

A - Doug Levinson B - Paul Pitton C - John Williams D - Tom Parrish E - Amy Davis						Board of Education Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board Work Session: October 1, 2019 Adopted: November 12, 2019	
	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present Absent	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x	BOARD WORK SESSION 1. Robotics in Elementary Schools Update, Ms. Maria Deuel and Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ West Middle School student, Giavaysis Lane and Tope Elementary student, Grace Horner, demonstrated how Sphero Bolt robots maneuver with preprogrammed instructions. Finn VanMeter and Logan Cullen, Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary School students, demonstrated how Dash robots maneuver. The students have been working with robots for two to three year and shared some of the knowledge and skills they have acquired. Working with the robots has increased their interest in science, math and robotics. ➤ Ms. Deuel, Innovative Programs Coordinator, Ms. Mande Gabelson, Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary School teacher, and Ms. DeAnna Harris Tope para professional, expressed the importance of robotics. Robotics help students learn problem solving and logic building skills, how to use of algorithms, and story creation with having to sequence items. Students learn there is a reaction for every action and it is okay to fail. Robotics is included in the new computer science curriculum and each elementary school has eight Dash robots and fifteen Sphero Bolt robots. ➤ Ms. Sondra Hemard, Chevron Engineer and Grand Valley Robotics Board Vice President, handed out information on FIRST. FIRST is a national non-profit organization, which works with coaches, mentors, educators and volunteers to offer robotic challenges for students age six through eighteen. She reviewed information from a longitudinal five-year study on students who have worked with robotics. The study showed students have a better understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and are twice as likely to be involved in higher math and science classes and over two and one half times more likely to enroll in an engineering field. Eight elementary schools, four middle schools and three high schools have after school robotics clubs. ➤ The Board and Superintendent Sirko thanked the students and staff for taking time to demonstrate how the robots work and share information on what is happening in the schools. 2. Presentation from City of Grand Junction Regarding Ballot Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Rick Taggart, City of Grand Junction Mayor, presented information on a 2019 November ballot measure, Referred Measure 2A. The ballot measure is not a request for an additional tax. It is a request to authorize the city to increase their debt structure by \$70 million. The debt increase would be paid by utilizing TABOR excess and funds currently allocated to pay the Riverside Parkway debt. The Riverside Parkway debt is scheduled to be satisfied in four years. Mr. Taggart emphasized the need for a good transportation system to avoid congestion with the growing population and reviewed the proposed projects the funds would cover. Three sections of roadways, proposed to be upgraded for safe routes to schools, are in the areas of Thunder Mt. Elementary, Pear Park Elementary and Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary School. Mr. Taggart would like the Board of Education to formally support the ballot measure. 	6:02 p.m.

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						<p>[Recess 7:04 p.m. Resume Meeting 7:15 p.m.]</p> <p>3. Premium Bond Discussion, Mr. Dan O'Connell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. O'Connell, RBC Capital Markets Managing Director, reviewed the reasons premium bonds have been the preferred structure for school districts and other public entities for years. The sale of bonds are necessary for public entities to receive working capital. Premium bonds allow a buyer to receive a higher interest rate by paying more upfront. The seller receives more funds to use toward capital projects or unexpected costs. Information conveyed to voters, regarding the anticipated increase in taxes tied to the Ballot Measure 4A, was estimated at the current market rate associated with premium bonds. School districts have the feature to refinance the bonds at lower interest rate, after eight to ten years, which could reduce the repayment amount. <p>4. Board Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Williams reported he received feedback from staff members on many issues outside of the election. He questioned if the District should hire on outside entity to review the current budget to see if operating funds could be redistributed to cover requested needs. <p>5. Adjourned 8:19 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bridget Story, Assistant Secretary Board of Education</p>	