

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Special Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2023

Board Special 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
Board Special Meeting: February 27, 2023
Adopted: March 28, 2023

	A	B	C	D	E		ACTION
						AGENDA ITEMS	
Present Absent	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x	<u>BOARD SPECIAL MEETING</u> 1. Declining School Enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Haitz explained the reason for calling a Special Meeting was to gather additional information and have conversation around declining enrollment. She requested audience members refrain from interjecting comments or clapping during the meeting. ➤ Superintendent Hill shared information on the events leading up to this point, noting the District has been experiencing a decline in student enrollment since 2019. He explained how student enrollment affects the District funding and school staffing numbers. He shared data and information on enrollment numbers, capacity data by grade level, comparison data for student enrollment per grade level and birthrates in Mesa County from 2017 to 2022. He reported enrollment projections are received annually from the District's demographer. ➤ Mrs. Melanie Trujillo, Chief Financial Officer, presented information on steps the District has been taking, over the past several years, to address declining enrollment. She shared information on the budget, noting eighty-six percent of the budget is used to pay salaries and benefits. Information was shared on how a school's student enrollment numbers determine funding for staffing at that school, along with graphics and information on the current and projected number of unfunded positions at each level (elementary, middle and high). Mrs. Trujillo demonstrated how school staffing numbers are determined and how a school can offer smaller class sizes and more services, when low enrollment numbers are increased. She reported on options the District could take next year to address declining enrollment, noting many options would only be a temporary fix. ➤ Mr. Shannon Bingham, Western Demographics Demographer, was present to answer questions from the Board regarding proposed subdivision developments, student enrollment projections and other questions relating to reports he previously presented to the Board. <p>[Recess 6:42 p.m. Resume 6:50 p.m.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Jennifer Marsh, Chief Academic Officer, and Mr. Dan Bunnell, Site Director, presented information on the student learning models at the middle school level. Traditionally the District has used a core learning model but with declining enrollment some schools have had to transition to a junior high learning model with some staff teaching multiple grades and/or teaching multiple subjects. ➤ Ms. Nikki Jost, Human Resources Executive Director, answered questions from the Board on employment options and supports for staff should school consolidation occur. ➤ The Board discussed the information and various options presented and asked clarifying questions from Superintendent Hill, Mrs. Trujillo, Mr. Bingham and Mr. Clint Garcia, Chief Operations Officer, who joined the meeting remotely. 	5:02 p.m.

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AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
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- Board members discussed:
 - Tasking a committee to:
 - Review and add to or adjust the criteria used to determine school consolidation recommendations especially at the elementary level.
 - Have final recommendation to the Board by August 2023.
 - Obtain a breakdown of cost savings and/or staff reductions created with each consolidation recommended.
 - Obtaining more information to determine feasibility of doing a grade restructuring in the Fruita area to a traditional middle school and high school grade configuration.
 - Obtaining optimal student enrollment numbers rather than building capacity numbers.
 - Researching possible transportation options for students attending the Challenge Program.

[Recess 8:56 p.m. Resume 9:08 p.m.]

- The Board resumed discussion.
- Mr. Bingham reviewed the criteria he used in determining which school East or West Middle School, would be recommend for closure. He noted elementary schools, in the Fruita area, were not considered for consolidation due to future growth potential in the area.
- Superintendent Hill reported choice schools were not considered for consolidation either as those schools have an application process and enrollment caps.

2. Board Open Discussion
- None at this time

Adjournment

9:40 p.m.

 Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary
 Board of Education