

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Work Session Minutes

May 2, 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: May 2, 2023 Adopted: June 20, 2023	
	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present Absent		x	x	x	x	<u>BUSINESS ITEMS</u>	4:08 p.m.
						A. Call to Order/Roll Call ➤ Mr. Levinson was not present for executive session; he arrived at 6:15 p.m.	
Motion Second Aye No		x			x	B. Agenda Approval	Approved
		x	x	x	x		
						C. Executive Session Executive Session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402 (4)(e), regarding negotiations with Mesa Valley Education Association.	4:11 p.m.
Motion Second Aye No				x	x	➤ Motion to move to executive session	
		x	x	x	x	➤ Persons attending the executive session: Dr. Brian Hill, Ms. Tammy Eret, Mrs. Melanie Trujillo, Mrs. Jennifer Marsh, Ms. Nikki Jost, Mr. David Price, and Board members, Ms. Haitz, Mr. Jones, Ms. Lema and Dr. Sholtes.	5:08 p.m.
Motion Second Aye No				x	x	➤ Motion to adjourn executive session. Time spent discussing negotiations: 57 minutes	
		x	x	x	x	[Recess 4:50 p.m. Resume 5:00 p.m.]	
Present Absent		x	x	x	x	<u>WORK SESSION</u>	5:15 p.m.
						1. Pledge of Allegiance	
						2. Teacher Appreciation Month [Resolution 22/23: 107] ➤ Mr. Jones read the recognition to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of teachers in shaping the minds and futures of District 51 students. Teachers work tirelessly to create engaging and inclusive learning environments, foster a love of learning and inspire students to reach their full potential. ➤ The Board proudly proclaimed the Month of May as Teacher Appreciation Month and encouraged the community to join them in showing appreciation to teachers for all they do and thanking teachers for their outstanding contributions to our D51 Community.	
						3. Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month [Resolution 22/23: 106] ➤ Ms. Lema read the recognition to proclaim May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month seeks to honor and recognize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for their countless contributions to our society. ➤ The Board encouraged the community to engage in activities and events that celebrate and highlight the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.	

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4. Grand Junction High School Construction Update
 - Ms. Colleen Kaneda and Mr. Micah Adams with Dynamic Program Management, and Pete Icenogle with Blyth Group+ and Mr. Eddie Mort, Maintenance, Operations and Ground Director, presented updated information on the Grand Junction High School construction project. Information was shared on the project's timeline and budget, the recently completed work, work in progress and future work. Construction site photos were shared along with a drone video of the construction site.

5. Appleton Area Boundary Change Update.
 - Mr. Shannon Bingham, Western Demographics, Inc. Demographer joined the meeting remotely to share information regarding stakeholder feedback and his recommendation regarding boundary changes for middle school students living in the Appleton Elementary School attendance area. The boundary changes would shift students from the Fruita Middle School, West Middle School and Fruita 8/9 School to Redlands Middle School. The proposed boundary changes would help in reconfiguring secondary grades in the Fruita area. He reviewed the three alternative changes from his initial proposal, requested by parents, and he shared his reasoning for recommending the alternative changes. He noted most parents surveyed, were in favor of the proposed alternative changes.

6. Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee Update
 - Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee facilitators, Dr. Brian Hill, Superintendent, Dr. Danny Medved, Professional Learning Director, Mr. Paul Jebe, Site Director, and Mrs. Callie Berkson, Public Information Officer, were present to share updated information on the Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee.
 - Dr. Hill reviewed the charges of the committee, shared information regarding the roles of the facilitators, the make-up of the committee, the projected enrollment numbers for District 51, and agenda items for future committee meetings. He shared graphics showing data showing student enrollment numbers, the number of schools and budgetary information, for school districts of similar size.
 - Dr. Medved explained how the committee meetings are structured to create ongoing learning, have space for reflection, determine what information is needed to move forward and to create space where conversations and conflicts are comfortable. The structuring of the meeting enables committee members to work to define the problem and explore solutions through honest conversation.
 - Mr. Jebe reported on helping the committee members understand what items need to be considered to support schools, such as specials (art/music), special education, and interventions, so all students can be successful. He shared graphics and information on District's elementary schools and the level of resources needed to have an ideal resourcing model and on staffing reductions needed to match staffing with declining enrollment.
 - Mrs. Berkson reported on a timeline for the committee meetings and the projected work the committee is hoping to complete, noting the meetings are recorded, with the recordings being made available to committee members.

