

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Work Session Minutes

April 6, 2021

Board Work Session 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 Work Session: April 6, 2021 Adopted: May 25, 2021	
	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present Absent	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x	BOARD WORK SESSION 1. Systemic Staffing & Enrollment Projections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Sirko explained the reasons and the means of getting the District's staffing ratios similar to those of comparable sized districts. By sizing staffing needs based on student enrollment and programs offered at a school, the District would be able to raise wages to a more competitive rate. Currently District wages are running seven to ten percent under those of comparable size districts, making it harder to hire and retain qualified staff. She believes the shifts in staffing can be accomplished without having to layoff anyone, due in a large part, through attrition. A reduction in building staffing is also necessary due to a reduction of students over this past year. 2. Bond Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Board members discussed information received from a community advisory committee regarding three proposed scenarios for the reconstruction of Grand Junction High School. Two of the three scenarios would keep the existing main gym, auxiliary gym and track, while the third scenario would be to demolish the gyms and build in a different location requiring a new track. The proposals the community advisory committee were comfortable with were the two scenarios keeping the gyms. Cost savings estimates were received from FCI Construction and Shaw Construction, if retaining the two gyms. The estimates ranged from \$6 million to \$11 million depending on the amount of renovation work completed. ➤ Mr. Pitton expressed concerns, and shared information on previous District schools, which received extensive renovations instead of replacements, and are continually requiring additional repairs. He questioned the safety of having two separate buildings and the logistics of tying an old foundation with a new foundation. Mr. Pitton also expressed concern for getting community support for a single item bond and reminded everyone that the 2017 bond supported repairs at multiple buildings, which garnered community wide support and passed. ➤ Mr. Levinson reported on reviewing a soil condition report, a facility assessment report and a long-range plan completed in the past couple years. He contacted an engineer involved in the soil condition report who stated the main gym's floating foundation would have to be stabilized, and any construction work around the foundation could alter soil conditions under the foundation. Mr. Levinson also spoke with a community member involved in drafting the long-range plan who shared it was never a recommendation of the committee to salvage any part of Grand Junction High School as the building was poorly constructed. Mr. Levinson recounted a representative from FCI Construction reported the auxiliary gym is fifteen years old and had an original life expectancy of twenty years. ➤ Mr. Eric Nilsen, shared a Colorado Department of Education facilities assessment team's audit mirrored the findings of the facility assessment report which noted a need to replace Grand Junction High School. Mr. Nilsen shared historical information on previous schools where only partial replacements were 	6:00 p.m.

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						<p>completed and how deficiencies and the continuation of repairs occur in the older sections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Sarah Schrader, Owner Bonsai Design and co-chair of the community advisory committee, clarified there are two separate community groups working to support the school district. The advisory committee is working to look at various building options for replacement of Grand Junction High School and the bond committee is working to promote a bond to cover the costs. The advisory committee is looking at options to build the best school possible to meet the needs of the students while keeping cost as low as possible, knowing this past year has been difficult for families and small businesses. The bond committee has opened a bank account, started collecting donation and is currently polling community members to determine community support level for a bond. ➤ A special Board meeting will be schedule to allow for conversation with members of the community advisory committee, engineers and others previously consulted on Grand Junction High School building needs. Information contained in the soil and facility condition reports will be shared with the advisory committee members and other stakeholders prior to the meeting. <p>Adjourn 8:00 p.m.</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> _____ Bridget Story, Secretary Board of Education </div>	