

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Special Meeting

August 23, 2011

Special Meeting Minutes

A - Diann Rice
 B - Cindy Enos-Martinez
 C - Harry Butler
 D - Leslie Kiesler
 E - Greg Mikolai

Board of Education Mesa County Valley School District 51

Special Meeting Minutes: August 23, 2011
 Adopted: September 20, 2011

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AGENDA ITEMS **ACTION**

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| Present | x | x | x | x | x | <p>A. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE/ROLL CALL ➤ Mr. Butler welcomed everyone to the August 23, 2011, Board Special Meeting.</p> | 9:02 am |
| Absent | | | | | | | |
| Motion | | | | | x | | |
| Second | | | | | | <p>B. Resolution for Refunding Bonds [Resolution: 11/12:11] Mrs. Melissa Callahan deVita, Executive Director of Support Service, Mr. Todd Snidow of George K. Baum & Company</p> <p>➤ Mrs. Callahan-deVita reported this resolution was the same as the resolution presented to the Board approximately six months prior. No action was taken with the previous resolution as interest rates did not drop enough to make the refinancing feasible.</p> <p>➤ Mr. Snidow shared information concerning the current and anticipated fluctuation of interest rates, and the decrease needed to make refinancing feasible. A three percent decrease is a good bench mark. He further clarified the district would not refinance all of the District's bonds. The type and structuring of the bond would be considered when making this decision.</p> <p>➤ Mr. Snidow stated the purpose for the resolution was to allow Mrs. Callahan deVita and Superintendent Schultz to act on the Board's behalf, eliminating the need to go back before the board. The resolution dictates refinancing cannot take place unless the rates are favorable.</p> | Adopted |
| Aye | x | x | x | x | x | | |
| No | | | | | | | |
| Motion | | | | | x | <p>C. Resolution for Potential Mill Levy Override [Resolution 11/12:12] Superintendent Steve Schultz, Mr. Duke Workman, Friends of 51 and Mrs. Melissa Callahan deVita, Executive Director of Support Service</p> <p>➤ Superintendent Schultz addressed the Board concerning the steps taken over the past few years to build a world class education with many changes being based on recommendations from a comprehensive review from experts outside the district. He noted the changes are making a difference in the District as graduation rates have increased, dropout rates have decreased and the growth models show the District is growing at a faster pace than the state. Most of the improvements are in place; however, budget cuts have affected some of the changes and it is projected there will be more budget cuts in next year's budget.</p> <p>➤ The survey mailed to voters was based on a mill levy increase sufficient to generate \$14 million in the first year. The two options being presented tonight would generate \$12.5 million in the first year and both options contain a six year sunset.</p> <p>➤ Tomorrow, over twenty-one thousand students from kindergarten through twelfth grade will be returning to school, with kindergartners making up the class of 2024. It is important to look ahead when planning.</p> <p>➤ The initiative before the Board, if adopted and passed by the voters, would</p> | Adopted |
| Second | x | | | | | | |
| Aye | x | x | x | x | x | | |
| No | | | | | | | |

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offset the impact the District has felt from the funding problems the State is experiencing. Mr. Schultz reminded the Board the funds would stay in District 51 and would help allow the District to follow the long-term plan.

- Mr. Workman reported he is a member of the Friends of District 51, which is now registered with the state, a twenty-five year Rotarian and participant in the Volunteer 500 Plan. He has resided in the valley for thirty-five years. Mr. Workman noted the students of today need different tools than those students of the past. He stressed the need for the District to be aggressive in pursuing a mill levy override as the money would stay in the District.
- Mrs. Callahan deVita explained the two options being placed before the Board.
- Discussion was held by the Board as follows:
 - The sunset term of six years was chosen to give the economy adequate time to recover, to avoid the term ending during a presidential election and to have the term end when a school Board election would be held for District Directors.
 - If the assessed property values fluctuated the mill levy would adjust to keep the override at \$12.5 million and the homeowner would still pay approximately the same amount with Option A.
 - In subsequent years the amount generated by Option B could go up or down depending on assessed property values. If the assessed property value goes up, the home owner would pay more, and the District would receive more; whereas if the property values go down, the home owner would pay less, and the District would receive less.
 - Option A could add an additional strain to tax payers if the economy declines. Option B could increase the amount tax payers pay if the economy improves and property value increases, whereas if the economy declines and values go down the taxpayer would pay less.
 - The District is looking at an additional \$8 million in cuts for the 2011-2012 school year. This could necessitate school closures, loss of more positions, fees for busing, a fee increase for athletics and/or a four day school week.
- Mrs. Enos-Martinez stated as elected officials, it is the Board's responsibility to make sure students get the best education possible and cutting days and teachers in not the best option.
- Mrs. Kiesler read a statement highlighting accomplishments of the District over the past year:
 - Fruita Monument High School and Grand Junction High School participated in Colorado Legacy Schools program
 - New Emerson received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award

