

Board of Education

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Board Business Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023

Board Business Meeting Minutes

A - Doug Levinson B - Kari Sholtes C - Andrea Haitz D - Will Jones E - Angela Lema						Board of Education Mesa County Valley School District 51 Business Meeting Minutes: September 19, 2023 Adopted: October 17, 2023	
	A	B	C	D	E		
						AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
Present	x	x	x	x	x	<u>BUSINESS MEETING</u>	5:04 p.m.
Absent						A. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE/ROLL CALL ➤ Mr. Levinson attended the meeting remotely.	
Motion				x		B. AGENDA APPROVAL	Approved
Second		x					
Aye	x	x	x	x	x		
No							
Motion		x				C. MEETING MINUTES AND SUMMARY APPROVAL	Approved
Second				x		C-1. August 1, 2023 Board Work Session	
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	C-2. August 15, 2023 Board Business Meeting	
No						C-3. August 30, 2023 Board Special Meeting	
						D. RECOGNITIONS	
						D-1. Patriot Day [Resolution: 23/24: 13] ➤ Mrs. Haitz read the resolution for September 11 to be remembered as Patriot Day. Patriot Day was established to pay tribute to the first responders and citizens who answered the call to save lives with tremendous acts of courage with no hesitation on September 11, 2001.	
						D-2. Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Qualifiers, Fruita Monument High School [Resolution: 23/24: 14] ➤ Mrs. Haitz asked for Tori Reister and Kerri Muniz to join her at the front of the room. Tori and Kerri's first-place gold medal at the Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Competition earned them a spot to compete at nationals, where they showcased their exemplary teamwork and creativity, bringing home another first-place gold medal for their group project in Event Management, titled "Unmasking FCCLA: Masquerade Party." ➤ The Board and Superintendent Hill congratulated the two students for winning a gold medal at the National FCCLA Competition.	
						D-3. Bobby G Theatre Awards [Resolution: 23/24: 15] ➤ Mr. Jones invited the cast and staff for the Central High School Newsies production to come forward to be recognized for winning numerous Bobby G Awards. Camryn Leistico was awarded the "Rising Star" Award and her father, Mr. Mark Leistico received the "Special Achievement Award in Parental Support". ➤ The Board and Superintendent Hill congratulated Camryn and Mr. Leistico for the awards they received and congratulated the entire cast for winning the Bobby G Award for Outstanding Chorus. Cast members included the following: ▪ Central High School students, Daina Wilkinson, Tasia Guest, Madison Barker, Aleena West, Kaley Davis, Justin Firm, Sophia Johnson, Kyle Nordenson, Shane Storey, Marcus Grattan, Alex Head, Dimitri Alvey, Natalia Ramirez, Cassidy Grant, Alisha Kopplin, Madelynn Lyon, Daphne Shakespear, Zoe Maple, Allison Spoon, Cooper Dewitt, Samantha Wenrich,	

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AGENDA ITEMS **ACTION**

- Cambria Henson, Jordan Lasley, Sierra Heady, Addison Cain, Camryn Leistico, Leobardo Marin Rivera, Max Bardell
- Fruita Monument High School student, Brooklyn Reiber
- Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary School student, Grant Leistico
- Nisley Elementary School students, Max Johnson and Heidi Johnson
- Staff members Ms. Amanda Melzer and Mr. Mathew Coronado

D-4. Southwest League Baseball Player of the Year and Coach of the Year
 [Resolution: 23/24: 16]

- Ms. Lema invited Hunter Smolinski and Coach Casey Sullivan from Fruita Monument High School to join her at the front of the room.
- The Board and Dr. Hill congratulated Hunter for being named the 2022-2023 Southwestern League Baseball Player of the Year and Coach Sullivan for being named Coach of the Year.

D-5. Boys Lacrosse Coach of the Year [Resolution: 23/24: 17]

- Dr. Sholtes acknowledged Kevin Costanza of Fruita Monument High School Boys Lacrosse as being named the 2022-2023 Boys Lacrosse Coach of the Year. Mr. Costanza was not in attendance.

D-6. Girls Lacrosse Player of the Year and Co-Coach of the Year [Resolution: 23/24: 18]

- Dr. Sholtes invited Fruita Monument High School Lacrosse player, Olivia O'Hara, and her coach, Alyssa Huskey, to the front of the room.
- Olivia was congratulated by the Board and Dr. Hill on earning the title of Fruita Monument's Girls Lacrosse Player of the year for the 2022/2023 season and Ms. Huskey was congratulated and honored as being named the Fruita Monument Girls Lacrosse Co-Coach of the Year.

D-7. Southwest League Girls Soccer Player of the Year and Coach of the Year
 [Resolution: 23/24: 19]

- Dr. Sholtes acknowledged the accomplishments of Central High School girls' soccer Player of the Year, Liana Briant, and Fruita Monument High School Girls Soccer Coach of the Year Ethan Johnson. Neither were present.

D-8. Colorado State Track Winners [Resolution: 23/24: 20]

- Ms. Lema invited the following State Track winners to join her at the front of the room.
 - Shalom Trowbridge from Central High School won second place in the 800 Meter race at the 4A State Track Meet and was named State Champion in the 1600 Meter race.
 - Miller Jones from Grand Junction High School was named the 4A Colorado State Champion in both the Long Jump and the Triple Jump.
 - Daneil Baroumbaye, who was represented by her father, was named the 4A State Champion in the Shot Put and the Discus and set the All-Time 4A State Record in the Discus.
 - Daniel Thomason from Fruita Monument High School placed second in the 5 A Division High Jump.

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AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Board and Superintendent Hill congratulated all the athletes on their outstanding athletic accomplishments. D-9. Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award [Resolution: 23/24: 21] ➤ The Board members invited Mrs. Melanie Trujillo, Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Ashley Zhang, Accounting Supervisor, and all present members of their department to approach the front of the room. ➤ The Board and Dr. Hill recognized and congratulated the Financial Services Department for earning the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 29th consecutive year. They were commended for their hard work and long hours dedicated in creating the District's comprehensive annual financial report. E. BOARD REPORTS E-1. Good Things ➤ Mr. Jones reported on participating in the dedication of a new park at Rocky Mountain Elementary School and encouraged everyone to visit the park. ➤ Mrs. Haitz and Ms. Lema reported on visiting Mr. Whitford's class at Grand Junction High School and observing students debate. E-2. Committee/Activity Updates ➤ None at this time F. D51 HAPPENINGS AND CELEBRATIONS ➤ Ms. Ciera Colson, Media and Communication Specialist, displayed photos and shared information on events happening across the District this past month. Events highlighted included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Apple September recipient, Ms. Julie Clem, Bookcliff Middle School Severe Needs Behavior Teacher • Grand Junction Police Department donation to Pear Park Elementary School to help purchase playground equipment • Colorado Mesa University Rowdy, a 1,400 pound longhorn bull, visited Appleton Elementary School to reward students for surpassing 83,000 minutes of reading over the summer. • A \$14,000 donation to the District 51 Foundation from Alpine Bank • Students participating in Project Search, a year-long internship • Western Colorado Pediatrics donation presentation of \$5,000 to the Kid's Aide Backpack Program • United Way Annual Unity and Community Festival • Clifton Community Leaders dedication of new playground equipment at Rocky Mountain Elementary School • Palisade High School celebration activities to recognize students who achieved a GPA higher than 3.5 during the 22-23 school year, outstanding student based programs, and two International Baccalaureate students whose fund raising project resulted in a \$1,000 donation to the Second Wind Fund. 	
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AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION

- Replication of a Solar Panel Charging Station at Grand Junction High School first introduced at West Middle School
- Homecoming activities and events
- National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Alexander Chang, Grand Junction High School
- Patriot Day celebrations at Scenic Elementary and Rim Rock Elementary Schools
- Thunder Mt. Elementary School student preparedness for school pictures day with free haircuts being provided by Allure Beauty Bar

G. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

G-1. Grand Junction High School Health Center Update

- Superintendent Hill presented information on the final location for the Grand Junction High School Health Center, the company to provide services, and the rationale and data to support the final decisions. The Grand Junction High School Health Center will be located within the new Grand Junction High School building with services to be provided by Marillac Health. The District will be working with Marillac Health to finalize the steps with the health center slated to open in the fall of 2024.

G-2. Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee Update

- Superintendent Hill thanked all the members of the Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee (EDEC) for their time and commitment. He reviewed the dates and agenda items worked on at the EDEC meetings. Dr. Hill shared information on the components of the final EDEC Recommendation Report. Components of the report include:
 - Executive Summary
 - Charge of the EDEC
 - Collation of EDEC work with the District's Strategic Plan
 - Challenges (Overview, Changing District Demographics, Financial Implications and Staffing Impacts)
 - Equipped and Empowered Schools
 - Review of EDEC Efforts
 - Board of Education Actions: Recommendation Menu (School Closure/Consolidation, Mill Levy, Promote and Increase Robust & Aligned Options, Subsidize & Provide Flexible Support Through Possible Increases in State Per Pupil Funding, and Ongoing Evaluation of Central Staffing and Programs)
- Dr. Hill noted the final report and supporting documents are available to be viewed on the District 51 website.
- Board members discussed the need to:
 - Include findings from the Long Range Facilities Master Plan when considering school closure or consolidation
 - Ensure projected student enrollment numbers are forecasted out for an adequate number of years
 - Try and identify triggers to watch to adequately predict future enrollment
 - Research why families are leaving the District and what options are attracting families and students.

