

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Work Session Minutes

March 7, 2023

Board Work Session Minutes

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

Board of Education
Mesa County Valley School District 51
Board Work Session: March 7, 2023
Adopted: April 18, 2023

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						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present Absent	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x	WORK SESSION 1. D51 Happenings and Celebrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This agenda item was moved from the February 21 Board Business Meeting to tonight's meeting. ➤ Ms. Karrie Kuklish, Communication Specialist, presented information and shared two short videos highlighting Career and Technical Education opportunities and Grand River Academy. 2. Strategic Plan Focus Group #2 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Nikki Jost, Human Resource Executive Director, Dr. Danny Medved, Professional Learning Director, and Mrs. Connie Mack, Benefits Manager, shared information on the three priority areas under the Strategic Plan Focus Group of Prepared and Supported Staff. The three priority areas are Professional Learning, Diverse & Growing Pipelines and Staff Wellness. ➤ Ms. Jost, shared information on Diverse & Growing Pipelines priority area to grow a diverse and healthy pipeline of qualified leaders and educators. She reported her team is progressing and responding to new challenges, with the possibility of school consolidations. She shared information on steps displaced staff will need to take if consolidating schools. She reported all job postings are on hold until final decisions are made regarding school consolidations. She reported, Mr. Carter Ness, Certified Recruiting Specialist, has attended job fairs and serving on a Colorado Department of Education Job Board Committee to strengthen recruiting efforts. ➤ Mrs. Connie Mack, Benefits Manager, spoke on the priority area of Staff Wellness. She shared data on staff wellness, trends, and uncertainties based on staff responses on this year's Panorama Survey and job exit interviews and on Triad staff participation. Triad offers resources to assist staff members with depression, anxiety, grief, and many other things effecting a person's overall wellness. She reported on the work being done to strengthen staff wellness including items added to help staff deal with anticipated school closures. She reported on current activities and next steps to improve overall staff wellness. ➤ Dr. Medved explained a grant funded program the District is using, Pathway to Principalship, to advance District staff who show good leadership skills. Dr. Medved was joined by Ms. Heather Flick and Ms. Jamie Burnham, Instructional Coaches Coordinators, Ms. Britny Walker, Curriculum and Learning Design Specialist, and Ms. Linnea Hulshof, Cultural, Linguistically and Diverse Education Coordinator, to report on the priority area of Professional Learning. Dr. Medved reported his team is prepared to shift and adjust in-service trainings should school consolidations happen. He described the defined autonomy approach to equip leadership teams rather than site based management. ➤ Ms. Walker shared information on data-informed learning communities to shift focus from teaching to learning and to move from working in isolation to working collaboratively. She explained the work being done in Learning Communities to identify learning gaps and to improve social emotional learning at the middle and high school levels. 	5:00 p.m.

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- Ms. Flick elaborated on the work being done and the impacts Capturing Kids Hearts implementation has had on schools. She described Capturing Kids Hearts' practices happening at schools, such as affirmation, sharing good things and advisory teachers working with small groups of students, to build trusted peer relationships.
- Ms. Burnham shared information on how elementary level instruction coaches have been working to focus on using data to make informed decisions. She described the work of coaches and the need to provide resources and to support small group instruction. She shared the goals moving forward to support teachers in using evidence based reading practices.
- Ms. Hulshof shared data comparisons for English language arts and math scores for diverse learning populations. She emphasized the need to focus on the academic needs of all students. She shared information on work through professional learning to reach the goal of having embedded instruction that acknowledges and affirms different cultural viewpoints in order to meet the diverse academic needs of all learner groups.

[Recess 6:12 p.m. Resume 6:20 p.m.]

3. Grand Junction High School Construction Update
 - Ms. Colleen Kanada and Mr. Micah Adams with Dynamic Program Management, and Pete Icenogle with Blyth Group+ presented photos and updated information on the Grand Junction High School construction project. The project is currently on schedule, on budget and is approximately thirty percent completed.

