



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

As we close out week three in D51, I'm even more energized about the great things happening in our more than 45 schools and programs. Visiting schools not only helps me stay grounded in the "why" behind the work we do as a district, but I also get to see the excitement in the eyes of our students and witness the expertise of our more than 3,000 teachers and staff members...professionals with a gift to engage, equip, and empower all of our more than 21,000 students.

One of the school stops I was able to make recently, along with Board President Haitz and some of our Senior Leadership Team members, was a visit to Appleton Elementary for their beginning of the year assembly. Principal Hafey, along with the amazing Appleton staff, was joined by the award winning Fruita Monument High School Poms team for a morning of dancing, singing, cheering, and positivity. I loved seeing our D51 students excited for a new school year, and I was encouraged by the theme of the assembly, which centered around "belonging." You can check out a video of the assembly on the Appleton Facebook page [here](#). Prepare to be motivated when you watch it!

Superintendent Listening Tour

An important part of my [100 Day Plan](#) is community engagement. I want to hear from parents, students, staff members, and community members about your ideas for the district, your perception of the district, and what I can do to better serve you.

As part of this commitment to engagement, I will be hosting a series of Listening Sessions next month. The sessions will take place at a variety of times, days of the week, and locations. Please join whichever session is most convenient for you. There are also virtual sessions available. Thank you to Bestslope Coffee Co. and Kiln Coffee Bar for donating coffee, and to the D51 Career Center for providing lunch at the Sept. 13 session. There will also be light refreshments at the MGMS and BTK sessions.

Listening Tour Sessions

- Sept. 1 - Bestslope Coffee Co., 129 N. Peach St., 8-9 a.m.
- Sept. 12 - Mt. Garfield Middle School, 3475 Front St., 4-5 p.m.
- Sept. 13 - Career Center, 2935 North Ave., 12-1 p.m.
- Sept. 15 - Basil T. Knight, 596 N. Westgate, 7-8 p.m. (in Spanish, following Multilingual Family Engagement Night)
- Sept. 16 - Kiln Coffee Bar, 326 Main St., 8-9 a.m.
- Sept. 21 - [Zoom meeting in English](#), 6-7 p.m.
- Sept. 26 - [Zoom meeting in Spanish](#), 6-7 p.m.

Leadership D51

We are excited to launch a new program in the district called Leadership D51. The Leadership D51 course is an entry point that offers established and emerging business and community members a unique opportunity to come together to:

- Learn more about District 51 through balanced and open discussion.
- Deepen community relationships in order to support student career exploration, mental health and family partnerships.
- Recruit and secure new partners and team members to support the efforts of District 51 and its Strategic Plan.

Community members interested in learning more about District 51 who want to help be an ambassador for our district are encouraged to apply to be a part of the first cohort of Leadership D51. There will be four meetings throughout the school year, plus a graduation ceremony at the end of the program. This is a great way to learn about your district and make connections with leaders in the community. Visit [d51schools.org](#) or [click here](#) to apply before the Sept. 21 deadline. If you are a D51 staff member, please encourage your friends and family to apply.

An "Act" of Kindness

Having "Engaged & Supportive Community Partners" (a Focus Area of the Strategic Plan) can materialize in many forms. One of our D51 parents, Mr. Mark Leistico, reached out to me recently about a fundraiser he started in order to raise money for our D51 high school theater programs. His effort to raise money caught my eye for a couple of reasons. One, he's not just invested in the theater program at the school where his daughter attends. He is invested in supporting ALL of our high school theater programs. That is awesome and a true example of how we are a D51 Family.

The second reason his effort caught my eye is the fact that he's running the Moab 240 race in order to raise awareness. That's right...he's running 240 miles through the Moab desert to raise the funds! As an avid (and very slow) ultrarunner myself, I admire his commitment not only to our students but to such a massive test of endurance. To contribute to his efforts and support our D51 high school theater programs, visit [d51foundation.org](#), click on the Donate button, and select 240 Mile Theater Fund. Mr. Leistico was recently featured in the Daily Sentinel, and you can read more about it [here](#). Thanks for being a part of the D51 Family, Mr. Leistico, and we'll be cheering for you as you take on the Moab 240 in October!

Brian Hill

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Clint Garcia

Chief Operations Officer

Career Background
I have spent 26 years in education: 22 years in K-12 and the remainder in higher education supporting staff and students.

Alma Mater
Liberty University

Why did you want to work in K-12 education?
I have always had a passion for helping others and what better place than our educational system? Our future depends on our ability to adequately prepare our children for the next steps in their lives.

What's your favorite thing about D51?
In my short time in the district I have been met with an overwhelming amount of support. It's the people, the mission, and the opportunity to excel in our roles as professionals.

What are you looking to accomplish this year in your role?
As we move through the year, it is my intent to meet and engage with each building, identify areas in which we can improve, and of course celebrate the many successes along the way. I would also like to see professional development training developed for our support staff that involves both ongoing trades training and leadership training.

Fun Fact
I have had the opportunity to travel extensively through Europe, Central and South America, and here in the States playing guitar and singing. All of which started in an 8th grade guitar class that set me on the path to pursue music as not only a hobby but as a career for a short time in ministry.