

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Special Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2024

Board Special Meeting Minutes

A - Jose Luis Chavez B - Barbara Evanson C - Andrea Haitz D - Will Jones E - Angela Lema						Board of Education Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board Special Meeting: November 22, 2024 Adopted: December 10, 2024	
	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
						<u>BOARD WORK SESSION</u>	
Present	x	x	x	x	x		5:16p.m.
Absent							
						A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance ➤ Director Andrea Haitz called the meeting to order and Director Andrea Haitz apologized for the delay.	
						B. Agenda Approval	Approved
Motion					x		
Second				x			
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
						C. Resolution to Close Clifton Elementary and Scenic Elementary Schools [Resolution 24/25:32]	Adopted
Motion				x		➤ Mr. Shannon Bingham came forward to speak and give further information.	
Second					x	➤ 24 homes under construction, 6 townhomes and 2 duplexes in the Redlands.	
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	➤ Mr. Bingham just spent two hours in the Redlands and re-reviewing the Redlands area and schools.	
No						➤ Mr. Bingham showed slides backing up the data showing future decline in elementary numbers.	
						➤ Explained again that births have been down for the last ten years.	
						➤ K-5 enrollment history of schools affected was displayed from 2012 through 2024.	
						➤ Mr. Clint Garcia, Chief Operations Officer, came forward and stated he and the senior leadership went and walked and looked at Broadway and Wingate Elementary Schools for spaces available. All students should be able to fit into these two schools that would be coming from Scenic. Transportation for parking, busses, and parent drop off/pick up can be accommodated.	
						➤ At this time, modular buildings are not anticipated to be needed.	
						D. Board Discussion	
						➤ Mrs. Haitz read a statement to the community regarding the reasoning and feeling regarding the decision. The Superintendent will work closely with all affected schools, staff and families to ensure a smooth transition.	
						E. Adjournment	
				x			Adjourned 6:03 p.m.
						Amy Navarette, Assistant Secretary Board of Education	

**Resolution to Close Clifton Elementary
School and Scenic Elementary School**

Board of Education Resolution 24/25: 32

Adopted: November 22, 2024

WHEREAS, the Board of Education's vision is to engage, equip, and empower each and every student each and every day; and

WHEREAS, the District has been experiencing declining enrollment since 2019; and

WHEREAS, declining enrollment has a direct impact on school staffing and programming, can lead to inefficient and unsustainable staffing, create difficulties in providing adequate services for students, creates underutilization of facilities and increased safety risks; and

WHEREAS, Western Demographics Demographer, Mr. Shannon Bingham, presented to the Board of Education information projecting declining enrollment over the next five to seven years; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2023, the Board charged District staff to create a committee to address declining enrollment at the elementary level;

WHEREAS, the Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee ("EDEC") was created and composed of District and school leadership, teachers, community members, family members and Board members;

WHEREAS, the EDEC developed five viable pathways, the most viable being school closure/consolidations, along with six closure criteria;

WHEREAS, the District engaged Alvarez & Marsal ("A&M") to apply EDEC's six closure criteria into an integrated model to comparatively score each elementary school;

WHEREAS, based on the EDEC criteria and A&M's methodologies it is recommended that Clifton Elementary School, located at 3276 F Road, Clifton, Colorado, and Scenic Elementary School, located at 451 W. Scenic Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado, be closed to address current staffing and budgetary issues facing elementary schools, due to declining enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Clifton and Scenic Elementary Schools, would necessitate boundary changes to incorporate Clifton and Scenic Elementary School attendance area students into other elementary school attendance areas; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Clifton Elementary School will displace sixteen (16) non-probationary teachers/counselors; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Scenic Elementary School will displace fourteen (14) non-probationary teachers/counselors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education finds it in the best interest of the District to close Clifton Elementary School and Scenic Elementary School; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to work with District and school administration and staff to close Clifton and Scenic Elementary Schools; and



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to work with Mr. Shannon Bingham to facilitate the redrawing of school boundaries, as necessary, to accommodate the closure of Clifton and Scenic Elementary Schools.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on November 22, 2024.

Amy Navarette
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education