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AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
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- Empower and support schools wishing to offer the educational alternatives/ options families and students are wanting.

[Recess 7:28 p.m. Resume 7:42 p.m.]

H. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Zoe Brosig, Grand Junction 81501
 Zoe, a former East Middle School student questioned the value gained in the closing of East Middle School, in relationship to the negative impact the closure has had on her and other students. She spoke of students' struggling in having to make new friends at new schools.
- Rickie Howie, Grand Junction 81501
 Ms. Howie requested the District look at declining enrollment not as a permanent event, but as a temporary event with student enrollment to increase over time. She requested another committee be formed to determine which schools will be closed. Ms. Howie spoke about the Board Coffee with three Board members in attendance, a quorum, noting business could have been conducted. She reported there was no recording of the Coffee and no minutes taken so she questioned how the other two Board members or community members would know what transpired at the Coffee.
- Ana Elliott, Grand Junction 81504
 Ms. Elliott read from a parent correspondence concerning the Panorama Survey and a means for parents to opt out of the survey. She requested information on what takes place with the opt out form. She questioned the processing of the form due to a student, in the fourth grade, taking the survey after the parents submitted a opt out form. She requested an investigation into the matter and recommended students, who are opted out of the survey, be removed from the classroom prior to the administration of the survey.
- Dana Brosig, Grand Junction 81501
 Ms. Brosig is the parent of a student who attended East Middle School for sixth and seventh grade. She reported her student is no longer liking middle school and she was told by teachers that a large number of students are struggling since the closure of East Middle School. She reported on a shortage of counselors available to work with struggling students, students having to have schedules changed due to large classes needing to be split and students struggling to get from one class to another due to a large number of students in the halls. She asked questions on cost savings of the closure of the school, what is the plan for the vacant building, net changes in administration number, student teacher ratios for the schools taking in the displaced students, impacts on students and parents, the number of students leaving the District due to the closure and transportation impacts. She recommended the District use the closure of East Middle School as a case study when considering closure of any elementary schools.
- Valerie Hansen, Grand Junction 81501
 Ms. Hanson thanked the District for waiting for the completion of the Long Range Facility Plan before making decisions on elementary school closures. She expressed the need to consider the impact of school closures on special need students and the need to expand preferred programs in the District, which have waiting lists.

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mary Orzechowski, Grand Junction 81501 Ms. Orzechowski requested information on the Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee report and how to access all the information tied to the report, specifically on the criteria for school closure. 	
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>I. CONSENT AGENDA</p> <p>I-1. Personnel Actions</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">I-1.a. Licensed & Administrative Personnel Actions [Resolution 23/24: 11]</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">I-1.b. Administrator New Hires [Resolution 23/24: 12]</p> <p>I-2. Gifts [Resolution 23/24: 10]</p>	Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>J. BUSINESS ITEMS</p> <p>J-1. Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) Resolution [Resolution 23/24: 06]</p>	Adopted
Motion Second Aye No	x	x	x	x	x	<p>J-2. Resolution to Approve Contract for Facilities Assessment with Hord Coplan Macht, Inc. [Resolution 23/24: 09]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Superintendent Hill reported the cost for the facilities assessment was a line item in the 23-24 budget adopted by the Board, with funds allocated to hire a firm. ➤ Dr. Sholtes requested information of a completion date for the facilities assessment on elementary schools. 	Adopted
						<p>K. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Hill clarified he would not feel comfortable in bringing forward any recommendation for a school closure/consolidation without a team reviewing all the necessary data, which would include the facility assessment. He spoke on the need to have policy in place with a set cut-off date prior to any closure/consolidation taking place. 	
						<p>L. FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>L-1. October 3, 2023, Harry Butler Board Room, 5:00 p.m., Board Work Session</p> <p>L-2. October 4, 2023, Fruita 8/9 School, 5:00 p.m., Fruita Reconfiguration Town Hall</p> <p>L-3. October 5, 2023, Redlands Middle School, 5:00 p.m., Fruita Reconfiguration Town Hall</p> <p>L-4. October 10, 2023, Harry Butler Board Room, 5:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting</p> <p>L-5. October 11, 2023, Virtual Meeting 5:00 p.m., Fruita Reconfiguration Town Hall</p> <p>L-6. October 14, 2023, Dos Rios Elementary School Cafeteria, 9 a.m., Board Coffee</p> <p>L-7. October 17, 2023, Harry Butler Board Room, 5:00 p.m., Board Business Meeting</p>	
						<p>M. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>No items at this time.</p>	
Motion					x	<p>N. ADJOURNMENT</p>	8:09 p.m.
<p>_____ Amy Navarette, Assistant Secretary Board of Education</p>							

Board of Education Resolution: 23/24: 13

Presented: September 19, 2023

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, the American people endured the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil in the nation's history with courage and heroism; and

WHEREAS, in response to the tragedy, Americans across the country came together in a remarkable spirit of patriotism and unity and carried out countless acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, every year since Americans come together in solidarity as a nation to remember the first responders and civilians who lives where were cut short by these acts of terror some 21 years ago; and

WHEREAS, that day and the days that followed our Country was united, Americans no matter race, background or religion where all united in prayer and with a resolve to help the families of victims and first responders who were never given the opportunity to live out their full lives; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, Americans pay tribute to the first responders and citizens who answered the call to save lives with tremendous acts of courage with no hesitation. September 11th is recognized as a National Day of Service, and each and every day Americans must remember to stand united; we do this with understanding, love, and respect for one another; and

WHEREAS, it is our sacred duty to never forget the events that transpired on that painful day in our country's history. So future generations can be reminded that when Americans from all walks of life unite together we are stronger as a country; and

WHEREAS, many of the freedoms Americans enjoy are due to the sacrifices of many generations before us, let us not forget the military men and women who have answered the call to defend our freedom;

THEREFORE, the Board of Education and Superintendent Hill proclaim September 11 to be always remembered as Patriot Day.

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 September 19, 2023.

Amy Navarette
Board of Education Assistant Secretary

Board of Education Resolution 23/24: 14

Presented: September 19, 2023

Will Tori Reister and Kerri Muniz please join me at the front of the room?

In early July, Tori and Kerri represented Fruita Monument High School at the National Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America convention in Denver, Colorado. FCCLA is a student-led organization focusing on family and consumer sciences, education, leadership development, and community service.

Tori and Kerri's first-place gold medal at the State Competition earned them a spot to compete at nationals, where they showcased their exemplary teamwork and creativity, bringing home another first-place gold medal for their group project in Event Management, titled "Unmasking FCCLA: Masquerade Party."

Both of these young women are officers in the FMHS FCCLA. Their leadership within the organization exemplifies their understanding of the core values and objectives of FCCLA and their dedication to the program and their peers. They have significantly contributed to the growth and impact of FCCLA within the FMHS school community, and the success of these exceptional students is not only a testament to their hard work but also to the support and guidance provided by their dedicated sponsors, Kimberlee Weber and Kimberly Basham.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to recognize and congratulate Tori and Kerri on this outstanding accomplishment. Thank you for representing our district so well. We look forward to your continued growth and success.

Board of Education Resolution 23/24: 15

Presented: September 19, 2023

Will the entire cast of **Newsies**, along with Mark Leistico, please join me at the front of the room?

During the last academic school year, Central High School's production of *Newsies* was nominated for an impressive five Bobby G Awards. The Bobby G Awards is an annual ceremony that encourages, celebrates, and rewards outstanding achievements in high school musical theatre throughout Colorado while offering a chance at recognition on the national scale. The awards ceremony took place over the summer, and these Central High School students and parents showcased their excellence by bringing home three Bobby G Award titles.

The first recognition was given to the entire cast of *Newsies* for winning the Bobby G Award for Outstanding Chorus. This recognition highlights the incredible teamwork and dedication of the CHS ensemble and the dedication and commitment to excellence exhibited by our students and their educators.

Camryn Leistico was awarded the "Rising Star" Bobby G Award. This prestigious honor acknowledges Camryn's exceptional talent, hard work, and dedication to her craft, reflecting her bright future in the world of theater.

In addition, Mark Leistico, a CHS Theater Parent and proud supporter, ran 240 miles to raise funds for the program, receiving the "Special Achievement Award in Parental Support." Mark's dedication to our students and this program, along with his active involvement, underscores the importance of strong partnerships between schools and parents, a priority at District 51.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate all our Bobby G Award Recipients on this incredible achievement. We commend the outstanding talent, teamwork, and commitment displayed by our students, staff, and supporters of the CHS Theater Program!

Staff:

Director, Amanda Meltzer (director)

Music Director, Mathew Coronado (music director)

Students:

Max Bardell

Leobardo Marin Rivera

Camryn Leistico

Addison Cain

Brooklyn Reiber

Sierra Heady

Jordan Lasley

Cambria Henson

Samantha Wenrich

Cooper Dewitt

Allison Spoon

Zoe Maple

Daphne Shakespear

Madelynn Lyon

Alisha Kopplin

Cassidy Grant

Natalia Ramirez

Dimitri Alvey

Alex Head

Marcus Grattan

Shane Storey

Kyle Nordenson

Sophia Johnson

Justin Firm

Kaley Davis

Aleena West

Madison Barker

Tasia Guest

Daina Wilkinson

Grant Leistico (Lincoln Orchard Mesa
Elementary School student)

Max Johnson (Nisley Elementary School
student)

Heidi Johnson (Nisley Elementary School
student)

Will Hunter Smolinski and Casey Sullivan please join me at the front of the room?