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She reviewed the work the committee has completed over past month and the goals of the committee.

7. Strategic Plan Focus Group 2#

- Ms. Nikki Jost, Human Resource Executive Director, and Mr. Carter Ness, Licensed Recruiting Specialist, shared information on the work being done under the priority area of Diverse and Growing Pipelines, under the Strategic Plan Focus Group #2 of Prepared and Supported Staff. Ms. Jost thanked the committee participants for their time and input over this past year. The committee consisted of thirty-three participants, comprised of staff and community members. Updated information was displayed showing the number of positions posted for licensed staff, noting positions are now being offered to both internal and external applicants. Updated information was shared on the grant funded Pathway to Principalship Program, a program designed to advance District staff who show good leadership skills. The program will assist six-selected District licensed employees with scholarships to assist in helping them earn Principal Licensure.
- Dr. Danny Medved, Professional Learning Director, Ms. Heather Flick and Ms. Jamie Burnham, Instructional Coaches Coordinators, Ms. Britny Walker, Curriculum and Learning Design Specialist, Ms. Linnea Hulshof, Cultural, Linguistically and Diverse Education Coordinator, and Ms. Audrey Morales, Redlands Middle School Instructional Coach, reported on the work being done under the priority area of Professional Learning.
 - Dr. Medved shared information and data on the goals and the means used to measure the goals and on Data-Informed Learning Communities. Data-Informed Learning Communities will move the focus from teaching to learning, working in isolation to working collaboratively and taking collective responsibility.
 - Ms. Burnham reported on the cultural shift of using Data-Informed Learning Communities and how implementation at the elementary level. She reported on tools and benchmarks teachers are using to make instructional decisions, and how the process of Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) is implemented.
 - Ms. Walker reviewed the work at the middle school level to build a capacity of instructional leadership teams to lead learning communities to have structured collaboration within and across buildings. She shared data showing improvement in identifying and reducing learning gaps and staff finding value in learning communities. Information was shared on steps moving forward.
 - Ms. Hulshof shared information on the progression of work completed to meet the needs of diverse learners. She shared the goals for this next year of the work being done by elementary and secondary advisory teams transitioning to the site and learning community levels.
 - Ms. Baskin reported on school level strategies to improve a student's sense of belonging and social emotional needs. Data was shared showing growth at the elementary level, but not as much growth at the secondary level. She shared information on next year's goals with school at the

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						<p style="text-align: center;">secondary level continuing to use the Capturing Kids Hearts practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Moralez shared information on the processes and structures used at Redlands Middle School to improve student outcomes. <p>➤ Mrs. Connie Mack, Benefits Manager, and Ms. Ayme Zortman, Curriculum and Learning Design Specialist, spoke on the priority area of Staff Wellness. Ms. Mack reported the results of staff surveying show the majority of employees are happy and feel supported in the work they are doing, but many are exhausted, over whelmed and stressed out. She reported on former, current and proposed means of distributing information and engaging employees in the wellness programs available.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[Recess 6:20 p.m. Resume 6:26 p.m.]</p>	
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>8. Resolution to Adjust Boundaries for Middle School Students Living in the Appleton Elementary School Boundary [Resolution 22/23: 105]</p> <p>➤ Dr. Sholtes requested busing cost comparisons for the proposed change of extending the boundary from 25 Road to 26 Road and pulling students from the West Middle School to Redlands Middle School.</p> <p>➤ Ms. Lema amended her initial motion to approve the resolution to tabling the resolution to allow time to get the additional costs information.</p>	Tabled
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>9. Personnel Actions</p> <p>9.a. Licensed & Administrative Personnel Actions [Resolution 22/23: 104]</p> <p>9.b. Administrative New Hires [Resolution 22/23: 108]</p>	Adopted
						<p>10. Board Open Discussion</p> <p>➤ Dr. Sholtes requested an update on East Middle School students who requested West Middle School through the choice process following the closure of East Middle School. She also asked for clarification on how building capacities are calculated.</p> <p>➤ Superintendent Hill and Mr. Paul Jebe, Site Director, reported initial building capacities are set based on the number of rooms and square footage, when the buildings were constructed. Whereas, school and District administration are now working to determine preferred capacity numbers based on the number of classrooms, education programing and how the classrooms are utilized.</p>	
						<p>Adjourn</p>	8:42 p.m.
						<p>_____ Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary Board of Education</p>	