4. Outdoor Wilderness Lab Update
 - Mr. Mark Allen, Gateway Principal, Mr. Greg Weckenbrock, OWL Program teacher, Mr. Kirk Oldham, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Area Wildlife Manager, and Mrs. Christena Burnham, D51 Parent & Colorado PTA Board Member, shared information on the Outdoor Wilderness Lab (OWL) Program.
 - Mr. Allen thanked Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Hendrick's Family for partnering with the Program. He reported the Program is offered to all sixth grade students in the District and gives students an opportunity to experience outdoor learning with emphasis on science and social emotional learning. He feels the Program has great potential and has done well with the limited resources and staffing.
 - Mr. Weckenbrock shared background information on OWL, growth of the program and the number of students the program has served over the past several years.
 - Mr. Oldham reported he experienced an outdoor lab program when he attended school, which had a lasting impact. He reported, financially and as a staff, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife are supportive of the OWL Program. He feels people value the outdoors and being outdoors can relieve stress and improve ones mental health and wellness.
 - Mrs. Burnham, a parent of a junior at Central High School and a high school graduate reported both her and her husband are D51 graduates. She reported

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on serving on various committees since her oldest son was in kindergarten. One of her favorite activities was volunteering to help with the OWL Program in 2016 and serving on the planning committee. She elaborated on how students are engaged, excited about learning and have fun while attending the OWL Program.

5. Curriculum Presentation

5.a. Advanced Placement Resources

5.b. High School Science Resources

- Mrs. Jennifer Marsh, Chief Academic Officer, reminded everyone of the process and teams involved in selecting, reviewing and adopting resources. She thanked the community for the passing the 2017 mill levy, which enabled the District to purchase new curriculum.
- Ms. Jackie Anderson, Curriculum Director, and Curriculum and Learning Design Specialists, Ms. Kristen Gross, English Language Arts, Ms. Britny Walker, K-12 Science Specialist, and Ms. Amy Deschamp, K-12 Social Studies, shared information on the curriculum recommended for advance placement English language arts, advanced placement world history, advanced placement art history and high school science. High school science curriculum includes earth and space science, life science, physical science (chemistry) and physical science (physics). The ladies shared information on the curriculum being recommended, the manufacturers, how the curriculum aligns with the standards and different components and supports offered with the curriculum. The Board will be voting at the March 28 meeting to adopt.

6. Fruita Grade Configuration and Declining Enrollment Update

- Mr. Shannon Bingham, Western Demographics Demographer, shared information on the impacts of declining enrollment, with some middle school teachers having to teach multiple grade levels or subjects. He reported on the impacts of shifting attendance boundaries for middle and high school students living in the Appleton Elementary School boundary area and for high school students living in the Wingate Elementary School boundary area. He proposed shifting the middle school students living in the Appleton Elementary School boundary area to Redlands Middle School and high school students in both areas to Grand Junction High School. He spoke on space constraints and building needs for both Fruita Middle School and Fruita 8/9 School for either building to accommodate grades sixth through eighth, and the Fruita Monument High School to accommodate ninth through twelfth grade students.
- Mrs. Haitz read a letter jointly written by middle school principals and a letter jointly written by elementary school principals. The letters spoke on the principals understanding of the situation of declining enrollment, the difficulties in staffing numbers and the possible need to consolidate schools. The principals also wrote about the need to have decisions made so staff can move forward.
- Board members shared their thoughts and had discussion around taking action right away versus delaying any actions. Board members will hold a special meeting on Thursday, March 9 to vote.