Hunter Smolinski, currently a Senior at Fruita Monument High School, was named the 2022-23 Southwestern League Baseball Player of the Year, while his coach, Casey Sullivan, received Coach of the Year.

Smolinski, a versatile middle infielder, is a key player for the Wildcats Baseball Team, contributing both as a shortstop and second baseman. He was listed as a “player to watch” last season, boasting an impressive batting average of .383 and a slugging percentage of .993. His performance included seven doubles and two triples. As he prepares to graduate, he has set his sights on continuing his athletic journey with the Grand Canyon University Baseball team in 2024.

Last year, the Wildcats achieved an impressive 19-3 overall record, a testament to the guidance of Coach Casey Sullivan. Serving as head coach for the last two years, Coach Sullivan has consistently brought energy, determination, and outstanding leadership to the team.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Hill would like to recognize Hunter and Casey for their commitment and dedication on and off the field and congratulate them for earning Southwest League Baseball Player and Coach of the Year!

Board of Education Resolution 23-24: 17

Presented: September 19, 2023

Will Kevin Costanza please join me at the front of the room?

Fruita Monument High School Boys Lacrosse Coach Kevin Costanza was named the 2022-23 Boys Lacrosse Coach of the Year. A well-deserved recognition, Coach Costanza led the FMHS Boys Lacrosse team to multiple victories, including a playoff win, the first ever for the program.

Coach Costanza's passion for lacrosse and his commitment to our student-athletes transformed the Fruita Boys Lacrosse Program and set a standard of excellence that will be recognized and celebrated for years to come. Mr. Costanza's coaching philosophy centered on the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication, and he instilled these principles in his players both on and off the field.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate Kevin Costanza on his remarkable tenure with the FMHS Wildcats and also thank him for his service and dedication to our D51 students, families, and community. We wish you the very best of luck in your next endeavor.

Board of Education Resolution 23/24: 18

Presented: September 19, 2023

Will Olivia O'Hara and Alyssa Huskey please join me at the front of the room?

Olivia O'Hara earned the title of Fruita Monument's Girls Lacrosse Player of the Year for the 2022-23 season, showcasing unmatched skill, sportsmanship, and unwavering determination. Her leadership both on and off the field has set a shining example for her fellow athletes, and she consistently plays a pivotal role in the team's success. Olivia's passion for the sport and her incredible work ethic make her an invaluable asset to the Fruita Monument Girls Lacrosse team.

Alyssa Huskey, honored as the Fruita Monument Girls Lacrosse Co-Coach of the Year, has displayed an extraordinary commitment to the development and success of her team. Coach Huskey's dedication to the athletes and her expertise in the sport have been instrumental in fostering a positive culture both on and off the field. Her leadership and guidance have not only contributed to the team's achievements but have also instilled in our student-athletes the values of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate both Olivia and Alyssa for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the FMHS Girls Lacrosse Program. Your leadership, positive influence, and dedication have not gone unnoticed. We look forward to watching what next season will bring!

Board of Education Resolution 23-24: 19

Presented: September 19, 2023

Will Liana Bryant and Ethan Johnson please join me at the front of the room?

Liana Bryant, who was a senior at Central High School last year, and Ethan Johnson, the Fruita Monument High School Girls Soccer Coach, were named the 2022-23 Player of the Year and Coach of the Year, respectively.

Bryant, who graduated from Central High School in May, left an incredible mark on the CHS Soccer community. She was known as one of the best strikers to come through the program, ending her high school career as the 2022-23 Player of the Year.

Liana not only excelled academically, but she also carried herself as a positive role model among her peers on the field. She worked tirelessly to perfect her skills and consistently delivered exceptional results. A quiet leader, she let her skills on the field and her grades in the classroom speak for themselves, inspiring her peers to follow her lead.

Under Coach Johnson's guidance, our Fruita Monument High School student-athletes have thrived, both as competitors and as individuals on and off the field. Johnson has continued to grow the program since he took over in 2019, and the girls have seen continued success under his leadership. The FMHS Girls Soccer finished the season 12-4 overall, coming out on top of the Southwest League Division.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate both Ethan Johnson, Coach of the Year, and Liana Bryant, Player of the Year on your remarkable achievements and valuable contributions to the D51 athletic community. We eagerly anticipate watching your continued success in the upcoming season, both with the district and in your next endeavor!

Board of Education Resolution 23-24: 20

Presented: September 19, 2023

Will the following students please join me at the front of the room?

Shalom Trowbridge, Miller Jones, Daneil Baroumbaye, and Daniel Thomason.

Qualifying for high school state track requires immense dedication, rigorous training, and consistently outstanding performance during seasonal and qualifying meets, where athletes compete against their peers to earn a coveted spot at the state championships. Taking the podium at the state track meet signifies that an athlete has not only excelled in their event but has also earned the honor of being among the best-of-the-best in the state.

These young athletes have represented our district with grave determination and have achieved remarkable success on the state level.

State Track 4A

Shalom Trowbridge - Central High School:

- 2nd Place in the 800-Meter Race
- State Champion in the 1600-Meter Race

Miller Jones - Grand Junction High School:

- State Champion in the Long Jump
- State Champion in the Triple Jump

Daneil Baroumbaye - Central High School:

- State Champion in Shot Put
- State Champion in Discus, setting the All-Time 4A Record

State Track 5A

Daniel Thomason - Fruita Monument High School:

- 2nd place in the High Jump.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Hill would like to congratulate these young athletes who have not only showcased remarkable talent but have also exhibited exceptional dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship throughout their respective events. Several of them will go on to continue their athletic journeys at the collegiate level in the years ahead, and we take immense pride in having them as ambassadors for District 51. Well done!



Mesa County Valley School District 51

Recognition: *Melanie Trujillo, Ashley Zhang, and Finance Department*
Government Finance Officers' Association Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Board of Education Resolution 23-24: 21

Presented: September 19, 2023

The Board would like to invite Melanie Trujillo, Ashley Zhang, and those in attendance from our Financial Services Department to the front of the room.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Hill would like to recognize our Financial Services Department for earning the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 29th consecutive year! This high-level recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting speaks to the hard work and long hours this team puts into creating the District's comprehensive annual financial report each year.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest recognition of governmental accounting and financial reports. Receiving this award is a testament to the Financial Service Department's exemplary financial management, reflecting their outstanding contributions to government finance.

Aligned with one of the core initiatives of the District's Strategic Plan, which emphasizes Transparency and Effective Resource Allocation, Financial Services is resolutely committed to enhancing and sustaining financial transparency and accuracy.

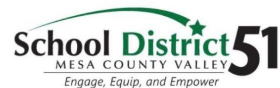
The Board of Education and Superintendent Hill proudly recognize Ms. Trujillo, Ms. Zhang, and the entire Financial Services team for consistently exemplifying excellence in all aspects of your work. Your dedication and achievements are truly commendable. Congratulations!

Grand Junction High School Health Center Update

Board of Education Meeting - 9/19/23

Board Resolution

6/20/23



Mesa County Valley School District 51

Resolution to Direct the District to Establish a Health Center on the Grand Junction High School Campus

Board of Education Resolution 22/23: 140

Adopted: June 20, 2023

WHEREAS, in December of 2018 a School-Based Health Center (SBHC) Needs Assessment was conducted by the Colorado Association for School Based Health Care; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation of the SBHC Needs Assessment showed both Central High School and Grand Junction High School would benefit from a SBHC; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2019, the Board of Education approved Resolution 18/19:50 supporting the establishment of school-based health centers in one or more schools; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020, the Warrior Wellness Center, a school based center was opened at Central High School; and

WHEREAS, at the March 7, 2023 Board Work Session Resolution 22/23: 69, approving a SBHC at the new Grand Junction High School, was rejected by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, at the June 6, 2023 Board Work Session members held a discussion to revisit the need for a health center on Grand Junction High School campus; now

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Board of Education hereby wishes to proceed with establishing an integrated health center that provides primary care medical services, behavioral health and dental services on the Grand Junction High School campus; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby directs the District to take the necessary steps to establish a health center on the Grand Junction High School campus.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on June 20, 2023.

*Bridget Story
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education*

Process Following BOE Resolution

- Formed two teams to make decisions on two topics:
 - Best location for future health center at GJHS
 - Selection of provider for integrated health center
- Teams included:
 - Superintendent
 - D51 COO
 - D51 M&O Staff
 - D51 Legal
 - GJHS Admin & Staff
 - D51 Coordinator of Nursing Services
 - D51 Safety & Security
 - D51 Purchasing Services
- Multiple meetings with teams included:
 - Discussion of feedback received, goals/priorities, and data needed to make decisions.
 - Creation of RFP
 - Analysis of data gathered
 - Review of proposals
 - Final decisions

Location of Future Health Center at GJHS

- Created a master list of possible locations for the future health center on future GJHS site.
- Created a list of Advantages and Disadvantages of each site based on:
 - Safety
 - Access
 - Cost
 - Feasibility
 - Stakeholder Feedback
 - Ability to Open in 2024
- Options of locations included:
 - GJHS Main Building
 - 700 BLDG
 - 800 BLDG
 - Mod Bldg on 800 Parcel
 - 500 BLDG
 - 600 BLDG
 - Mod Bldg on Campus
 - Aux Gym

Location of Future Health Center at GJHS

- Advantages and disadvantages existed for each location.
- **Decision on best location for future Health Center at GJHS is inside the future GJHS main building.**
- Advantages:
 - Easily accessible
 - Direct access
 - Eliminates barriers to obtaining services
 - Timeliness without the need to miss significant class time
 - Allows parents the ability to obtain care for students without missing work
 - New building with available space.
 - Secured entrance
 - Safer for students as they remain inside the building
 - No additional costs
 - No additional security support needed
 - Satisfies reasons used to support the bond initiative (e.g. closed building with limited access)
 - Majority of individuals request inside placement
 - RFP requires buildout to be done by tenant
- Disadvantages:
 - Potential privacy concerns (not discrete - no private entrance)
 - Concerns that personal health information could be disclosed to peers or school staff
 - Potential safety concerns during school hours if open to the public
 - Hours of operation only during school hours, unless operation under new MOU differs from Warrior Wellness Center
 - Access to the clinic only open during the school year, unless operation under new MOU differs from Warrior Wellness Center

Provider for Future Health Center at GJHS

- Worked with D51 Purchasing Dept. to create RFP for provider.
- Statement of Work Included:
 - The District is interested in establishing an independently operated Integrated Health Center (IHC) in or near Grand Junction High School (exact location to be determined). The District will designate approximately 1200-1400 square foot of space to house the IHC. District will charge a monthly rental rate of \$1,500, which will include space, custodial services and utilities. Rental rate will be reviewed and negotiated each year. The District will provide telephone and internet service. The awarded proposer will be responsible for tenant finishes, casework, furniture, equipment, hazardous/biological waste disposal, and supplies.
 - Awarded proposer shall provide:
 - Primary care medical services
 - Behavioral health services
 - Dental services
 - Management of all services provided in IHC by any and all sub-contractors.
 - Oversee and manage contracts and performance expectations of sub-contracting organization(s) and licensed medical/behavioral/dental staff/employees operating within their scope of practice as defined by state law.
 - Compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations regarding medical facilities and medical practice including those of the OSHA and CLIA administered by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Colorado Board of Pharmacy.
 - Funding and serve as the fiscal agent for public and private grants and contracts.
 - Develop an annual budget for IHC operations, which will include all anticipated sources of revenue for the IHC including grants, contracts and donations, reimbursement of services collected from insurance carriers, and the value of in-kind support from the District, as well as all anticipated expenses.
 - Manage the submission of claims to the appropriate insurance carrier, i.e. Medicaid, CHP Plus and private insurers. Reimbursements collected either through co-pays or reimbursement by insurance shall be credited to the IHC account.
 - Criminal background checks on all staff/employees and subcontractors.

Provider for Future Health Center at GJHS

- RFP was listed and widely distributed locally, statewide, and nationally.
- Providers had 2 weeks to send in a proposal for review.
- D51 received 1 proposal in total.
- Marillac Health was the lone entity to submit a proposal.
- Some local providers reached out to express that they would not be submitting a proposal.
- **Decision on the provider for future Health Center at GJHS is Marillac Health.**

Next Steps & Questions

- Thank you to the Board of Education for prioritizing student and staff health & wellbeing.
- Thank you to the team members who gathered data, met, and helped with the decision making process.
- Thank you to Marillac Health for submitting a proposal to be the provider for the future Health Center at GJHS.
- Next Steps:
 - COO will update FCI and Blythe on future use of space for new Health Center inside the new GJHS.
 - D51 Purchasing will work with D51 Legal, Superintendent, D51 Nursing Services, GJHS Admin to develop and execute an MOU for the future Health Center at GJHS.
 - Planned opening of future Health Center at new GJHS slated for Fall 2024.
- Questions?

Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee

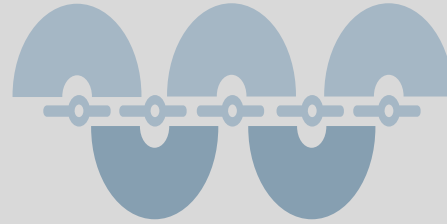
Final Committee Report

Board of Education - 9/19/23



**Thank You, Committee
Members!!!**

**10 Meetings
Over 30 Hours of Work**



First Sprint: April and May Meeting Experiences

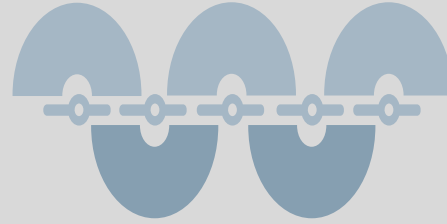
Meeting 1 (4/11): Initial D51 Grounding/ Survey of Research

Meeting 2 (4/25): Begin Analysis of D51 Initial Consolidation Process by Developing a Problem Statement/ Review a School Consolidation Case Study

Meeting 3 (5/9): Learn from Demographers/ Continue Analysis of D51 Consolidation Process

- Understand what an enrollment and budget shortfall means for the district and schools
- Review other possible approaches to address enrollment decline

Meeting 4 (5/31): Review AND prioritize other Paths/ Begin developing D51 Consolidation Criteria



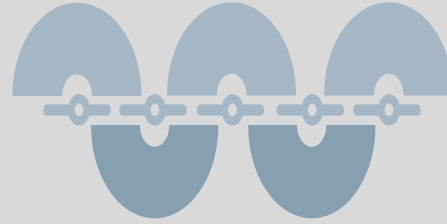
Second Sprint: June and July Meetings & Topics

Meeting 5 (6/27): Understand Recommendation Report and Draft D51 Consolidation/Closure Criteria

Town Halls (6/29, 7/5 -Virtual, and 7/12): Framing of Current State and Problem Statement, Review of Pathways Considered, and Review Format and Potential Topics for BOE Recommendation Menu

Meeting 6 (7/11): Continue to Draft Consolidation/Closure Criteria

Meeting 7 (7/25): Continue to Draft Consolidation/Closure Criteria, Draft School Consolidation Guiding Principles



Third Sprint: Aug & Sept Meetings & Topics

Meeting 8 (8/14): Continue to Draft Consolidation/Closure Criteria

Meeting 9 (8/22): Finalize Consolidation/Closure Criteria, Draft Why/What for Paths #2 Through #5

Meeting 10 (9/12): Review BOE Presentation & Potential Policy

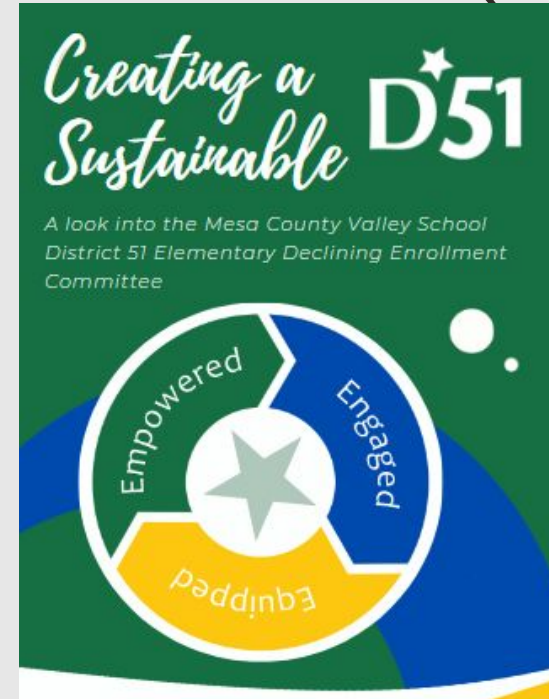
September BOE Meeting (9/19): BOE is presented the EDEC Recommendation Report & Takes Action on Report

Final EDEC Recommendation Report

Creating a Sustainable D51:

A Summary of the Work of the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee

- *Executive Summary*
- *Our Charge*
- *Strategic Plan*
- *Our Challenge*
 - *Overview*
 - *Changing District Demographics*
 - *Financial Implications*
 - *Staffing Impacts*
- *Equipped and Empowered Schools*
- *A Review Of EDEC Efforts*
- *BOE Actions: Recommendation Menu*



Our Charge

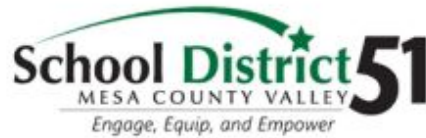
On March 16, 2023 the District 51 Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to charge the Superintendent to form a committee to address declining enrollment in District 51 at the elementary school level. The committee was to make a recommendation for addressing declining enrollment to the Superintendent, who would present those recommendations to the Board of Education by September 19, 2023.

Our Charge

The committee was specifically charged to:

- Continue the work already started
- Review data already presented
- Acquire additional data, if necessary
- Study all options, including the benefits and ramifications of closing elementary schools
- Better educate the community on the issues surrounding the enrollment declines and the effects enrollment decline has on the District
- Develop recommendations to address declining student enrollment

BOE Resolution



Mesa County Valley School District 51

Resolution to Form a Committee to Address Declining Student Enrollment at the Elementary Schools

Board of Education Resolution 22/23: 72

Adopted: March 16, 2023

WHEREAS, the Mesa County Valley School District 51 vision is to engage, equip, and empower each and every student every day; and

WHEREAS, the Mesa County Valley School District 51 strategic plan focuses on Prepared & Supported Students, Prepared & Supported Staff, and Engaged & Supportive Community Partners; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education received information from the District's demographer projecting continued declining enrollment over the next five to seven years; and

WHEREAS, the District's demographer recommended the closure of certain elementary schools effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year to address staffing and programmatic issues facing elementary schools due to declining enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education realizes the closure of elementary schools would greatly impact many students and staff; and

**BOE voted 5-0 in
support on March 16,
2023 Special Meeting**

BOE Resolution

**BOE voted 5-0 in
support on March 16,
2023 Special Meeting**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to review the data presented, acquire additional data, if necessary, study all options, including the benefits, and ramifications of closing elementary schools, and better educate the community on the issues surrounding the enrollment declines and the effects enrollment decline has on the District; and

WHEREAS, due to the urgency and importance of this work, the Board desires for the Superintendent to continue the work already started and the future work to implement this Resolution; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to form a committee to explore data and options, including the benefits and ramifications of closing elementary schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to select members to serve on said committee, schedule and facilitate committee meetings necessary to develop recommendations to address declining student enrollment. The Superintendent will propose to the Board of Education a final recommendation, from the committee, no later than September 19, 2023, that may result in elementary school consolidations effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on March 16, 2023.

Our Charge

The committee was comprised of

- Elementary teachers who also served on the Superintendent Teacher Advisory Group;
- Elementary principals who also served on the Superintendent Principal Advisory Group;
- Family members from the District Accountability Committee and District Special Education Advisory Committee;
- Community members from D51 Strategic Plan Priority Area Action Teams;
- Community members and district staff from the District Minority Advisory Committee;
- Members of entities in the community that the District collaborates with;
- District 51 Board of Education;
- Members from the D51 Senior Leadership Team;
- and the D51 Department of Communications.

EDEC Problem Statement

“Current declining student enrollment negatively impacts D51 resources and infrastructure. The impact limits D51’s ability to assemble the critical resources and infrastructure to adequately support and implement the strategic plan. We desire to reallocate resources to create safe, successful classrooms for students and staff.”

Strategic Plan Overview

The work of our committee was grounded in the principles of our three-year community-driven Strategic Plan. Throughout this process, we emphasized the connection between the committee's efforts and the district's Strategic Plan. A Strategic Plan created through a collaborative effort that involved various stakeholders in our district and throughout our community. This plan forms the basis of our commitment to engage, equip, and empower each and every student, each and every day, while ensuring that every student reaches the promise of our D51 Graduate Profile.

What school configurations and resources support ALL students progressing in these areas?

CULTURALLY CONNECTED

D51 students demonstrate:

- Teamwork
- Global & Cultural Awareness
- Skilled Communication

ENGAGE

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVERS

D51 students demonstrate:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Resilience
- Critical Thinking

EQUIP

READY FOR CAREER AND LIFE

D51 students demonstrate:

- Academic Proficiency
- Self- Direction
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Advocacy
- Career Awareness

EMPOWER

Engage, equip, and empower each and every student, each and every day.

Our Challenge

Declining enrollment is posing a significant challenge for school districts across the country. With factors such as declining birth rates, shifts in population, effects due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the availability of alternative educational options, school districts are grappling with the task of adapting to shrinking student populations. This decline in enrollment can have wide-ranging implications, impacting not only the financial stability of districts but also the allocation of effective resources, staffing levels, and the overall quality of education provided in schools.

Changing District Demographics

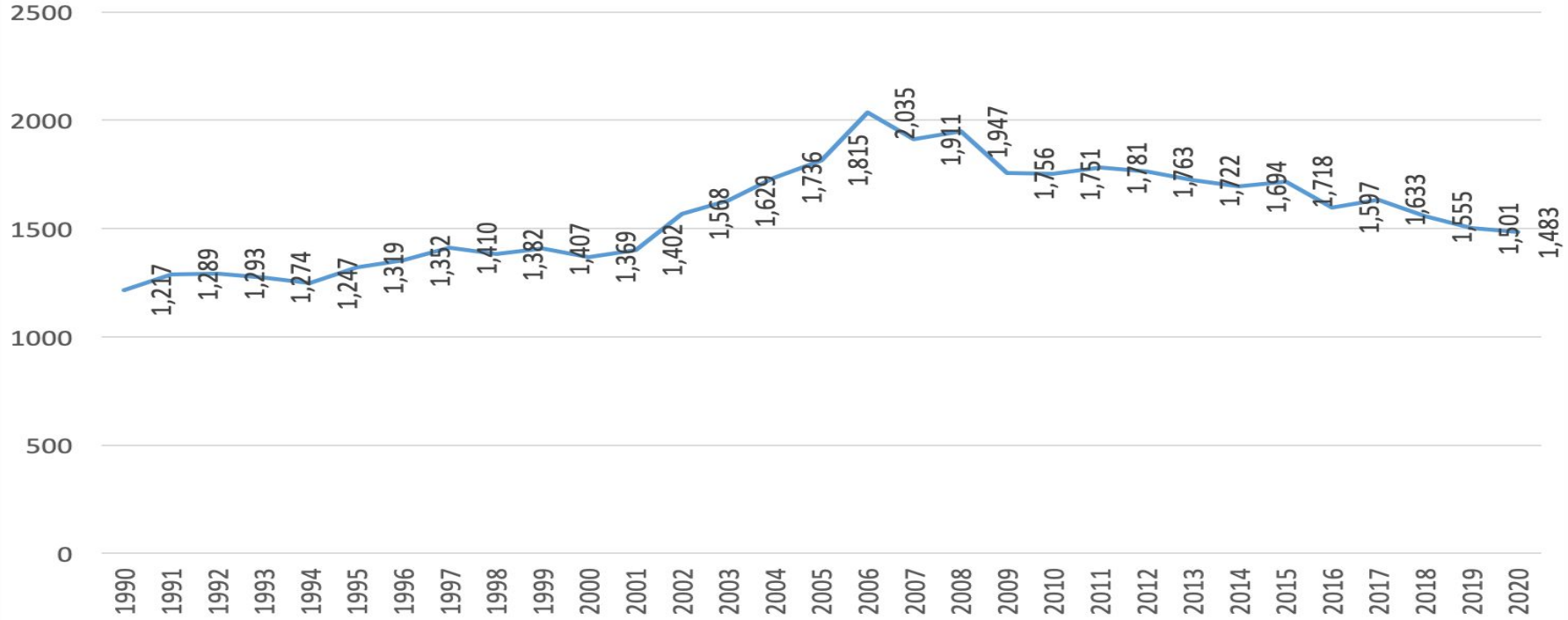
Since 2019, the number of students enrolled in D51 has declined by close to 1,800 students. At the time of publishing this report, D51 had 20,352 Pre-K through 12th-grade students enrolled. In 2019, at the same point in the school year, D51 had 22,151 students enrolled. That is a 9.2% decline in students.

Changing District Demographics

Post-pandemic online school competition further affects school enrollment, and high interest rates and higher housing prices impact “in-migration” of families. In order to address this, it is essential to support the housing needs of young families and create an environment conducive to attracting families with school-aged children if we are to get back to pre-pandemic student enrollment numbers.

Changing District Demographics

Mesa 51 Births - 1990 - 2021 - CDPHE



Changing District Demographics

Mr. Bingham's projections, which he originally presented publicly in January of 2023, showed a decline in D51 students over the next eight school years, ranging between a projected decline of 225 to 396 students a year. If Mr. Bingham's projections are accurate, D51 enrollment would be down to around 18,500 students by the start of the 2030-31 school year. That would be a decline of over 16% from 2019 enrollment numbers, if that were to hold true.

Changing District Demographics

Total District Projections - Fall 23 - 1/13/23

Hist Enroll	Totals by School Type						
Year	(K-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)	ps	Tot w PS	Net Growth
2017	9715	5039	6551	21305	732	22037	
2018	9540	5171	6648	21359	805	22164	127
2019	9344	5151	6709	21204	836	22040	-124
2020	8948	4911	6507	20366	807	21173	-867
2021	8981	4812	6726	20519	809	21328	155
2022	8872	4547	6637	20056	813	20869	-459

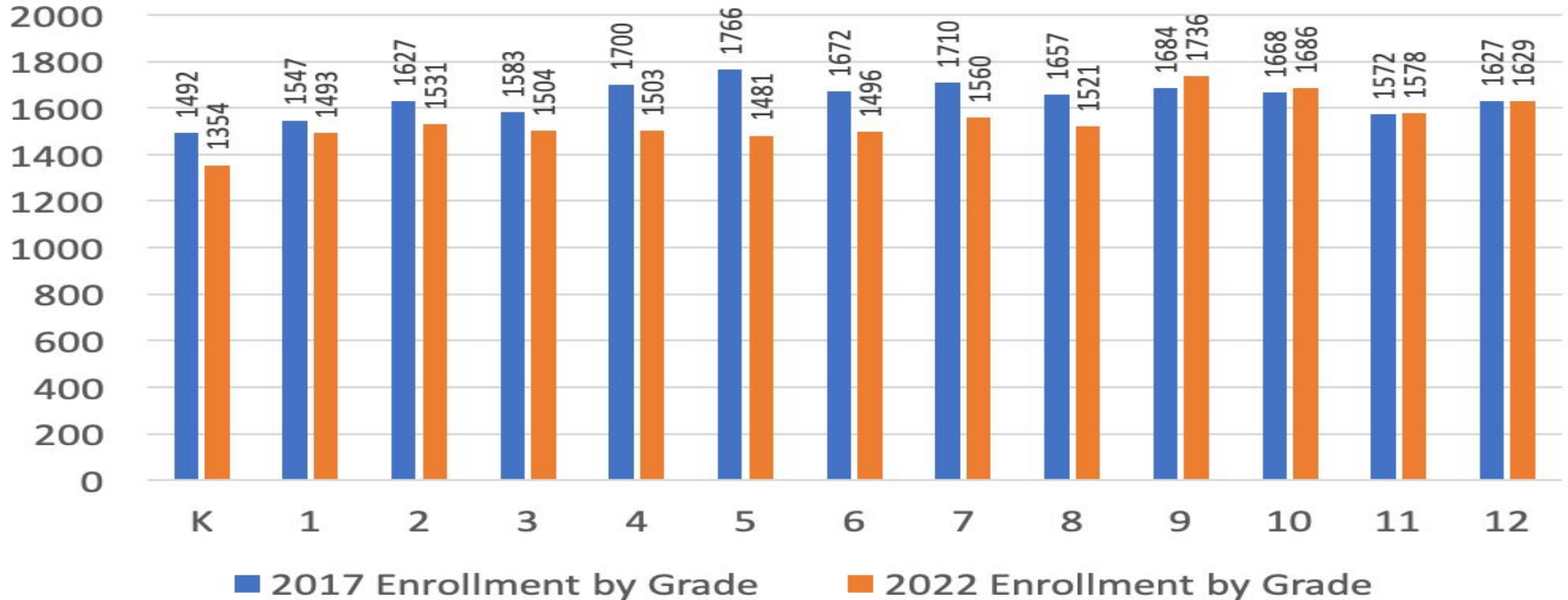
<u>Enrollment Forecast</u>	(K-5)	(6-8)	(9-12)	(K-12)	ps	Tot w PS	Net Growth
2023	8771	4506	6462	19739	813	20552	-317
2024	8595	4469	6371	19436	813	20249	-303
2025	8401	4499	6165	19064	813	19877	-371
2026	8161	4559	5948	18668	813	19481	-396
2027	7950	4549	5934	18433	813	19246	-235
2028	7853	4407	5900	18160	813	18973	-273
2029	7730	4245	5960	17935	813	18748	-225
2030	7639	4080	5977	17695	813	18508	-239