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the vital role that teachers play in shaping the minds and futures of our students; and

WHEREAS, Teacher Appreciation Month provides an opportunity for us to express our gratitude for the hard work and dedication of our teachers; and

WHEREAS, teachers in District 51 work tirelessly to create engaging and inclusive learning environments, foster a love of learning, and inspire students to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, teachers are an essential part of our community and help to build a brighter future for us all. We acknowledge the impact that our teachers have on the lives of our students, and we express our heartfelt appreciation for their dedication, creativity, and unwavering commitment to District 51's vision and mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Mesa County Valley School District 51 hereby proclaims the month of May as Teacher Appreciation Month, and we encourage our community to show their appreciation for our teachers by thanking them for their hard work and joining us in recognizing their outstanding contributions to our D51 community.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on May 2, 2023.

Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage in the United States was celebrated beginning in 1978 and was made into a month-long event in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month seeks to honor and recognize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and their countless contributions to our society in a variety of fields, including science, technology, medicine, business, sports, and cultural arts; and

WHEREAS, As a community, we are committed to creating an environment that promotes diversity, access, and opportunity. We want to recognize that our Asian American and Pacific Islander community members bring unique perspectives and talents to the Grand Valley; and

WHEREAS, We encourage our community to take this opportunity and celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and to renew our commitment to building an inclusive and supportive community for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Mesa County Valley School District 51 hereby proclaims May 2023 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and encourages our community to engage in activities and events that celebrate their heritage and highlight the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout history.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on May 2, 2023.

*Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education*



Mesa County Valley School District 51

Resolution To Shift The Boundaries For Middle School Students Living in the Appleton Elementary School Attendance Area

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 105

Tabled: May 2, 2023

WHEREAS, the Board of Education’s vision is to engage, equip, and empower each and every student every day; and

WHEREAS, the District has been experiencing declining enrollment since 2019; and

WHEREAS, the District’s demographer, presented stakeholder information, to the Board of Education, showing the majority of stakeholders, in the Fruita area, prefer the secondary schools in the Fruita area return to a traditional grade configuration of grades sixth through eighth and ninth through twelfth; and

WHEREAS, families, of middle school students living in the Appleton Elementary School attendance area, and the general public were invited to attend a community meeting to discuss proposed boundary changes; and

WHEREAS, information from the community meeting, along with the demographer recommendations were shared with the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, shifting middle school students, living in the Appleton Elementary School attendance from Fruita Middle School, Fruita 8/9 School and West Middle School to Redlands Middle School, would be beneficial in helping the District address staffing and programming issues currently being experienced at the middle school levels and beneficial in transitioning the Fruita area secondary schools back to traditional grade configuration; and

WHEREAS, the area for the boundary shift is described as: Beginning at the intersection of 26 Road and G Road in Mesa County, Colorado; thence westerly along the centerline of G Road to the Colorado River; thence westerly along the Colorado River to the centerline as extended southerly of 22 Road in Mesa County; thence northerly along the centerline of 22 Road to the centerline of L Road; thence easterly along the centerline of L Road and the alignment of L Road as extended easterly across unoccupied BLM land to the alignment of 26 Road as extended northerly; thence southerly along said alignment and southerly along the centerline of 26 Road to the point of beginning; and

WHEREAS, boundary changes would go into effect for the 2023-2024 school year for incoming middle school sixth graders living in the Appleton Elementary School boundary as described above; and

