

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Business Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2015

Business Meeting Minutes

- A - Jeff Leany
- B - Ann Tisue
- C - John Williams
- D - Tom Parrish
- E - Greg Mikolai

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	A	B	C	D	E		ACTION
						AGENDA ITEMS	
Present		x	x	x	x	A. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL	6:00 P.M.
Absent	x					➤ Mr. Mikolai welcomed attendees to the February Board Business Meeting and gave instructions for meeting participants to address the Board, <i>under Item G, Audience Comments.</i>	
Motion				x		B. AGENDA APPROVAL	Adopted
Second		x					
Aye		x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion		x				C. MEETING MINUTES AND SUMMARY APPROVAL	Adopted as Presented
Second				x		C-1. December 16, 2014, Board Business Meeting Minutes	
Aye		x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion		x				C-2. January 6, 2015, Board Work Session Minutes	Adopted as Presented
Second				x			
Aye		x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion		x				C-3. January 20, 2015 Board Business Meeting Minutes	Adopted as Presented
Second				x			
Aye		x	x	x	x		
No							
						D. RECOGNITIONS	
						➤ Recognition of Performing Groups from Grand Junction High School and East Middle School [Resolution: 14/15: 60]	
						Mr. Parrish read a resolution recognizing two musical groups from District 51 who were selected as "Honor Performing Groups" for the 2015 Colorado Music Educators Association Conference. This is an elite honor for students in the Grand Junction High School Chamber Orchestra, directed by Cameron Law; and the students in the East Middle School Honors Choir, directed by Raisha Quinn. Being selected to play at the Conference is the highest state honor a school musical group can receive in Colorado. The Board and Superintendent congratulated the teachers and students for their accomplishment and statewide honor.	
						E. BOARD REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS/REQUESTS	
						➤ Mr. Parrish report he attended a debate by fifth grade students at Pomona Elementary regarding school calendar options.	
						➤ Mrs. Tisue reported on her trip to Lindsey Unified School District and stated she enjoyed the visit.	
						F. LEGISLATIVE REPORT	
						➤ None at this time.	

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G. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Mr. Mikolai read guidelines for meeting attendees to address the Board:
 - Mrs. Carol Wethington and Ms. Laura Jordan, 2059 Ferree Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81507
 Mrs. Wethington and Ms. Jordan commented on the effectiveness of intersession as a tool for intervention. They believe the short periods of intervention provided during intersession are not very effective at helping kids catch up. They stated they felt it is more effective to provide deeper and consistent intervention on a daily basis. The Board thanked Mrs. Wethington and Ms. Jordan for their comments.
 - Mrs. Deanne Adamson, 499 Desert Hill Court, Grand Junction, CO 81507
 Mrs. Adamson thanked Mr. Giurado and Mr. Schultz for their time answering questions regarding the school calendar. She asked the Board to retain some time in August for family vacations, family reunions and camps. The Board thanked her for her time on the Calendar Committee and her comments.
 - Ms. Fredricka Howie, 103 Chipeta Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
 Mrs. Howie stated she lives on Chipeta Avenue and asked the Board to have Chipeta Elementary staff park in an alternative location during the Spring Cleanup Week the City of Grand Junction hosts. She stated the teachers who park on the street make it difficult for trash removal. The Board thanked Ms. Howie for her comments.
 - Ms. Sue Kupelian, 623 Charn Court, Grand Junction, CO 81507
 Ms. Kupelian spoke on behalf of Ms. Vanessa Smock and Grand Junction area high school students. These students are in favor of returning to the traditional school calendar. Ms. Kupelian spoke of breaks, which the students feel disrupt learning and thwart the efforts of students in favor of those needing to catch up. She stated students enjoy time with their family for life experiences and it is difficult for students to procure jobs with the current calendar the way it is. The Board thanked Ms. Kupelian for her comments.
 - Ms. Patrice Clark, 343 Sienna Court, Grand Junction, CO 81507
 Mrs. Clark commented on behavior supports. She provided practical classroom examples of how behavior issues impact learning of students who need support (an estimated 15%) and how these issues disrupt the other approximate 85% of students who do not need support. Ms. Clark stated she was in favor of more support for interventions and she is in favor of putting behavior supports in place for disruptive students. The Board thanked Ms. Clark for her comments.

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- Ms. Pat Dixon, 839 E. Cleveland Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81521
 Ms. Dixon spoke about behavior support. She reported working with students who have Individual Education Plans and she also consults with colleagues regarding general education students in need of behavior supports. Ms. Dixon reported on the time delay for making adaptations to those students in need of behavior support and discussed ways to expedite interventions. She stated it takes many resources in a building to support teachers who are trying to teach. The Board thanked Ms. Dixon for her comments.
- Ms. Sarah Bradburn, 2514 Filmore Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81505
 Ms. Bradburn reported on behavior support. She recommended consistent behavior expectations and consequences across the District. Ms. Bradburn recommended support systems in the schools as well as support from the community. She would like to see support for District staff and the creation of a system which is not cumbersome to use. She asked the Board for faster access to services. She estimated a cost to the District for lost instructional time. Ms. Bradburn stated she was in favor of investing resources at appropriate levels to help with behavior supports. The Board thanked Ms. Bradburn for her comments.

[Mr. Leany arrived at 6:33 p.m.]

- Ms. Barb Trowbridge, 600 Reeder Mesa Road, Whitewater, CO 81527
 Ms. Trowbridge reported on Reading Recovery and how the program is suffering as it has four part-time instructors specializing in Reading Recovery. She recommended to the Board the District value Reading Recovery and better fund the Reading Recovery Program. She emphasized interventions need to be a daily, deep-relations focused process. She asked the Board to consider additional staff development in Reading Recovery. The Board thanked Ms. Trowbridge for her comments.
- Ms. Barbara Ann Smith, 346 Quail Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81507
 Ms. Smith reported on her desire for the District to receive waivers on PARCC Assessment exemptions. She stated she does not agree with the Attorney General's opinion, which is the State Board of Education cannot authorize waivers. Ms. Smith asked the community to contact the State School Board and write letters in favor of granting School District 51's waivers from this assessment process. The Board thanked Ms. Smith for her comments.
- Ms. Clare Talbott and Mrs. Diane Cox, 3641 E ½ Road, Palisade, CO 81526
 Ms. Talbott and Ms. Cox discussed the calendar. They stated the early start of the calendar limits their ability to hire students to help with

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farming and orchard work. They stated the Palisade swimming pool and other parks and recreation services have to close earlier, causing the students to lose work opportunities; which have life values in addition to the economic impact of working. Both women urged a return to the traditional calendar. The Board thanked them for their comments.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

H-1. Audit Report

- Mr. Schultz introduced Mr. Mike Nelson from Chadwick, Steinkirshner, Davis and Company, P.C., and Ms. Cara Golden, Accounting Supervisor for District 51. Mr. Nelson reported independent auditors did an audit of Mesa County Valley School District 51 and in their opinion, the financial statements represent the actions of the District, with no deficiencies found. The Governmental Finance Officers Association certificate was included in the report. There was a general audit performed and a single audit performed on the Federal Revenues. Neither of these audits had any deficiencies. Mr. Nelson reported District 51 is in a strong financial position. Mr. Nelson stated there will be a key change beginning with the audit next year, where the District's portion of unfunded Public Education Retirement Association (PERA) Pension liabilities will be placed on the books. He stated the Food Service Fund will also change from an enterprise fund to a governmental fund. Actuarial projections show the PERA trust funds are on track to be fully funded in thirty years. The Board and Superintendent thanked Mr. Nelson and Ms. Golden for the report.

