

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Work Session Minutes

March 7, 2017

Board Work Session Minutes

A - Doug Levinson B - Paul Pitton C - John Williams D - Tom Parrish E - Greg Mikolai						Board of Education Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board Work Session: March 7, 2017 Adopted: April 18, 2017	
	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present	x	x	x	x	x	<u>BOARD BUSINESS MEETING</u>	
Absent						1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call	
Motion					x	2. Agenda Approval	Adopted
Second				x			
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion					x	3. Job Coach Program Reduction in Force: Ratification of Resolution 16/17: 38, Resolution for Classified/Support Staff Reduction in Force, approval of Superintendent's Written Plan for Job Coach Reduction in Force dated February 2, 2017, and Decision on Independent Hearing Officer Michael Santo's Findings of Fact and Legal Conclusions Regarding Petitioners' Request for Hearing Dated March 3, 2017.	Adopted as Amended
Second		x					
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No						a. The Board asked Mr. Stephan Schweissing, Attorney, to preside this evening. He stated the Board needs to determine by confirmation of the order, or not. Mr. Steve Schultz, Superintendent, read Resolution 16/17: 61 into the record. The Board voted to ratified the resolution regarding the reduction of two job coach positions in January, approve a written plan for implementation of the resolution, and adopt and affirm Independent Hearing Officer Michael Santo's findings and conclusions as set forth in his ruling. This affirms the affected employees' contentions have not been established, and to make final the Board's decision to lay off and cancel the employment rights of said employees.	Adopted
Motion					x	4. Adjourn	4:15 p.m.
Second	x			x			
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
						<u>BOARD WORK SESSION.</u>	
						A Update of Maintenance Needs – Mr. Eric Nilsen, Director of Maintenance, Mr. Roy Blythe, Blythe and Associates	
						➤ Completing Priority One maintenance projects District-wide would cost an estimated \$56 million, if completed in 2018. Priority One projects are projects which, if left undone much longer, could result in structural failure, safety or security concerns and property damage or code issues. Almost every school building in District 51 would benefit from the completion of Priority One projects, and others would benefit from the District having the list completed so maintenance may move to the Priority Two items faster.	
						Some of District 51's aging buildings would cost less to replace than repair, including Grand Junction High School. A new Grand Junction High School would cost an estimated \$93 million, compared to a \$103 million price tag to complete all needed projects to patch up the 61 year old school. Orchard Mesa Middle School is rated in the worst structural condition in the District	

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						<p>and would cost \$39 million to replace; which is not far from the estimates to repair the building constructed in 1960.</p> <p>District 51 has not had enough capital funding to keep up with all maintenance needs to keep old buildings in ideal condition, according to District Maintenance and Building Use Director Mr. Eric Nilsen. While patches and renovations at schools in better or newer condition, will be enough; there is a small roster of schools which maybe beyond this point, with Orchard Mesa Middle School at the top. New buildings could also be more suitable for modern-day learning, which involves more technology use and more areas for group sessions and breakout work.</p> <p>B. Board Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Board members discussed whether they should attempt a bond measure and/or mill levy override ballot question this fall. If so, they asked which items should be included. Following the maintenance update from Mr. Nilsen and Mr. Blythe, Board members expressed interest in possibly seeking a bond measure to replace Orchard Mesa Middle School. This is the only District 51 school which has a building quality rating of one out of a possible five points with five being the highest possible score achieved. The District has applied for a Building Excellent Schools Today (B.E.S.T.) Grant from the state, which could pay for about a third of the estimated \$39 million cost of a replacement Orchard Mesa Middle School. B.E.S.T. Grants always require matching funds from districts, which usually are collected from a bond measure. Board members also showed interest in possibly requesting bond money for a replacement Grand Junction High School, as it would cost an estimated \$10 million more to renovate the school with necessary fixes than it would cost to replace the building. Board President, Mr. John Williams, stated he has heard complaints about the condition of Grand Junction High School's building on a weekly basis. Board Member, Doug Levinson, stated a newer, better building for Grand Junction High would help attract new businesses and employees, especially employees with children, to Grand Junction. ➤ The Board also discussed the estimated \$56 million in Priority One Maintenance Needs across District 51. Priority One needs are high priority items which, if left undone much longer, could lead to safety or security concerns, further damage to buildings or structure failure. District maintenance has tried to keep up with maintenance, but with a limited budget and a doubling of the cost to maintain older buildings over the last ten years, it has become cost-prohibitive to dedicate sufficient funding for maintenance without impacting instruction. Other potential ballot measure items could include funding for long-awaited curriculum materials updates and an estimated \$11 million investment in technology and infrastructure, training and four positions needed to get the most out of the technology. A bond of about \$200 million total would cost taxpayers \$100 per year (\$8.33 a month) on the average home. The Board may work on a poll to find out if there is community support for a ballot measure and, if so, which items would be supported in a bond or mill levy override. Other options could include full- 	

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						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
						day kindergarten, reinstating five school days lost in the recession, or reverting back to one-mile (elementary) and two-mile (middle and high school) boundaries for walking zones. C. Adjourn <div style="text-align: right;"> _____ Terri N. Wells, Secretary Board of Education </div>	6:40 p.m.



Mesa County Valley School District No. 51
Resolution Regarding Job Coach Reduction in Force

Board of Education Resolution: 16/17: 61

Adopted: March 7, 2017

WHEREAS, by Resolution 16/17:38 *Resolution For Classified/Support Staff Reduction in Force* dated January 3, 2017, the Board of Education decided to eliminate the District's job coach program and to cut the two (2) remaining job coach positions in such program as a support staff reduction in force pursuant to Board Policy GCQA(2), a copy of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2017, the administration hand-delivered written notice to each of the affected job coaches ("Affected Employees") regarding termination of their positions pursuant to such Resolution effective as of January 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, both of the Affected Employees requested a hearing in accordance with Board Policy GCQA(2) to challenge the termination of their job coach positions, and the Board appointed Michael C. Santo, Esq., to serve as the impartial hearing officer ("IHO"); and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2017, the Superintendent submitted to the Board a separate written plan, a copy of which is attached, regarding implementation of Resolution 16/17:38 pursuant to Board Policy GCQA(2); and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2017, the hearing requested by the Affected Employees was held in accordance with Board Policy GCQA(2) and GCQA-R, and the IHO has issued to the Board his written findings and conclusions dated March 3, 2017 (herein, the "Ruling");

WHEREAS, GCQA-R calls for the Board to act on the Ruling at its next regular meeting following its receipt, and therefore this matter is ripe for decision.

NOW, THEREFORE, HAVING DULY CONSIDERED THE RULING AND BEING ADVISED IN THE PREMISES, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEREBY RESOLVES AND DETERMINES AS FOLLOWS:

- A. To affirm and ratify its Resolution 16/17:38 *Resolution For Classified/Support Staff Reduction in Force*, effective as of January 3, 2017;
- B. To approve the attached written plan for implementation of its Resolution 16/17:38 dated February 2, 2017; and
- C. To adopt and affirm the findings and conclusions of the IHO as set forth in the Ruling, to the effect that the Affected Employees' contentions have not been established, and to make final its decision to lay off and cancel the employment rights of said employees.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on March 7, 2017.

Terri N. Wells, Secretary to Board

ACTION OF THE BOARD:
