

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Work Session Minutes

October 14, 2014

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: October 14, 2014
 Adopted: November 18, 2014

	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present	x	x	x	x	x	WORK SESSION SUMMARY 1. Discipline Committee Update, Mrs. Susana Wittrock, Executive Director; Mrs. Karen Leinhart, Rim Rock Elementary; Mr. Will Hayes, Senior Vice President at Hilltop ➤ Mr. Hayes reviewed the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Improving School Climate and Discipline implementing a tiered continuum of support report from May of 2014. He reminded the Board of the request to change the name of the Discipline Committee to the Behavior Supports Team. Discussion took place regarding the process for disruptive students. Mr. Hays stated this will be an active committee who will meet long term and on a regular basis to review the needs of the District. Discussion took place regarding the lack of resources to provide the support which is needed to implement the proposals. A request for seven additional personnel was made to provide the needed support. Mrs. Wittrock stated the committee is applying for grants to help support these positions. Mr. Leany would like the committee to visit successful schools and implement the model and skills being used at those schools. Mr. Parrish asked to be updated when data is available regarding the Positive Behavior Intervention Support structures, which will be put into place. ➤ The Board and Superintendent thanked Mrs. Wittrock, Mrs. Leinhard and Mr. Hayes for the information. 2. Gifted and Talented Update ➤ Mrs. Heather Baskin, Gifted and Talented (GT) Coordinator; and Mrs. Leigh Grasso, Executive Director, thanked the Board for the opportunity to update them on the Gifted and Talented program. Mrs. Baskin reviewed the Gifted and Talented Initiative Plan developed from the Gifted and Talented Accountability Committee's and the Colorado Department of Education's recommendations. Mrs. Baskin shared numbers for students enrolled in the program and teachers and coaches in the program. She reviewed the Colorado Gifted Education review recommendations. Mrs. Baskin discussed the budget for the GT Program. Mrs. Baskin and Mrs. Grasso discussed a Cluster Grouping Model they will put into place as a way to serve gifted students on a full-time basis. This will enhance achievement opportunities for all students. Mr. Mikolai asked about increasing services to students and Mrs. Baskin explained District 51 follows state mandates for identification and services. Mr. Parrish asked about standardizing the Cluster Grouping Model. Mrs. Baskin reported there will be training for all elementary teachers on the new model. Mrs. Tisue asked about training for GT teachers and training regular classroom teachers in the professional development piece with regards to strategic compensation. Mrs. Grasso stated pieces are being phased into the curriculum. Mr. Mikolai asked about the status of the middle school Honors Program. Mrs. Grasso reported the curriculum in place now is more challenging than the Honors curriculum; therefore, they have unified the program across the valley for all middle schools. ➤ The Board thanked Mrs. Baskin and Mrs. Grasso for their report. [Mr. Mikolai called for a recess at 7:46 p.m. Resumed at 7:56 p.m.]	6:00 p.m.

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➤ Mr. Schultz recognized and congratulated Mrs. Ann Tisue for receiving the Colorado Association of School Boards McGuffey Award, which honors unique Board members who bring committed and passionate service to their Board.

3. Graduation Guidelines

- Mr. Matt Diers, Executive Director for High Schools, presented information on Postsecondary Workforce Readiness. In June, 2009, the Colorado State Board of Education and Commission on Higher Education produced a joint adoption for the description of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness. Graduates must have content knowledge, high level learning and behavior skills essential to be prepared to enter and be successful in college, the military or the workforce in order to compete in our global economy. New expectations for a high school diploma will be developed and guided by a common menu. District 51 will develop and identify areas of opportunity for students to explore and attain knowledge, skills, and abilities to be prepared for the day after high school. District 51 will create and reinforce learning environments that reflect high expectations for all students to successfully earn a living wage and contribute to Colorado's economy. District 51 will educate students to be prepared to enter Colorado's workforce with in-demand credentials and benchmarked to business, industry and higher education standards.
- The Board and Superintendent thanked Mr. Diers for the information presented.

4. Land Use/Director District Update

- Mr. Shannon Bingham, a School Demographer from Western Demographics, outlined a recommendation for the Board Director Districts. He shared information on the current Board Director Districts and discussed proposed changes, by statute, to create a more equal set of Board Director Districts. Discussion took place regarding the maps which were shared. The Board agreed to have Mr. Bingham bring a resolution to a Board Business Meeting sometime before January for approval.
- Mr. Shannon Bingham discussed a recommendation for the site needs and real estate which Mesa County Valley School District 51 currently own. He discussed each property and his reasons for keeping and selling each property. Some sites are viable future school sites and others are surplus, which he feels the District can disposed of, due to different restraints on the properties. He stated the District needs to look at a 50 year needs assessment. He reported District 51 being behind the rest of the State as school conditions are concerned. He stated funding for education in Colorado is below national average and District 51 is the lowest funded. Discussion took place regarding the state of the current high school buildings. He offered to do region building exercises to build community support on addressing facility challenges. The administration should consider addressing some of these issues. He stated District 51 could benefit from a lot of renovation. Mr. Bingham will bring site recommendations to the Board in the next few months.

