Adopted: October 10, 1972, Revised: May 15, 2001

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Adopted: February 20, 2018, March 19, 2020

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Policy Second Reading/Adoption: February 21, 2023

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Board members may attend and participate by electronic means in regular or special meetings of the Board in accordance with this policy and state law. For purposes of this section concerning participation of a member electronically in a meeting, "electronic means" shall be defined as attendance via telephone, video or audio conferencing, or other electronic device.

Board members may attend and participate by electronic means in a regular or special Board meeting when circumstances prevent the Board member(s) from physically attending the meeting. A meeting at which one or more Board members attend and participate by electronic means shall be open to the public, except for periods in which the Board is in executive session.

The electronic means used shall allow the public to hear the comments made by the Board member(s) participating by electronic means and allow the Board member(s) to hear the comments made by the public. A Board member participating by electronic means will be included in the recording of the Board meeting.

A Board member who seeks to attend and participate by electronic means in a Board meeting shall notify the Board president and superintendent at least one business days prior to the meeting and shall explain the circumstances that prevent the Board member from physically attending the meeting. If such notification is not possible, the Board member shall notify the Board president and superintendent as soon as is reasonably possible of the request to attend by electronic means.

A Board member may attend and participate by electronic means in a maximum of two Board meetings per calendar year, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

A Board member's failure to comply with this policy may result in the Board's refusal to allow the member to participate by electronic means in Board meetings.

Electronic Meetings

A regular or special Board meeting may be held by electronic means in the event of extenuating circumstances, as determined by the President of the Board. For purposes of this section regarding virtual meetings, the term "electronic means" shall be defined as a meeting conducted by video conferencing with a stream / link for members of the public to use so that the public is able to hear and observe the meeting. Public comments may be allowed and taken at virtual meetings.

Voting

All voting shall be by roll call with each member present voting "Aye" or "No" alphabetically. However, election of the president and vice president may be by secret ballot. A member may abstain from voting only if excused by the Board for good cause.

A Board member who has a personal or private interest in any proposed or pending matter which presents a conflict of interest in accordance with Board policy shall disclose such interest and shall not vote unless his participation is necessary to obtain a quorum or otherwise enable the Board to act. Under such circumstances, the member shall comply with the voluntary disclosure requirements set out in state law.

To pass, any motion must be approved by a majority of the members present except as state law or policies of this Board may require a majority of full membership.

Mesa County Valley School District 51

BE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Adopted: October 10, 1972, Revised: May 15, 2001

Revised: September 3, 2002, Adopted: June 16, 2009

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Legal References:

- C.R.S. 22-31-129 (board vacancies)
- C.R.S. 22-32-104 (3) (president and vice president must be elected by majority of the entire membership)
- C.R.S. 22-32-108 (board meetings)
- C.R.S. 22-32-108 (6) (voting by roll call, excused for good cause)
- C.R.S. 22-32-108 (7) (a) (a board member who participates electronically in conformance with the board's policy on electronic meeting participation is considered "present")
- C.R.S. 24-6-401, et seq. (open meeting law)
- C.R.S. 24-6-402 (2)(d)(IV) (outcome of a secret ballot vote must be recorded contemporaneously in the minutes)
- C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4) (a two-thirds majority of the quorum present is required to go into executive session)
- C.R.S. 24-18-109 (3) (conflict of interest and voting)
- C.R.S. 24-18-110 (voluntary disclosure of conflict of interest)

Cross References:

- BCB, Board Member Conduct/Conflict of Interest
- BEC, Executive Sessions/Open Meetings
- BEDA, Notification of Board Meetings

Mesa County Valley School District 51

CBB

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Adopted: January 9, 1973

Revised to Conform with Practice: Date of Manual Adoption

Revised: November 19, 1996

Policy Manual Review: September 3, 2002

Policy Second Reading/Adoption: February 21, 2023

The appointment of a superintendent is a function of the Board. When an opening in the superintendency occurs, the Board may aggressively recruit in an effort to fill the position with the most capable person available. The Board shall consider only those candidates who are eligible for state certification and meet local qualifications and who display the ability to successfully carry out the duties of the superintendent.

The Board shall solicit applications from qualified members of the staff and may list the vacancy with placement offices at selected educational institutions in Colorado and in neighboring states and with other educational placement agencies at its discretion. The Board may seek the advice and counsel of interested individuals or of an advisory committee, or it may employ a consultant to assist in the selection. It may also, at its discretion, determine that an external search is not necessary due to a qualified internal candidate. Final selection rests with the Board after a thorough consideration of qualified applicants.

Applications for the superintendency shall be screened, and those candidates who appear to be most promising shall be interviewed. The Board shall endeavor to conduct interviews on a school day so that applicants may visit the schools of the District while they are in session.

A vote of the majority of Board members present at a Board meeting for which due notice has been given of the intended action shall be required for the appointment of the superintendent.

Search Process

When the Board conducts a search for the position, the writing or revising of the job description, requirements for applicants, selection procedures and applicable deadlines shall be adopted at a public meeting.

Records submitted to the District by an applicant for the superintendent's position shall remain confidential until the applicant becomes a finalist for the position. Demographic data, meaning information on an applicant's race and gender that has been legally requested and voluntarily provided on the applicant's application and does not include the applicant's name or other information, of an applicant who was interviewed by the Board but not named as a finalist will be available for public inspection upon request.

A list of all finalist(s) being considered for the position shall be made public by the Board at least 14 days prior to appointing the finalist to fill the position. No offer of appointment may be made prior to this public notice.

When an applicant becomes a finalist, all records submitted by the applicant shall be available for public inspection except that letters of reference or medical, psychological and sociological data shall remain confidential.

Legal Reference:

C.R.S. 22-32-110(1)(g) (power to employ a CEO_

C.R.S. 22-44-115 (4) (administrative contracts)

C.R.S. 24-6-402 (2) (d)(IV) (outcome of a secret ballot vote must be recorded contemporaneously in minutes

C.R.S. -24-6-402 (3.5) (search committee duties)

C.R.S. 24-72-204 (3)(a)(XI)(A) (inspection of public records)

Category	High School				Middle School				Elementary School				Total		Total for previous years as of: January 31				
	22/23		21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23		21/22		22/23	21/22	20/21	19/20	18/19	17/18	16/17
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F							
100	5	6	1	1	5	1							9	2	4	10	26	10	10
200	1												1			1		2	1
300																			
400	3	5	5	1	4		2	8					12	16	7	6	4	1	
500	8	1	3	1	1		2						8	6	2	5	4		6
600																			
700																			
DSP																			
VOO	6	7		2	5	2	2						12	4	6	9	13	5	5
Total	23	19	9	5	15	3	6	8					60	28	19	31	47	18	22

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