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						7. Board Open Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Jones reminded everyone of March being Women History Month. ➤ Superintendent Hill announced Ms. Karrie Kuklish, Communications Specialist will be leaving the District to pursue a different business opportunity. <p>[Recess 9:14 p.m. Resume 9:28 p.m.]</p>	
Present	x	x	x	x	x	<u>BUSINESS ITEMS</u>	9:30 p.m.
Absent						A. Call to Order/Roll Call	
Motion				x		B. Agenda Approval	Approved
Second					x		
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion					x	C. Resolution to Approve School Based Health Center at Grand Junction High School [Resolution 22/23: 69]	
Second						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Lema motioned to deny the resolution to approve a school base health center at Grand Junction High School ➤ Ms. Lema revised her motion to vote on the resolution as written to adopt a school based health center at Grand Junction High School. A vote was taken to amend the motion, with Mr. Levinson abstaining as he did not understand the motion to amend Ms. Lema's initial motion. ➤ Mrs. Haitz read a statement, approved by legal counsel, regarding a lawsuit filed against Marillac and Monument Health. The lawsuit alleges misappropriation of grant money at the school based health center at Central High School, the Warrior Wellness Center. The lawsuit, filed in 2022, was brought to the District's attention by an anonymous person via a feedback page on the District's website. ➤ Board members shared their thoughts regarding a school based health center at Grand Junction High School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Haitz reported on trying to work with Marillac, to find a compromise by having the center located outside the main school building but in near proximity of the school. She noted Marillac reported that would not work for them. • Mr. Jones expressed concern over the lawsuit and the lack of transparency with Marillac failing to notify the District. He was uncomfortable in approving the school based health center while a lawsuit was pending. He preferred the center be located outside of the main school building. • Ms. Lema reported she feels the District needs to concentrate on education and not be involved in selecting health care professionals for students. She would have been more comfortable in having the center outside of the main building. • Mr. Levinson expressed his belief, if focusing on what is best for students, one would have to vote in favor of the center. He spoke on the center aligning with the Strategic Plan and how school buildings are used, on a regular basis at minimal or no cost, for other non-profit organizations, which support 	Motion Amended
Aye		x	x	x	x		
No							
Abstain	x						

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						<p>students. Mr. Levinson reported on a resolution, previously adopted by the Board in 2019, showing support for school based health centers, prior to the Warrior Wellness Center opening. He questioned if rejection of this resolution would result in the closing of the Warrior Wellness Center at Central High School. Mrs. Haitz clarified the resolution only address a school based health center at Grand Junction High School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sholtes spoke on a lack of evidence or data to show improved student education outcomes at schools with a school based health center, but noted there is a data showing a thirty percent reduction in student suicide rates and depression at schools with school based health center, which should equate to better student outcomes. She noted in allowing a school based health center at Central High School and not Grand Junction High School feels political. She believes a school based health center needs to be within the schools for student safety, and the new Grand Junction High School was designed for students to stay safe within one main building. <p>➤ A vote was taken on the amended motion to approve a school based health center at Grand Junction High School</p>	Rejected
Motion Second Aye No	x	x		x	x		
			x	x	x		
Motion Second				x	x	D. Adjournment	10:09 p.m.
						<hr/> Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary Board of Education	

**Resolution to Approve a School Based
Health Center at Grand Junction High School**

Board of Education Resolution 22/23: 69

Rejected: March 7, 2023

WHEREAS, in December of 2018 a School-Based Health Center (SBHS) Needs Assessment was conducted by the Colorado Association for School Based Health Care; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation of the SBHC Needs Assessment showed both Central High School and Grand Junction High School would benefit from a SBHS; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2019, the Board of Education approved Resolution 18/19:50 supporting the establishment of school-based health centers in one or more schools; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020, the Warrior Wellness Center, a school based health center, operated by Marillac Health, was opened at Central High School; and

WHEREAS, with the construction of a new Grand Junction High School space will be available for a SBHC; and

WHEREAS, Marillac Health is interested in establishing an SBHC at Grand Junction High School; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education heard information regarding SBHCs and the 2018 Needs Assessment at a January 11, 2023, Special Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the general public has had opportunity to submit comments and concerns to the Board of Education and/or give verbal feedback at the January 17, 2023 Board Business Meeting and the February 21, 2023 Board Business Meeting; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby wishes to proceed with establishing a SBHC at within Grand Junction High School; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby directs the District's legal counsel to work with Marillac Health in preparing a Memo of Understanding to establish and operate a SBHC at Grand Junction High School.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on March 7, 2023.

Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education