Changing District Demographics

At the time of Mr. Bingham's January 2023 presentation, he projected that the district would be down 317 students from the prior year and that D51's enrollment would be around 20,552. As of September 15 of the current school year, D51 is down over 650 students, and enrollment is at 20,352. That is outpacing Mr. Bingham's projected decline by more than double.

Changing District Demographics

District 51 Grade Sizes - 2017 vs. 2022



Changing District Demographics

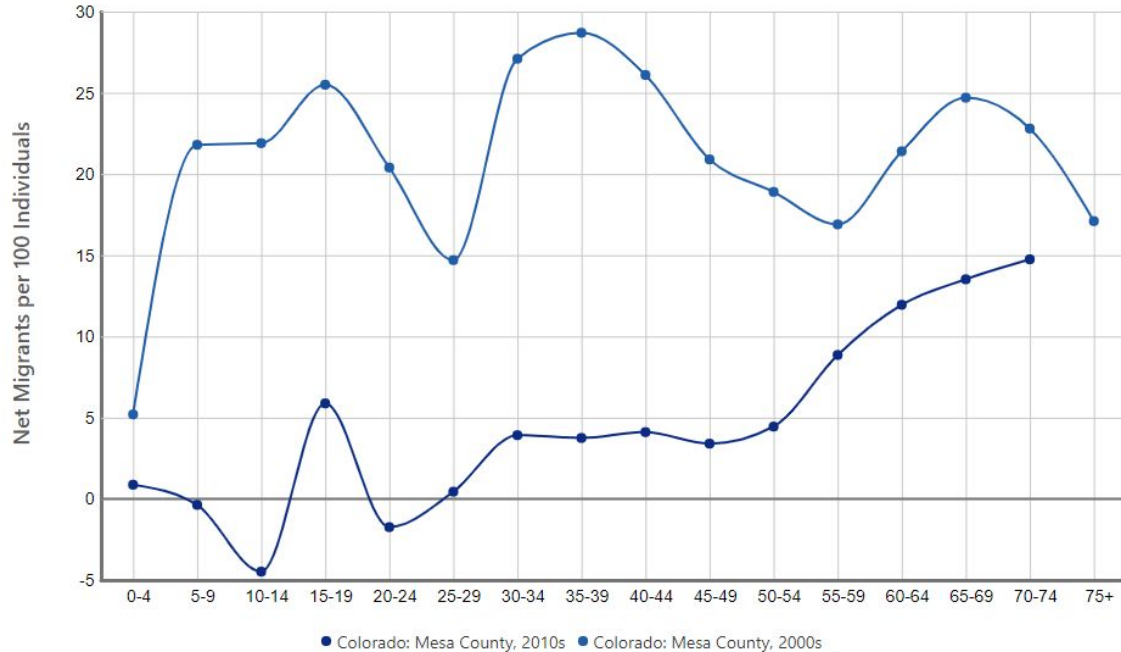
Mr. Bingham also presented a comparison of the size of grade level cohorts between 2017 and 2022. At that time, every grade level cohort from Kindergarten through 8th-grade was smaller in 2022 than it was in 2017. The impact of smaller cohorts of students moving through the district each year has meant an overall decline in enrollment over time.

Changing District Demographics

As of September 15, 2023, the Kindergarten cohort was at 1,265. That is down from 1,354 Kindergarteners in 2022, showing the continuing trend of smaller cohorts entering the district at the Kindergarten level. If Mr. Bingham's projections are correct, D51 would have 11 historically large neighborhood elementary schools under 300 students by 2027, and 8 elementary schools will have significantly diminished utilization by 2030. Mr. Bingham's full presentation is linked in the report.

Changing District Demographics

Net Migration by Age



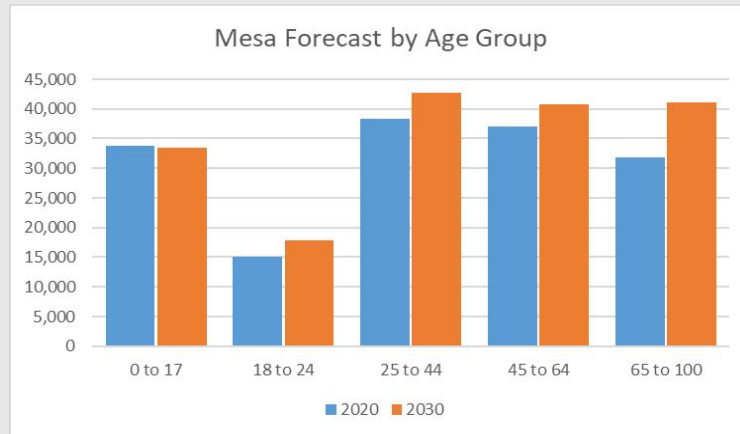
Egan-Robertson, David, Katherine J. Curtis, Richelle L. Winkler, Kenneth M. Johnson, and Caitlin Bourbeau, *Age-Specific Net Migration Estimates for US Counties, 1950-2020*. Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2023 (Beta Release). Web.

Changing District Demographics

Ms. Garner, whose data looks at Mesa County as a whole, not just D51, discussed historical population changes in Mesa County, emphasizing how economic estimates, migration patterns, and an aging population are impacting the number of families with school-age children in Mesa County. For example, between 2010 and 2020, Mesa County saw slow population growth curves, with the largest number of individuals migrating to the Grand Valley in the 65+ age category. Our county has experienced a decline in population in the past due to the oil and gas industry's fluctuations, which have influenced job growth and “in-migration” of families, which has been coupled with declining birth rates since 2007.

Changing District Demographics

Ms. Garner, similar to Mr. Bingham, projects that the 0 to 17 age group will continue to decline in Mesa County through 2030, with the largest growth coming from the 65+ age group.

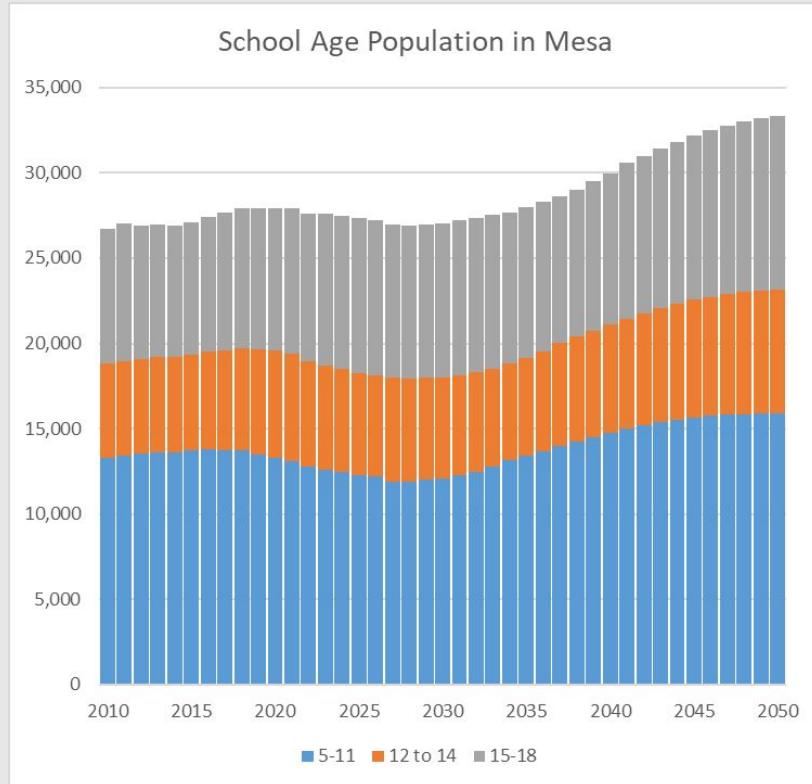


	0 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+	Total
2020	33,730	15,055	38,265	37,059	31,845	155,954
2030	33,442	17,918	42,720	40,838	41,116	176,034
Change	-288	2,863	4,455	3,779	9,271	20,080

Changing District Demographics

The state forecasts the decline in birthrates to bottom out in the near future and slow growth of school-aged children in Mesa County around 2029. Ms. Garner also highlighted the importance of attracting families for “in-migration” through job development, affordable housing, and other factors. Projections suggest that Mesa County could possibly return to the pre-pandemic number of school-aged children by 2035. Ms. Garner’s full presentation is linked in the report.

