

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2015

Work Session Meeting Minutes

A - Jeff Leany
 B - Ann Tisue
 C - John Williams
 D - Tom Parrish
 E - Greg Mikolai

Board of Education
Mesa County Valley School District 51
 Work Session Meeting Minutes: January 6, 2015
 Adopted: February 17, 2015

	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present	x	x	x	x	x	WORK SESSION SUMMARY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Schultz welcomed everyone to the January Work Session. He stated the Agenda would be rearranged to allow the Calendar Committee to present first. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calendar Survey Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Tony Giurado, Chief Academic Officer, introduced subcommittee members from the District Accountability Committee: Ms. Deanne Adamson, Mr. Andy Nikkari, Ms. Jess Mulvey and Mr. Arthur Gardner. Mr. Giurado led a presentation on the results of the calendar surveys which were sent to staff, parents and high school students. Mr. Giurado thanked the District Accountability Committee for developing a subcommittee to work on calendar planning. He stated the committee met and reviewed comments and correspondence regarding the creation of the 2015-2016 school calendar. The committee presented results from the survey and discussed like themes from the comments. There were mixed comments stating all three groups are in favor of keeping the current calendar for another two years; however, two groups would like to return to the traditional calendar. Mr. Mikolai discussed the reasoning behind the current calendar, balancing quarters, helping low achieving students and shortening the summer break. Mr. Leany stated he would like to see participation in the intercession breaks increase. Mr. Giurado would like to have time to track the success of intercessions and the loss of academics during the summer break. He stated with the I Ready assessment, there may be some further data on how much growth students who participated in intercessions made. Mr. Williams would like to move a week from spring break back to summer. The Board thanked Mr. Giurado and the committee members for their report. 2. Improvement Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Juniper Ridge Charter School: Juniper Ridge Charter School was placed on turnaround status by the Colorado Department of Education. Mr. Patrick Ebel, Principal at Juniper Ridge Charter School, stated Juniper Ridge operates a nontraditional model of education, based on the Waldorf Philosophy, which is disconnected with the state measures in determining academic status based on standards. The Waldorf model does not follow the same scope and sequencing as the state standards, but by the eighth grade, Waldorf students typically exceed peers in traditional models. Juniper Ridge has purchased an alternative measure program to demonstrate growth aligned with what the Waldorf model teaches. In the next few years, Juniper Ridge expects the Waldorf curve to work its way out of state assessments and begin to show success on par with state standards. It was noted the state assessment applies to a one-size approach, and the Colorado Department of Education has never placed a school on turnaround status after its first year. The Board and Superintendent thanked Mr. Ebel for his report. 	6:00 p.m.

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- R-5 High School:
Mr. Ron Roybal, Director of Alternative Programs, and Mr. Don Trujillo, Principal of R-5 High School, presented information on R-5 High School stating it is an alternative high school serving 237 students. These students don't fit into mainstream schools and require innovative, hard-working educators who go the extra mile to help them be successful. R-5 is a Career and Technical Alternative Campus and has been placed on turnaround status. They have been making progress with the assistance of an improvement grant. Mr. Trujillo outlined R-5's improvement plan for the Board. The Board and Superintendent thanked Mr. Roybal and Mr. Trujillo for their report.

- Grand River Virtual Academy:
Mr. Pat Chapin and Mr. Ron Roybal came forward to discuss Grand River Virtual Academy's Improvement Plan. They reported this is the first year the Virtual Academy has been split into two sections of primary and middle/high school. The primary school has approximately 39 students. Only five of those students have been in the program over the past three-year period, which were involved with state assessments, which contributed to the poor rating. Online learners also struggle in traditional learning environments due to a variety of reasons, including illness or injury. In that sense, the Academy serves as a bridge back into traditional schools. This mobility challenges testing as a measure of success. Mr. Chapin outlined the root causes and described an improvement plan for the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Chapin and Mr. Roybal for their report.

- 3. Read Act Presentation
 - Mr. Steve States, Executive Assistant Director for Elementary Schools, presented on The READ Act (Reading to Ensure Academic Development) which focuses on K-3 literacy and students who are reading significantly below grade level. The District uses regular RTI (Response to Intervention) measures to work with students who are one grade level behind. The District uses I-Ready to test students three times throughout the year to monitor their reading levels. If a student qualifies, reading two or more grades below level, teachers write a Read Plan with parents and other service providers. Once on a Read Plan, students stay on until they read on their grade level. This plan focuses on the five components of reading and are of sufficient intensity and duration. Read Plans are reviewed at least annually with parents. "Retention" must be considered in K-3, if students aren't at grade level by the end of a school year. The District seeks to identify common approaches to literacy, common intervention, and improve data collection and analysis in an effort to improve K-3 literacy and reduce the number of students on Read Plans. This would also help those on Read Plans accelerate toward grade-level proficiency. The Board and Superintendent thanked Mr. States for the information.

4. Adjournment: 8:50 p.m.

 Terri N. Wells, Secretary
 Board of Education

Meeting
 Adjourned