

**Resolution to Form a Committee
to Address Declining Student
Enrollment at the Elementary Schools**

Board of Education Resolution 22/23: 72

Presented: March 16, 2023

WHEREAS, the Mesa County Valley School District 51 vision is to engage, equip, and empower each and every student every day; and

WHEREAS, the Mesa County Valley School District 51 strategic plan focuses on Prepared & Supported Students, Prepared & Supported Staff, and Engaged & Supportive Community Partners; and

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

WHEREAS, substantial and ongoing declining enrollment can have a direct impact on adequate school staffing and programming, can lead to inefficient and unsustainable staffing, create difficulty in providing adequate services for students, create underutilization of facilities, and create increased safety risks; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education received information from the District's demographer projecting continued declining enrollment over the next five to seven years; and

WHEREAS, the District's demographer recommended the closure of certain elementary schools effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year to address staffing and programmatic issues facing elementary schools due to declining enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education realizes the closure of elementary schools would greatly impact many students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to review the data presented, acquire additional data, if necessary, study all options, including the benefits, and ramifications of closing elementary schools, and better educate the community on the issues surrounding the enrollment declines and the effects enrollment decline has on the District; and

WHEREAS, due to the urgency and importance of this work, the Board desires for the Superintendent to continue the work already started and the future work to implement this Resolution; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to form a committee to explore data and options, including the benefits and ramifications of closing elementary schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to select members to serve on said committee, schedule and facilitate committee meetings necessary to develop recommendations to address declining student enrollment. The Superintendent will propose to the Board of Education a final recommendation, from the committee, no later than September 19, 2023, that may result in elementary school consolidations effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

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 16, 2023.



Mesa County Valley School District 51

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Bridget Story

Assistant Secretary, Board of Education