Changing District Demographics



- Peak of 27,900 in 2020
- Return to 27,900 in 2035
- 5-11 peak 2016
return 2036
- 12-14 peak 2021
return 2039
- 15-18 peak 2025
return 2041

Changing District Demographics

- District 51 has 1,800 fewer students today than we had four years ago
- This has resulted in 17 of 24 elementary schools (not including charters and magnet schools) that now have fewer than 384 students enrolled. The significance of this number is explored later.
- The decline is projected to continue. D51's demographer is projecting District 51 to lose another 2,000 students over the next seven years.

Financial Implications

Declining enrollment also has large financial implications, and school districts like ours must closely examine these impacts and make adjustments to address the problem. Melanie Trujillo, D51 Chief Financial Officer, conducted a comprehensive review of the impact declining enrollment has had, and will have, on the district's finances and provided insights into the initiatives undertaken in recent years to counteract declining enrollment.

Financial Implications

Declines to date have, and will continue, to impact funding. During the 2022-23 school year, Ms. Trujillo shared that 1,195 fewer students since the 2019-20 school year, producing a 5.4% decline in students. School districts are funded per student, so as enrollment declines, funding decreases. To soften the impact declining enrollment might have on a district's finances, the state of Colorado funds school districts based on a 5 year rolling average of student enrollment.

Financial Implications

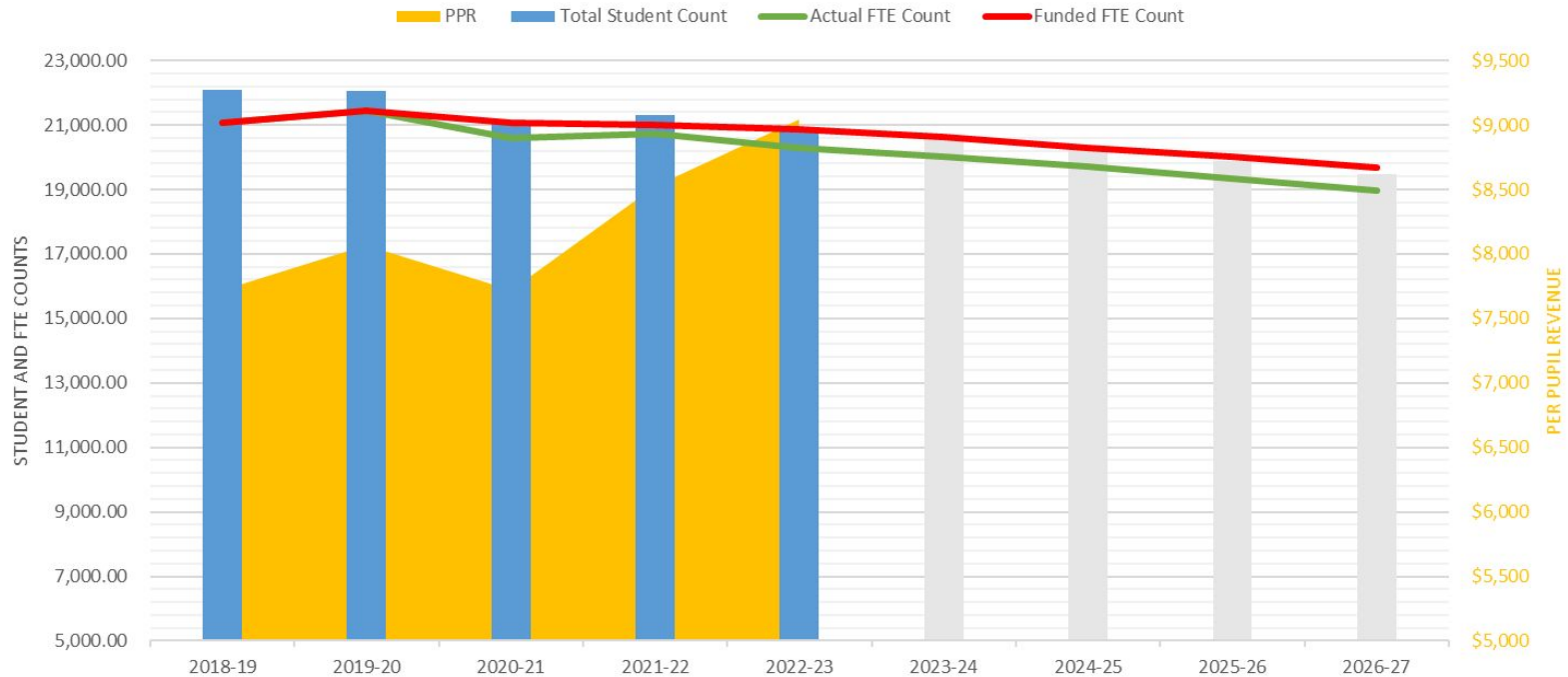
Through averaging since 2019-20, D51 has only felt the impact of a 2.7% decline in enrollment, even though the actual decline in enrollment has been higher. Last year, for example, D51 received about \$5 million more in Per Pupil Revenue than actual student count because of five year funding averages. With our demographer projecting future annual student decreases ranging from 225 to 396 students per year through 2030, a projection of over 2,000 fewer students by 2030, the impact to the district's funding will be high.

Financial Implications

From our peak year of student enrollment (2019), the projected total decline would be 3,554 students, or over 16% of enrollment from 2019-20. D51 has one year of higher enrollment left after the 2023-24 school year in the rolling 5 year averaging funding calculation. Averaging has shielded D51 from the brunt of the funding reductions by drawing the reductions out over time. Some of the positive impacts of averaging will lessen once the two remaining high years drop off.

Financial Implications

D51 Historical/Projected Count and FTE - PPR Overlay

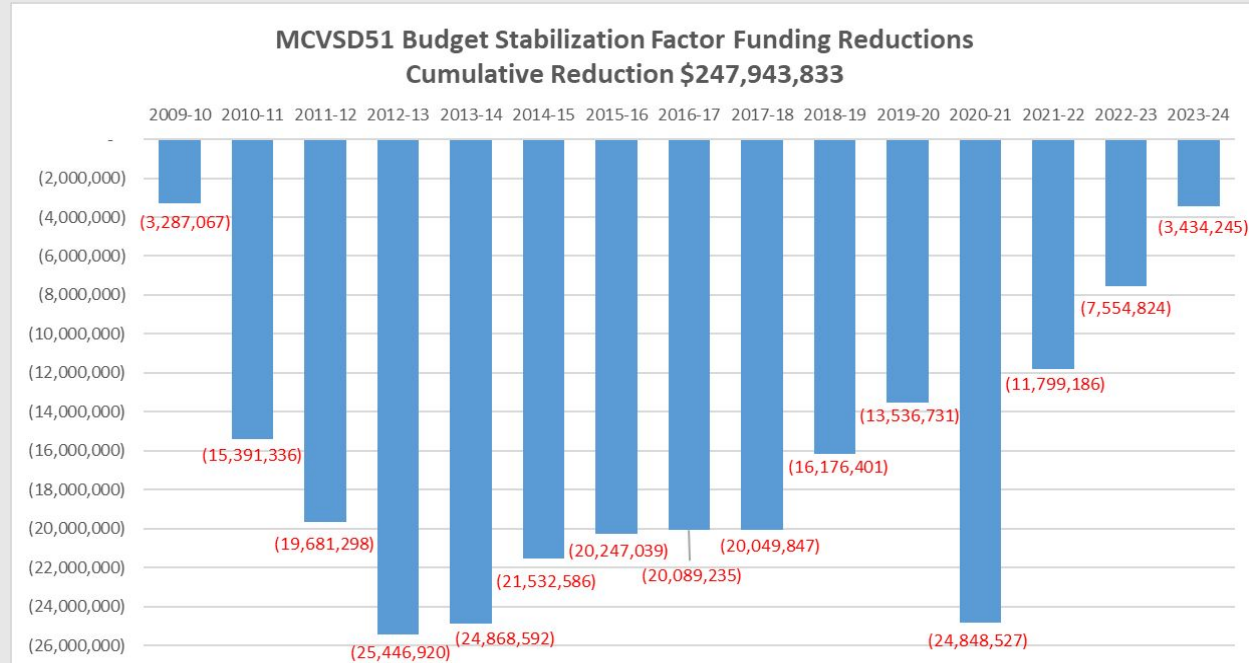


Financial Implications

In addition to declining enrollment having a negative impact on D51's finances due to school districts being funded based on the number of students they enroll, out of the 178 school districts in Colorado, D51 receives one of the lowest amounts of per pupil funding in the state. The state of Colorado has not fully funded K-12 education, instead withholding funds, through the budget stabilization factor, that should have been earmarked for schools.

Financial Implications

Since 2009, the state of Colorado has withheld close to \$250 million from D51, alone. That is well over a year's worth of operating budget for the district. While recent decisions by the state to buy down the budget stabilization factor have helped, the state still is not fully funding K-12 education. This year, alone, they are withholding almost \$3.5 million from D51.