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- Nisley Elementary received a 2010 Centers of Excellence Award
 - Orchard Avenue Elementary was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School
 - Three teachers earned National Board Certification and one teacher renewed her National Board Certification
 - A Bookcliff Middle School teacher was the 2010 recipient of the Our Heroes Award and was 1 of 100 nominated
 - Palisade High School Principal Matt Diers was selected as Colorado Principal of the Year
 - Two students received the National Center for Women in Information Technology Award
 - A Central High School student won a Boettcher Scholarship
 - The GJHS Knowledge Bowl team took first in state and first in Division 5A, the PHS team took second in state and first in Division 4A, and the FMHS team took third in state and second in Division 5A.
 - Twelve high school students qualified for the National Forensic League National Tournament
 - A GJHS student was one of two chosen to represent the State of Colorado at the 2010 Boys Nation Program in Washington, D.C.
 - Eighty-six seniors were Super Scholars
 - The FMHS Recycling Club received the Bronze Environmental Achievement Award
 - \$1,401,440 in scholarships were awarded to fifteen IB graduates
- Mrs. Rice recognized the District has had several outstanding accomplishments at schools with less advantaged students noting the alternative programs and the work being done so every student can be successful. She recognized the staff at Clifton Elementary, their accomplishments working as a team with no turn over in staff this past year, as an example of what can happen when you put the resources where needed.
- Mrs. Kiesler spoke of the Colorado School Law Book and the number of mandates the District is required to do and the amount of staff needed to compile the data to comply with those mandates.

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| Motion | | | | | x |
| Second | | x | | | |
| Aye | x | x | x | x | x |
| No | | | | | |

D. MEETING ADJOURNED:

 Bridget Story, Assistant to Secretary
 Board of Education

Meeting
 Adjourned
 9:53 am

CERTIFIED RECORD
OF
PROCEEDINGS OF
MESA COUNTY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51
IN THE COUNTY OF MESA AND STATE OF COLORADO
RELATING TO
GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2011
IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$85,505,000

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MESA COUNTY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 IN THE COUNTY OF MESA AND STATE OF COLORADO:

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the District will be held at the Grand Junction City Auditorium, 250 N. 5th Street, in Grand Junction, Colorado on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., at which meeting the Board will consider and act upon matters relating to bonded indebtedness of the District and take up any other business to come before it.

GIVEN under our hands and the seal of said District as of the _____ day of August, 2011.

(S E A L)

President

Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTICE
AND CONSENT TO MEETING

We, the undersigned, members of the Board of Education of the above designated School District, do hereby acknowledge receipt of the foregoing notice of meeting, and we hereby waive any and all irregularities, if any, in such Notice and in the time and manner of service thereof upon us, and consent and agree to the holding of such meeting at the time and place specified in said Notice, and to the transaction of any and all business which may come before such meeting.

Members, Board of Education
Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 in the County of Mesa and State of Colorado

MESA COUNTY VALLEY)
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 IN)
THE COUNTY OF MESA)
AND STATE OF COLORADO)

The Board of Education of Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 in the County of Mesa and State of Colorado, met in regular session at the Grand Junction City Auditorium, 250 N. 5th Street in Grand Junction, Colorado, in said District, on August 23, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.

The following members of the Board of Education were present, constituting a quorum:

President: Harry Butler
Vice President: Cindy Enos-Martinez
Members: Diann Rice
Leslie Kiesler
Greg Mikolai

Also Present:

Superintendent: Stephen D. Schultz
Executive Director of Support Services: Melissa Callahan-DeVita

Absent: _____

Director _____ introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

REFERRED MEASURE

SHALL MESA COUNTY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51'S TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$12,500,000 ANNUALLY FOR THE 2012-2013 BUDGET YEAR AND THE FOLLOWING FIVE BUDGET YEARS (TO BE SUNSETTED AFTER 6 TOTAL YEARS) BY AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL LEVY OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE 2012-2013 BUDGET YEAR AND THE FOLLOWING FIVE BUDGET YEARS, IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO RAISE SUCH DOLLAR AMOUNT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- RESTORING CLASSROOM TEACHING POSITIONS
- INCREASING STUDENT ACCESS TO INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTERS EQUITABLY DISTRICT-WIDE
- RESTORING LOST SCHOOL DAYS
- STABILIZING REVENUE AND OFFSETTING POTENTIAL FUTURE REDUCTIONS,

SUCH INCREASED REVENUES AND THE EARNINGS THEREON TO CONSTITUTE VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGES AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS?