

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Special Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2020

Board Special Meeting Minutes

A - Doug Levinson B - Paul Pitton C - Trish Mahre D - Tom Parrish E - Amy Davis						Board of Education Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board Special Meeting: August 14, 2020 Adopted: September 15, 2020	
	A	B	C	D	E	AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present	x	x	x	x	x	BOARD SPECIAL MEETING	12:08 p.m.
Absent						1. School Opening Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Parrish noted the purpose of the meeting was for the Board to receive updated information and to ask clarifying questions regarding in-person learning preparedness. ➤ Superintendent Sirko invited all principals to join the meeting in person or electronically to share information. Building principals received initial guidelines relating to COVID-19 restriction requirements, and used those guidelines to create detailed plans for their buildings. The in-person learning initial start date was delayed one week to allow building administration and teachers extra time to prepare. In-person learning will start August 17 and online learning is set begin on August 24. Dr. Sirko noted hand washing is preferred over using hand sanitizer and approximately 90% of classrooms have sinks within the room. Portable hand washing stations will be used on the exterior of buildings where needed. ➤ Mr. Phil Onofrio, Chief Operations Officer and Mrs. Lisa Sharp, Director of Purchasing and Warehouse, reported on the deliveries of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and warehouse supplies. Each building will receive an adequate supply of sanitary spray and/or wipes, masks for both students and staff, and reusable and disposable protective clothing and face shields for the health offices. There was a delay in delivering some products, due to the closure of I-70, but all products should be delivered to the schools by the end of the day. The warehouse anticipates having an adequate supply of products to fill future orders. Mr. Onofrio shared photos of the stocked warehouse and reported no schools have reported not receiving any supplies. ➤ Mr. Charles Pope, Environmental Health and Safety Manager, reported on the types of cleaning supplies, sprays and wipes ordered. Product research was conducted to ensure only the healthiest, safest and effective products are being used in cleaning and sanitizing of the buildings. He has distributed data safety sheets illustrating the best way to use the products and training videos have been created. The custodial department and staff received literature on proper cleaning methods following a norovirus outbreak last fall. At this time, students are not allowed to assist in the cleaning of classrooms. ➤ Mrs. Jennifer Morrell, Taylor Elementary School Principal, reported her building is ready for students. Her school has received both wipes and spray and every class has some of each. They have established a plan for regular handwashing and they have all staff positions filled. One concern she has is making sure parents and staff are completing the daily symptoms reporting. ➤ Dr. Brian Hill, Assistant Superintendent, reported the Communication Department will be sending out daily morning symptoms check reminders to staff, parents and secondary students, for the first two weeks. Local media will also be displaying reminders. ➤ Mrs. Megan Roenicke, Grand Junction High School Principal, reported her building was not ready to open. The school had not received any hand sanitizer or wipes and she did not feel her staff was ready. Mr. Onofrio requested she email him a list of items needed and assured her those items would be delivered by the end of the day. 	

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Tanya Marvin, Nursing Coordinator, answered question regarding staffing of health assistants. She noted health assistants hired will remain at the building in which they were hired to serve. For those buildings who are still waiting for an additional health assistants, fourth year nursing students from Colorado Mesa University will be filling the gaps. The District has hired several health assistants but they have not started due to waiting on background checks and/or applicants needing to give their current employer resignation notification. She reminded everyone each school already has one health assistant. Mrs. Marvin shared, should a student or staff member become COVID positive, the entire school may have to close for 24 hours to enable tracking and extra cleaning to occur. District nurses have been trained to follow the symptoms checking guidelines and to identify steps to be taken after a student is sent home. She is working closely with Mesa County Health Department and will be able to notify a school if a student has been instructed to quarantine. At this time, she has received the names of about thirty-five students who the Mesa County Health Department has instructed to quarantine. She confirmed health offices are equipped with disposable and permanent gowns and medical grade shields to wear in a sick room. The District has contracted with an outside firm to launder gowns. ➤ Mrs. Jennifer Marsh, Executive Director of Curriculum and Learning, and Mrs. Patti Virden, Executive Director of Student Services, answered questions regarding the context of the COVID-19 staff trainings. Cleaning procedures were included in the training but the procedures were not specific to D51 buildings. New videos are being produced, to demonstrate proper cleaning methods, specific to District 51 buildings. Mrs. Marsh shared some Instructional Coaches and Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA's) are being temporarily reassigned to cover unfilled teaching positions. Mrs. Virden reported her staff is stepping up to help buildings any way they can and have been working to insure supports for those students with special needs who have moved to online learning. <p>[Break 1:05 p.m. – Resume 1:20 p.m.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Area Site Directors, Mr. Ari Goldberg, Mr. Dan Bunnell, Mrs. Terrie ReQua and Mr. Paul Jebe, have been working with their assigned school buildings and reviewing building preparation plans. Mr. Goldberg noted each director covers eleven schools and he only had one school report they were not ready, due to staffing issues. Those issues have been resolved. Mr. Bunnell noted, out of his assigned schools, Palisade High School administration was nervous because supplies had not been delivered, but those supplies were delivered today. Mrs. Requa communicated on working with two of her assigned schools regarding staffing issues and American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. With the help of other departments, they now have adequate staffing for those two schools. Mr. Jebe noted most of his schools are ready and excited about getting started. One of his schools, Grand Junction High School, reported needing supplies. ➤ Mrs. Nikki Jost, Executive Director of Human Resources, updated the Board on personnel numbers. She reported the District has plenty of floating subs with instructional coaches and TOSA's filling in vacant spots. At this time, sixty staff members have been placed in the online school. She shared there are some staff members, who have been recently placed in classrooms, expressing a need for more support. 	

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Jory Sorenson, Redlands Middle School Principal, expressed concerns over the long-term availability of PPE items. His school has what they need to start but he wanted reassurance future supplies would be available. ➤ Mr. Dan Bollinger, Palisade High School Principal, noted he was worried prior to receiving the balance of PPE items today. He reported a problem with uploading Schoology and he is working with technology to resolve the problem. His building has hired an additional health assistant who will be able to start in two weeks, following notice to their current employer. ➤ Mr. Todd McClaskey, Fruita Monument High School Principal, reported his building had received the sanitizer, masks and paper towels needed. They were just waiting on the wipes, which were scheduled to be delivered. He does have concerns should a student or staff member become COVID positive. He knows social distancing will be difficult with some classes at capacity. ➤ Mr. Rick Peterson, Mesa Valley Education Association (MVEA) President, complimented District administration on the amount of work and thought processes in getting students back to school. He was hesitant to speak on behalf of the association, as there is a wide spectrum of emotions amongst the 900 members. Some members are comfortable in returning to the classroom where others are very hesitant. He is concerned about situations at some buildings where principals are saying the supplies are available but not in the classrooms. He is also concerned about staffing challenges and getting the needed number of teachers and health assistants. <p>Adjourn 2:42 p.m.</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> _____ Bridget Story, Secretary Board of Education </div>	