H-2. Behavior Supports Team – Mrs. Susana Wittrock, Executive Director Equity/Minority Student Performance, introduced Mr. Will Hayes from Hilltop, and Ms. Karen Leonhart, Teacher, District 51, whom are members of the Behavior Supports Team. Mrs. Wittrock stated they were present to review and follow-up on some information previously reported to the Board. Surveys were done with District 51 teachers (2011 and 2013 TELL Survey, 2013 teacher survey) which revealed common themes essential to behavior supports. It was reported the top reasons for disruptive behaviors are mental health, lagging skills and classroom management. Feedback from teachers and teams to improve services to these students included:

- Fully funding Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Programs
- District-wide behavior expectations and discipline matrices
- More staff counselors and psychologists
- Professional development for staff on behavioral intervention
- In-school suspension with supports for students
- More academic options and interventions for students with behavior issues
- Functional behavior plans
- Teacher buy-in
- Loving and caring school environments
- Increased community partnerships

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapeutic day treatment for non-special education students (special education students currently receive therapeutic day treatments) • Develop multi-disciplinary approaches to support complex students and families • Training in youth mental health “first aid” • Education on District Policies • Parent and family night 	
						<p>H-3. Calendar Discussion</p> <p>➤ Mrs. Carrie Bollinger and Mr. Bob Corneille were available for questions. Discussion took place updating the Board on new changes to the calendars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three draft calendars include President’s Day and Martin Luther King’s day as holidays. • Hunting seasons were reviewed for alignment; however, could not be accommodated. There are six different seasons, plus a late season. • The state will allow for an earlier “count date” if a calendar is selected which includes October 1 as a break. <p>Discussion took place regarding obtaining identifiable data measures. Look at tweaking some classes as data provides a picture of the effectiveness of what is offered. Intercessions was discussed to maximize opportunities for all students, not just students who are behind. The idea of intercessions is to provide intense opportunities for students to continue their academic growth. The Board will look at different approaches to help low performing students.</p>	
						<p>H-4. Expulsion Report</p> <p>➤ Mr. Schultz reported a continued decline in expulsions compared to the same time last year.</p>	
						<p>I. EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <p>➤ None at this time</p>	
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	<p>J. CONSENT AGENDA</p> <p>J-1. Personnel Actions</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">J-1-a. Licensed Personnel</p> <p>J-2. Gifts</p> <p>J-3. Grants</p>	Adopted
						<p>[Mr. Mikolai called for a recess at 8:23 p.m. Meeting resumed at 8:28 p.m.]</p>	
Motion Second Aye No	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	<p>K. BUSINESS ITEMS</p> <p>K-1. 2015/16 and 2016/17 Calendar – Matching 14/15 Calendar, Begins August 3 and August 1 respectively.</p> <p>➤ Discussion took place regarding adopting the calendar which closely matches the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Tisue stated the Board would like to continue to bring a calendar which shortens the summer and provides opportunity for all students to grow academically. Mr. Parrish agreed he would like to see opportunities for all students during intercessions. Mr.</p>	Adopted

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Motion Second Aye No						Parrish would like to see more schools participate in intercessions to provide a familiar atmosphere for students.	No Vote Taken
						K-2. 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 Calendar – Abb. Intercession, begins August 10 and August 8 ➤ No action	No Vote Taken
Motion Second Aye No						K-3. 2015/16 and 2016/17 Calendar – Traditional, Begins August 17 and August 15 ➤ No action	No Vote Taken
						L. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION ➤ Mr. Parrish thanked the community for their considerable input on the calendar discussions. ➤ Mrs. Tisue thanked the community for their interest and input on the upcoming calendar adoption. ➤ Mr. Leany stated the Board was doing the right thing adopting the matching calendar as it was in the best interest of students. ➤ Mrs. Heather O'Brien was congratulated for becoming the new MVEA President. Ms. Karen Leonhart was congratulated for becoming the new MVEA Vice-President.	
						M. FUTURE MEETINGS ➤ Reviewed	
						N. EXECUTIVE SESSION ➤ None at this time	
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	O. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourn – 8:50 p.m.
						_____ Terri N. Wells, Secretary Board of Education	