

# *Board of Education*

## *Mesa County Valley School District 51*

---

*Board Work Session Minutes*

*September 2, 2014*

---

### **Work Session Meeting Minutes**

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

**Board of Education**  
**Mesa County Valley School District 51**  
**Work Session Meeting Minutes: September 2, 2014**  
**Adopted: October 28, 2014**

	A	B	C	D	E		ACTION
						<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	
Present	x	x	x	x	x	<b>WORK SESSION SUMMARY</b>	6:00 p.m.
						<p>1. Chamber Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Young Entrepreneur Academy (YEA): Ms. Betsy Bair from the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce presented on the YEA, which is one of only two Colorado Chambers running this University of Rochester program. This year's YEA begins on September 16th with meetings being held at Western Colorado Community College. Twenty-four students will be selected to participate after a rigorous application process. Students learn, and eventually create, a full business plan, incorporate a business and present their plan in front of a local shark tank to apply for investment dollars.</li> <li>➤ Hire Me First: Ms. Suzie Miller, from the Workforce Center and Ms. Betsy Bair, Chamber of Commerce presented this brand new collaboration between the Chamber, the Mesa County Workforce Center and the School District. This will be piloted in the Central High School business classes. This is a two year program teaching hard skills such as the Work Keys, Applied Technology, as well as, soft skills necessary for employment. Upon completion of the demanding program, which includes a research paper and presentation, resume, cover letter, and job shadow placement, students will gain a Chamber "Hire Me First" certificate. The business community partners provide the job shadowing and mentoring opportunities, as well as, strongly considering applicants from the "Hire Me First" certificate holders.</li> <li>➤ Read with a Child (Formerly 500 Plan): Ms. Betsy Bair, Grand Junction Chamber presented the information on this program, which has seen success over the past few years as it pairs business members and community members with an elementary student to read one hour each week.</li> <li>➤ The Board and Superintendent thanked Ms. Miller and Ms. Bair for the information.</li> </ul> <p>2. Communications Audit – Mrs. Christy McGee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Former District 51 Public Information Officer, Mrs. Christy McGee, and Ms. Bridgett Gutierrez, Cranium 360 Marketing Firm, presented information for a Communications Audit last fall. Cranium 360 was hired, following a bidding process, to do this Communications Audit. During the spring of 2014, online and hard copy surveys were completed, both in English and Spanish, by parents, staff and community members. Additionally, several focus groups were held to obtain information about the perceived overall quality of District 51 resources and communication. Cranium 360 analyzed the data and collaboratively developed five goals (aligned with the District's Long-Term Plan) to improve in each of the areas surveyed.</li> </ul> <p>3. Outdoor Wilderness Lab (OWL) – Mr. Frank McGee</p> <p>Mr. Frank McGee, Parks &amp; Wildlife, and Ms. Becky Thomas, PhD Researcher, joined by Mr. Bob Morris, Mr. JT. Ramadsky, Mr. Greg Weckenbrock and Mrs. Mary Jones, presented on a unique program developed to take District 51 students to an outdoor learning lab for a week each year, with curriculum aligned to multiple standards.</p>	

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

**Board of Education**  
**Mesa County Valley School District 51**  
**Work Session Meeting Minutes: September 2, 2014**  
**Adopted: October 28, 2014**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

					AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
					<p>Working closely with Mrs. Mary Jones, Executive Director for Middle Schools, and science teachers, Bookcliff Middle School has held a two year pilot project, and has seen growth in student participation from thirty-three students in year one to forty-five (the cap) in year two. Research has been conducted to show growth in students understanding of environmental science, agriculture, aquatic biology, and social-emotional skills. The entire program is funded by the Colorado Parks &amp; Wildlife and their partners, and has been no cost to District 51. There are many partners willing and interested in creating a full-purpose facility to allow for all sixth grade students to participate in the Outdoor Wilderness Lab (OWL). The City of Grand Junction may have land available to lease and grants are available for capital construction. It will take an estimated five year timeline to be operational, if the District supports and desires the program and facility.</p> <p>4. Adjournment: 7:33 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____            Terri N. Wells, Secretary            Board of Education</p>	Meeting Adjourned