

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Retreat Minutes

October 14, 2020

Board Retreat 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 Retreat: October 14, 2020 Adopted: November 10, 2020	
	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present Absent	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x	BOARD RETREAT 1. High School Bond for November 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Parrish requested Board members start thinking about the possibility of placing a bond measure on the 2021 ballot. Items to consider, if moving forward, would be the scope of a bond and the possible need to request an increase in mills. Board members will also need to make decisions regarding funds remaining from the 2017 bond. Should those funds go toward current capital projects, toward the cost of replacing Grand Junction High School, or a combination of both? ➤ Mr. Eric Nilsen, Director of Maintenance and Operations, shared a list of maintenance projects and estimates of the cost to complete those projects. He emphasized the need to replace Grand Junction High School, as maintenance cost on the school are high. He noted the projects listed are projects that are too costly to be paid for out of the general capital funds account. Projects listed include HVAC system replacements, roofing replacements, fire alarm system replacement, carpet and flooring replacement, paving projects, relocating of modular units, and replacement of buildings. 2. School Boundaries, Mr. Shannon Bingham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Shannon Bingham, Western Demographics, Inc., attended the meeting electronically. He explained aspects of grandfathering students and implementing boundaries changes gradually by phasing in different areas to lessen the impact on families. He reported student enrollment is down statewide, except in some mountain areas where people have second homes. Statewide student enrollment is down around 25,000 students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Appleton Elementary School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Bingham displayed a map showing attendance boundaries for Tope, Pomona and Appleton Elementary Schools. Currently Tope and Pomona Elementary Schools have space available with little housing growth anticipated in those areas, whereas Appleton Elementary School is nearing capacity and the area is expecting significant housing growth. He proposed shifting students living south of Interstate 70, currently assigned to Appleton Elementary School, to Pomona Elementary School, and shifting students residing in the area north of Interstate 70 currently assigned to Pomona Elementary School to Tope Elementary School. These shifts would free up space at Appleton Elementary School and accommodate for future growth in the area. b. Grand Junction High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Bingham recently met with administration and staff at Grand Junction High School, Fruita Monument High School and Fruita 8/9 School to see what boundary changes and accommodations are needed to balance enrollment at the three valley high schools, Central, Grand Junction and Fruita Monument High Schools to around 1600 students per school, with freshman attending the Fruita Monument campus. Central High School student population is currently around 1600, so shifts would only be 	4:00 p.m.

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ needed at Grand Junction and Fruita Monument High Schools. Fruita Monument High School students live within Fruita city limits and Grand Junction city limits. Shifting students from the Redlands area to Grand Junction High School would help balance student enrollment and match the high school with their municipality. If the District is able to replace Grand Junction High School, it will be much easier to get the students and parents to accept the proposed boundary changes. He displayed a map indicating three areas on the Redlands: Scenic, Broadway and Wingate Elementary School areas. Reassigning these areas to Grand Junction High School would help balance student enrollment. He reported on the number of high school students current residing in the three areas and explained ways to transition the areas to Grand Junction High School over a number of years. c. Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No discussion took place regarding other boundaries. <p>3. BEST Grant for Grand Junction High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Phil Onofrio, Chief Operations Officer, reported the District was approved for a Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant in 2020, in the amount of \$10 million, but waived the grant because the District did not move forward with a 2020 bond measure. <p>[Recess 5:23 p.m. Resume Meeting 5:50 p.m.]</p> <p>4. 2017 Bond Funds Up-Date, Mr. Phil Onofrio and Mrs. Melanie Trujillo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Melanie Trujillo, Finance Director, handout out a detailed accounting sheet showing the funds distributed from the 2017 Bond and funds remaining from project savings and interest earned. ➤ Mr. Phil Onofrio, Chief Operations Officer, reported the improvements proposed in the 2017 Bond have been completed with the exception of some repairs at Grand Junction High School and at the Emerson Building. Engineers determined the proposed work at the Emerson Building would be aesthetic only, so those repairs were not completed. Funding for some of the proposed projects at Grand Junction High School has been set aside and is still earmarked for Grand Junction High School. The hope is to replace Grand Junction High School in the near future, and make only necessary repairs or upgrades until the building can be replaced. <p>5. Sun Shade Structure Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Eddie Mort, Assistant Director of Maintenance, presented information on structures available and the cost of the structures to accommodate the needs of nine schools requesting an outdoor covered area. Carport style structures are recommended to add outdoor eating space at Grand Mesa and Mt. Garfield Middle Schools and Scenic and New Emerson Elementary Schools. The carport style structures cost around \$4,000 each and could be installed in six to eight weeks. A long lasting structure, of a different design with a cost around \$25,000 and installation time of around six months, is recommended to accommodate 	