WHEREAS, busing will be provided, at no cost, for middle school students currently residing in the Appleton Elementary School as described above to Redlands Middle School starting the 2023-2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, affected students who would be in sixth grade in the 2023-24 school year, and would have siblings in the seventh or eighth grade who will be attending school at Fruita Middle School, Fruita 8/9 School or West Middle School during the 2023-2024 school year, will be grandfathered into Fruita or West Middle School, if they choose to remain in order to allow all family members to attend the same school; and

WHEREAS, busing will be proved, at no cost, for sixth grade siblings who would be grandfathered according to the stipulations described above and for seventh and eighth grade students who live in the shift area to continue at their current school for the 2023-2024 school year as they are phased out of their current assignment; now



Mesa County Valley School District 51

Resolution To Shift The Boundaries For Middle School Students Living in the Appleton Elementary School Attendance Area

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 105

Tabled: May 2, 2023

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby wishes to address programming and staffing issues caused by declining enrollment and transition the Fruita area secondary schools to a traditional configuration of sixth through eighth and ninth through twelfth; now

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to work with the District's demographer to make the necessary boundary adjustments to shift middle school students residing in the Appleton Elementary School shift area to Redlands Middle 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 May 2, 2023.

Bridget Story
Secretary, Board of Education



Mesa County Valley School District 51

Licensed and Administrative Personnel Action

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 104

Adopted: May 2, 2023

Name	Location	Assignment	Effective Date
Retirements			
COWGILL, CAROL P	ORCHARD AVE	MUSIC	5/24/2023
DURMAS, KARLA DEE	GRAND RIVER	GENERAL ELEMENTARY ED	5/24/2023
LEONHART, KAREN L	RIM ROCK	KINDERGARTEN	5/24/2023
WARNER, MICHAEL AARON	EMERSON	COACH, INSTRUCTIONAL TECH	5/24/2023
Resignations/Termination			
BROWN, SISSILY R	BTK	COORD, SPECIAL ED	6/6/2023
CHINN, BRENDA L	GRAND RIVER	GIFTED & TALENTED ELEMENTARY	5/24/2023
CLARK, ROBERT C	WEST	COMPUTER ED	5/24/2023
COX, HANNA E	BTK	SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPIST	5/24/2023
CURTIN-SELLDEN, MISTY D	PALISADE	COUNSELOR	6/6/2023
DILLDINE, ALLIE L	ORCHARD AVE	GRADE 2	5/24/2023
GRIFFITHS, AARON F	GATEWAY	GENERAL ELEMENTARY ED	5/24/2023
JOHNSON, GINA NICOLE	CENTRAL	SP ED-MODERATE NEEDS	5/24/2023
MORRELL, MARK A	GRAND MESA	6TH GR SCIENCE	5/24/2023
REED, JUSTIN C	PALISADE	TECH ED/INDUSTRIAL ARTS	5/24/2023
ROMINE, DANIELLE M	CLIFTON	GRADE 3	5/24/2023
SPOEDE, SCOTT A	CHIPETA	ASST PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY	6/2/2023
TRUJILLO, BRIANA L	TAYLOR	GRADE 2	5/24/2023
WARD, CORI	FMHS	COUNSELOR	6/6/2023
WELKER, LINDSEY L	NISLEY	COUNSELOR	5/24/2023
Leave of Absence			
NONE AT THIS TIME.			
New Assignments (Transfer/New Hires)			
BRENELMANN, DANIELLA	BTK	SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPIST	8/3/2023
GONZALEZ, CHRISTINA	BTK	PSYCHOLOGIST	7/25/2023
GUSTIN, LISA E	BTK	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	8/2/2023
KITCHELL, ETHAN C	BTK	PHYSICAL THERAPIST	8/2/2023
KITCHELL, MELISSA	BTK	SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPIST	8/3/2023
KOZLOWSKI, TARA	BTK	SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPIST	8/3/2023
NELSON, MICHAEL S	BTK	PSYCHOLOGIST	7/25/2023
SLAWINSKI, ANDREW	BTK	AUDIOLOGIST	8/2/2023
Return from Leave			



Mesa County Valley School District 51
Licensed and Administrative Personnel Action

Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 104

Adopted: May 2, 2023

NONE AT THIS TIME.			
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I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on May 2, 2023.

Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary
Board of Education

Daniel Medved - Orchard Mesa Middle School Principal

- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Director of Professional Learning - 2017-present
- Denver Public Schools, Principal - 2014-2017
- Denver Public Schools, Assistant Principal - 2012-2014
- Denver Public Schools, Teacher - 2008-2012

Dr. Medved received his Bachelor's Degree in Outdoor Education and Recreation from Western State College of Colorado in 2006, his Master's of Education Degree in Secondary Reading and Writing: Language Literacy and Culturally Responsive Teaching in 2011 from the University of Colorado, Denver and his Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Denver in 2017.

Jory Sorensen - Grand Junction High School Principal

- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Redlands Middle School Principal - 2016-present
- Garfield County School District 16, Middle School Principal - 2010-2016
- Garfield County School District 16, 4/5 Principal - 2009-2010
- Garfield County School District 16, Middle School Assistant Principal - 2007-2009
- Thompson School District, High School Teacher - 2001-2007

Mr. Sorensen received his Bachelor's Degree in Zoology from Colorado State University in 2000 and his Master's in Education Administration from University of Phoenix in 2003.

Kris Friesen - Scenic Elementary School Principal

- York Public Schools, Nebraska - York Elementary Principal - 2007-present
- York Public Schools, Nebraska - York Elementary Assistant Principal - 2005-2007
- North Platte Public Schools, Nebraska - Elementary Teacher & Reading Coach - 2001-2005
- North Platte Public Schools, Nebraska - Middle School Teacher & Coach - 1992-2001

Ms. Friesen received her Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Special Education from the University of Nebraska, Kearney in 1991 and her Master's in Educational Administration from the University of Nebraska, Kearney in 2000.

Newton Klusmire - Fruita Monument High School Principal

- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Fruita Monument High School Assistant Principal - 2018-present
- Lynden School District, Washington, Lynden High School Dean of Students - 2016-2018
- Lynden School District, Washington, Lynden High School Teacher - 2012-2016

Mr. Klusmire received his Bachelor's Degree in English Education from the University of Northern Colorado in 2011 and his Master's in Educational Administration from Western Washington University in 2016.

Shawn Wilson - Taylor Elementary School Principal

- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Chatfield Elementary Assistant Principal - 2017-present
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Thunder Mountain Elementary Assistant Principal - 2014-2017
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Rocky Mountain Elementary Teacher - 2010-2014

Mr. Wilson received his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Colorado Mesa University in 2010 and his Master's in Educational Leadership from Colorado Mesa University in 2014.

Tracy Arledge - Central High School Principal

- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Central High School Assistant Principal - 2014-present
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Palisade High School Teacher - 1999-2014
- St. Mary's Academy, Oregon, Teacher - 1996-1999
- Fort Bend Independent School District, Texas, Teacher - 1996-1996

Ms. Arledge received her Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1992 and her Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from the University of Denver in 2007.

Jackelyn Anderson - Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Design

- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Director of Curriculum - 2021-present
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Palisade High School Assistant Principal - 2016-2021
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Palisade High School Teacher - 2014-2016
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Induction Specialist - 2013-2014
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Palisade High School Teacher - 2006-2013

Ms. Anderson received her Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education: English Literature from Colorado Mesa University in 2005 and her Master's in Education Administration from Lemar University of Texas State in 2016.

William Bunnell - Executive Director of Student Services

- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Site Leadership Director - 2018-present
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Pear Park Principal - 2013-2018
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, East Middle School Assistant Principal - 2012-2013
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Grand Mesa Middle School Assistant Principal - 2008-2012
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, Teacher - 1997-2008
- Mesa County Valley School District 51, SPED SSN Paraprofessional - 1996-1997

Mr. Bunnell received his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Black Hills State University, South Dakota in 1996, his initial Master's in Special Education from the University of Northern Colorado in 2000 and his second Master's in Curriculum and Development from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in 2008. Mr. Bunnell completed his Superintendent Licensure program in 2022 at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on May 2, 2023.

*Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary
Board of Education*