

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Business Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2014

Business 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
Business Meeting Minutes: October 28, 2014
Adopted: December 16, 2014

	A	B	C	D	E		ACTION
						AGENDA ITEMS	
Present	x	x	x	x	x	A. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL	6:01 p.m.
Absent						➤ Mr. Mikolai welcomed attendees to the October Board Business Meeting and gave instructions for meeting participants to address the Board, <i>under Item G, Audience Comments.</i>	
Motion				x		B. AGENDA APPROVAL	Adopted
Second	x						
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion	x					C. MEETING MINUTES AND SUMMARY APPROVAL	Adopted as Presented
Second				x		C-1. September 2, 2014, Board Work Session Minutes	
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion				x		C-2. September 16, 2014, Board Business Meeting Minutes	Adopted as Presented
Second	x						
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
						D. RECOGNITIONS	
						➤ None at this time	
						E. BOARD REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS/REQUESTS	
						➤ Mrs. Tisue conveyed her continued concerns over the use of the Ender's Game book. She reported asking the CARES Committee to review this book.	
						➤ Mr. Parrish commented on the positive experience of the new staff event hosted by the D51 Foundation. Mr. Schultz stated he was excited to participate and enjoyed talking with first year teachers.	
						➤ Mr. Mikolai reported he attended the high school marching band competition in Parker, Colorado, and how happy he was to announce our Palisade High School band was awarded second place in their division. He stated it was a courageous performance which took place in a blizzard.	
						➤ Mr. Leany agreed with Mrs. Tisue's concerns regarding the continued use of the book Ender's Game.	
						F. LEGISLATIVE REPORTS	
						➤ Mr. Parrish reported on the "negative factor" and the negative funding issues still facing the State and District. He reported, depending on the election outcomes, it is likely District 51 will need community support to express to legislators the importance of reducing, if not eliminating, the negative factor. The negative factor reduces funding to District 51 by approximately \$22 million dollars per year.	

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AGENDA ITEMS **ACTION**

G. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Mr. Mikolai read guidelines for meeting attendees to address the Board.
 - Ms. Sandra Gustafson, 721 Willow Creek Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505
 Ms. Gustafson asked what the outcome of the Ender's Game committee turned out to be. Mr. Tony Giurado, Chief Academic Officer, reported when a formal complaint is filed a committee of administrators, teachers, parents and community members is compiled. The charge of this committee was to determine if the book is appropriate in the sixth grade curriculum as an anchor text. The committee rendered an eight to one vote supporting a continued use in sixth grade classrooms. The book is read to the class over a period of time. Discussion takes place and multiple assignments come from the curriculum. This book has themes which are complex, challenges higher level thinking and critical thinking to understand the story line. There will be an alternative book available for families who do not wish for their child to read Ender's Game.
 - Ms. Anna Elliott, 3082 D.5 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504
 Ms. Elliott stated she was present when the parent spoke about Ender's Game. She reviewed information with the parent. She stated she would not read the book herself and asked about the committee who will be deciding on the alternative book for students. She would like notification to be given to all middle school parents regarding the alternative book.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- H-1. Resolution for OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Lab)
- Mr. Schultz discussed the upcoming resolution which is in support of the Outdoor Wilderness Lab (OWL). Details of the program were outlined and consensus took place among the Board to move forward with this program. The proposal is to use the adopted Board resolution to find support to finalize funding, through sponsors, for the program. The program will then be developed without additional costs to the District. Mr. Frank McGee, Division of Wildlife, provided updated information regarding the program.
- H-2. Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Report
- Mr. Tony Giurado, Chief Academic Officer, and Ms. Leigh Grasso, Executive Director, updated the Board with a presentation on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) results. The presentation included an overview of a plan of action to improve scores, which included: revising the curriculum, with focus on sequencing and emphasis; updating curriculum support materials; and adapting instruction. Mr. Giurado addressed the challenge technology added to this first-ever online test. Examples of the type of questions were shared. Discussion took place regarding the ratio of technology devices to students and if increasing the ratio to a one-on-one would help. Mrs. Grasso stated it is more cost effective to purchase technology and resource licenses instead of hard copy resources traditionally purchased. A rough cost analysis will be prepared to

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						<p>be shared with the Board. Mr. Schultz reported the SB1202 Committee will be meeting in Grand Junction on Thursday, November 6 and everyone is encouraged to attend to express their opinions on the volume of assessments children are subjected to taking.</p> <p>H-3. Fiscal Oversight Committee Proposal – Mr. Phil Onofrio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Phil Onofrio, Chief Financial Officer, proposed a singular fiscal oversight committee which combines and replaces the budget and audit committee, adding the task of reviewing District financials. This would increase operational efficiencies and maintain clear fiscal oversight on behalf of the Board. The committee would meet on a quarterly basis and provide reports to the Board on a quarterly basis. The new fiscal oversight committee would be comprised of fewer total members and include community members with fiscal experience, along with staff members and a Board member representative. <p>H-4. Business/Investment Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Onofrio reviewed the District's current financial report. An increase in medical expenses was noted, due to the timing of changing the insurance cycle plan, which renews in January. <p>H-5. Expulsions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Schultz presented September expulsions, noting an increase this year over the same period last year. He provided an overview of October expulsions, where he reported expulsions are down. The Drug Oversight Committee is working on increasing awareness about the dangers of marijuana on young, developing minds. <p>I. EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ None at this time. <p>J. CONSENT AGENDA</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">J-1. Personnel Actions</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">J-1-a. Licensed Personnel</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">J-1-b. Classified Personnel</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">J-2. Gifts</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">J-3. Grants</p> <p>[A request was made to see if the District Accountability Committee could be asked to attend the SB1202 meeting on Thursday.]</p> <p>K. BUSINESS ITEMS</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">K-1. Resolution for Partnership Regarding OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Lab) [Resolution 14/15: 21]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The team from the Division of Wildlife were present and shared with the Board a calendar which maps out the weeks in which sixth grade classes could attend the OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Lab). Mr. Frank McGee, Division of Wildlife reported speaking to partners to help fund this project. 	
Motion Second Aye No	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x		Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x		Adopted

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Motion Second Aye No	x x	x	x	x	x	<p>K-2. Resolution for Fiscal Oversight Committee Proposal [Resolution: 14/15: 20]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion took place regarding selecting a Board member to be on this committee. Mr. Onofrio will present a list of proposed committee members to the Board and the Board may appoint members. Mrs. Tisue praised the Budget and Oversight Committee for their hard work. Mr. Williams stated he is encouraged to have financial people represented on the Fiscal Oversight Committee. <p>L. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Parrish reported attending the Colorado Association of School Board's (CASB) Delegate Assembly. He stated there is great support to pursue the negative factor with the legislators. He stated assessments is a big issue the CASB delegates addressed at the meeting. Additional things to be addressed are the strength of the economy, how much money to keep in the state education fund, Tabor limits, unity among education groups on restoring funding and the development of pending lawsuits on finance and Tabor. ➤ Mrs. Tisue reported she attended a regional CASB meeting where discussion took place regarding reducing the negative factor. She stated this should be an ongoing message. ➤ Mr. Mikolai stated he would like to have a Board Retreat on Friday, November 14. All Board members agreed to attend on this date. <p>M. FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reviewed. <p>N. EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ None at this time. <p>O. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Adopted</p>
Motion Second Aye No	x x	x	x	x	x	<p>Terri N. Wells, Secretary Board of Education</p>	<p>Adjourn – 7:48 p.m.</p>