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						<p>additional outdoor leaning space at Mesa View, Rim Rock, Taylor and Loma Elementary Schools. The structure requested by Summit School, to add shade for a playground area, would need to be engineered, cost around \$25,000 and take up to six months to complete.</p> <p>6. D51 Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Diana Sirko, Superintendent, and Dr. Brian Hill, Assistant Superintendent, shared information on the progression of creating a Strategic Plan. Meetings were held in February and March with community members, business leaders, staff and students. Specific questions, regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the District, were asked at the meetings. Feedback from the meetings was gathered and analyzed to assist in the creation of the Strategic Plan. Findings from the feedback along with the District's Vision Statement, Mission Statement and core beliefs were shared. Five priority areas, with specific goals listed under each priority area, were reviewed. The five priority areas listed are: 1) Student Achievement, 2) Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing, 3) Teacher and Staff Growth and Support, 4) Family and Community Collaboration and 5) Finance and Facilities. Dr. Sirko and Dr. Hill shared information on the next steps for the Strategic Plan. The steps include reviewing and possibly editing the District's Mission Statement, refining the priority areas and goals, creating action steps and progress monitoring plans for each goal and presenting the final Strategic Plan to the Board for adoption. ➤ Discussion pursued around the need to make sure the goals are reasonable, understandable and measurable. <p>7. 2021-2022 Budget Implications and Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Phil Onofrio, Chief Operations Officer, and Mrs. Melanie Trujillo, Finance Director, reported on projected budget implications for the 2021-2022 budget. The state is forecasting budget shortfalls in K-12 funding of around \$143 million for next year. The numbers could change depending on the outcome of the November election. More information will be known following the election and the governor's budget update, which is due out in November. At this time, student enrollment is down approximately 1000 students. Enrollment numbers, used to calculate state funding for this year, will be determined by averaging student enrollment over the past several years. Using the averaging system will help lessen revenue loss this year, but if student enrollment continues to stay low or decrease more, the District will experience greater revenue loss in future years. <p>8. Role and Function of Educational Research Proactive Committee (ERPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Parrish emphasized the importance of initiating conversations with Mesa Valley Education Association around future budget items. ➤ It was noted that last year's budget conversations were difficult because figures were delayed coming from the state due to COVID-19. Conversations usually start in January, but this year conversations will begin in November. With 85% of the budget being salaries and benefits and student enrollment down almost 1000 students, staff reduction will need to be included in those conversations. 	

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						<p>9. Board of Education Committee Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Parrish requested Bridget Story, Board Secretary, send a copy of the committee list electronically to the Board members so they can select the committee(s) they wish to serve. <p>10. District Attorney Office Discussion Regarding Truancy, Mrs. Trish Mahre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Mahre briefed the Board on a partnership being proposed by the District Attorney, Mr. Daniel Rubinstein, to develop a recreation center. The partnership would include the City of Grand Junction, Colorado Mesa University (CMU), Grand Valley Transportation (GVT), various community agencies and the District. The hope is to secure funding from private donors and foundations, to use City of Grand Junction facilities at Lincoln Park, staff the center with students from CMU and have transportation provided by GVT. CMU students working at the center could serve as mentors to students, provide tutoring and help truant students to engage in academic activities. Mrs. Mahre noted in 2019 legislators changed the law to eliminate school attendance as part of probation. The District, as a partner, would be asked to assist in seeking out private and foundation donations and to identify students who are truant in an effort to get the students engaged in the center. The hope is to have a place for truant students to go, activities to reengage the student in academics and to keep the students out of the judicial system. <p>11. Board Process and Procedural Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion pursued regarding protocol when Board members receive questions, comments or complaints. The preference is for Board members to contact the Superintendent, Dr. Sirko, or have the parent/community member contact Dr. Sirko. Dr. Sirko can then get with the appropriate school and/or department to address the issue, make appropriate accommodations, if needed, and follow up with the Board member on the outcome. <p>Adjourn: 7:05 p.m.</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> _____ Bridget Story, Secretary Board of Education </div>	