Financial Implications

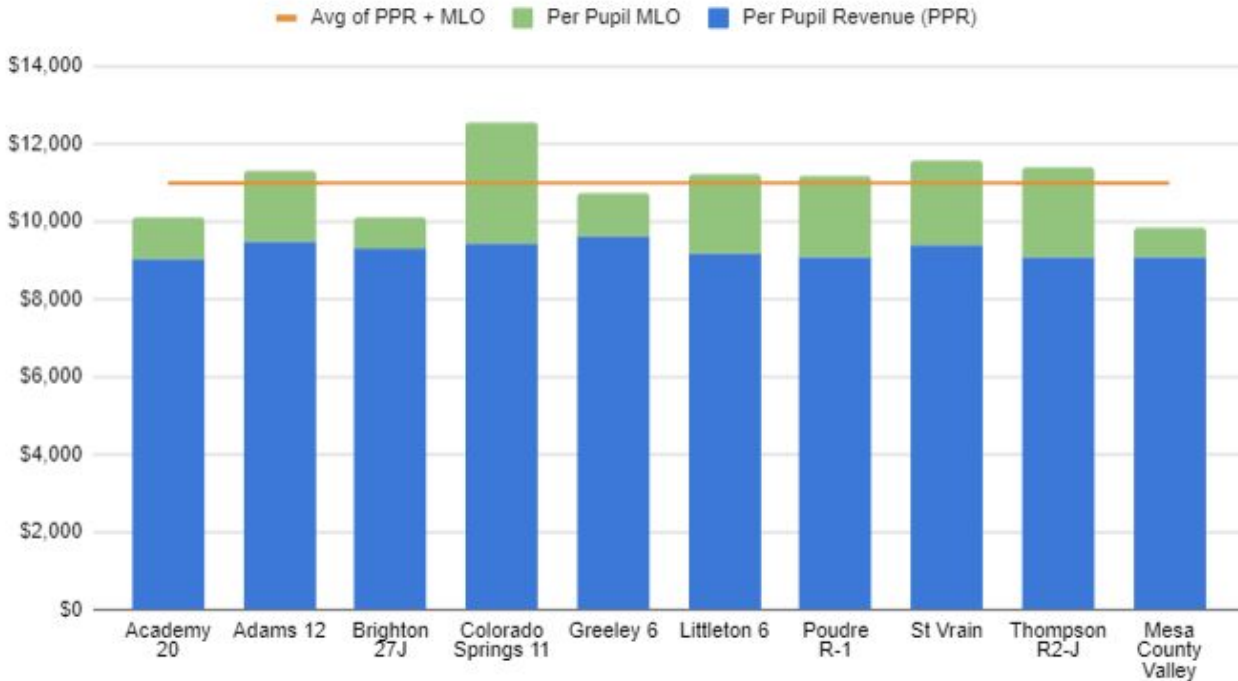
To make up for the lack of K-12 funding from the state, school districts can ask their local voters to approve Mill Levy Overrides, which provide funding in addition to the state's allocation through a local tax increase. When looking at comparable districts to D51, the district receives less funding through MLO's than other districts. The combination of lower per student funding from the state and less funding through MLO's leaves D51 as the lowest funded school district when lined up next to our comparable districts.

Financial Implications

In 2022, D51 received \$9,073 per student from the state. The average state funding per student our comparable districts receive is \$9,266. In 2022, D51 received \$768 per student from local Mill Levy Overrides. The average MLO funding per student our comparable districts receive is \$1,725. Those numbers combined means that D51 received \$1,150 less per student than the average of our comparable districts. If D51 received just the average PPR and MLO last year, that would have meant about \$24 million more in funding. In summary, D51 receives much less money per student than other districts, and declining enrollment is exacerbating the funding problem in D51.

Financial Implications

2022/23 Comparable District Per Pupil Revenue + Mill Levy Override Funding



Financial Implications

Comparable Districts	Funded Pupil Count	Per Pupil Revenue (PPR)	Per Pupil MLO	PPR + MLO Total	MLO Revenue
Academy 20	25,644.40	\$9,057.32	\$1,043.12	\$10,100.44	\$26,750,160.06
Adams 12	36,272.80	\$9,487.74	\$1,798.29	\$11,286.03	\$65,228,872.88
Brighton 27J	22,202.00	\$9,320.01	\$768.93	\$10,088.94	\$17,071,878.89
Colorado Springs 11	24,007.80	\$9,435.22	\$3,131.20	\$12,566.42	\$75,173,153.71
Greeley 6	22,333.90	\$9,600.61	\$1,124.59	\$10,725.20	\$25,116,580.94
Littleton 6	13,947.50	\$9,152.44	\$2,065.84	\$11,218.28	\$28,813,294.46
Poudre R-1	29,642.30	\$9,065.97	\$2,104.24	\$11,170.21	\$62,374,531.00
St Vrain	31,270.70	\$9,399.09	\$2,154.63	\$11,553.72	\$67,376,649.97
Thompson R2-J	14,990.50	\$9,073.87	\$2,296.69	\$11,370.56	\$34,428,577.76
Mesa County Valley	20,854.20	\$9,073.14	\$768.56	\$9,841.70	\$16,027,607.16
Average	24,116.61	\$9,266.54	\$1,725.61	\$10,992.15	\$41,836,130.68

Staffing Impacts

After hearing about the reasons behind declining enrollment from both the state and local levels, the committee had the opportunity to hear viewpoints from multiple elementary school principals on the impacts declining enrollment has had on staffing in their buildings. They shared the tough decisions they and their colleagues have to make when deciding where to cut staff when a school loses enrollment and what it is like to work in a school with stronger enrollment and more staffing and resources.

Staffing Impacts

School staffing is tied to student enrollment. D51's staffing model allocates staffing, or FTE, based on enrollment counts by school. For example, an 8 hr/day Teacher = 1.0 FTE, an 8 hr/day Elementary Principal = 1.45 FTE, and an 8 hr/day Classroom Paraprofessional = 0.5 FTE. The model allows for some autonomy in staffing choices by school, within the minimum guidelines set. There are also factors to apply additional staff for high Free/Reduced lunch schools, small school size, and special programming (Challenge Program, International Baccalaureate Program, etc).

Staffing Impacts

With the decline in enrollment in D51 since 2019, the impact to school staffing has been felt on many levels. During the years of declining enrollment, D51 reduced staffing at buildings based on the declining number of students, but at a certain point, it began to impact the school's ability to provide a high quality learning experience.

Staffing Impacts

For example, middle schools had to move away from the “core model,” where teachers teach in grade level teams, to a model where teachers have to teach multiple subjects across multiple grade levels. This has an impact on teachers having to prepare for multiple subjects and grades while reducing the ability to plan as a grade level team. The reduction in staffing at the middle school level has also caused principals to make tough decisions on where to cut staff. This can often mean reducing positions like librarians from schools. The reduction in staff at a building also impacts a schools ability to provide a safe learning environment as there are less staff to monitor hallways and help with supervision duties.

Staffing Impacts

D51 has utilized additional funding through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) dollars to subsidize unfunded positions at the middle school level to “bandage” the situation in order to not cut staff so deep at the middle school level that the schools can’t function at the level they are expected to. Unfortunately, ESSER funds are one-time dollars that must be spent by fall of 2024. With the upcoming impacts of the higher enrollment years in D51’s five-year averaging running out, and the loss of ESSER funding in less than a year, the staffing implications are poor, and getting worse as enrollment continues to decline.

Staffing Impacts

For example, in the 2022-23 school year, D51 was overstaffed at the elementary level by 8.5 FTE, at the middle school level by 23.57 FTE, and at the high school level by 5.11 FTE, for a total of 37.18 FTE over. That left D51 overstaffed in schools by \$3.1 million at all levels as of October 2022. Without adjustments for the 2022-23 school year, based on projections, the amount of overstaffing would have been close to \$3.8 million over for all levels. The staffing overages would continue to compound rapidly if not addressed due to projections that enrollment will continue to decline.

Level	22-23 Staffing FTE Overages
Elementary	8.50
Middle	23.57
High	5.11
Total	37.18

Staffing Impacts

At the elementary level, in particular, declines and adjustments have reduced the number of paraprofessionals and other support positions and has led to fewer rounds (classes per grade level) and unbalanced class sizes. Projections for the 2023-24 school year showed that most schools were to be over by 1 to 2 FTE for the 2023-24 school year.

Level	23-24 Projected Staffing FTE Overages
Elementary	8.30
Middle	22.80
High	14.39
Total	45.49

Staffing Impacts

The continued decline in enrollment with no action has a compounding effect on staffing. Based on projected enrollments for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, applying staffing ratios by level, elementary schools would see a 10.9 FTE reduction in 2024-25, and a 12.1 FTE reduction in 2025-26.

	2024-25		2025-26	
	Proj. Enrollment Change	Staffing FTE	Proj. Enrollment Change	Staffing FTE
Elementary, K-5	(157.6)	(10.9)	(173.7)	(12.1)
Middle, 6-8	(31.0)	(1.9)	25.1	1.5
High, 9-12	(84.8)	(4.9)	(191.9)	(11.2)
Total	(273.3)	(17.8)	(340.4)	(21.7)

Staffing Impacts

The impacts on staffing reductions at the elementary level have been felt over the last few years, and will continue to be felt in the coming years with enrollment projected to continue to decline. The impact enrollment decline has on elementary schools varies depending on where the declines are happening. Some schools lose more FTE than others, while some schools might gain FTE if they see an increase in the number of students in their school.

Staffing Impacts

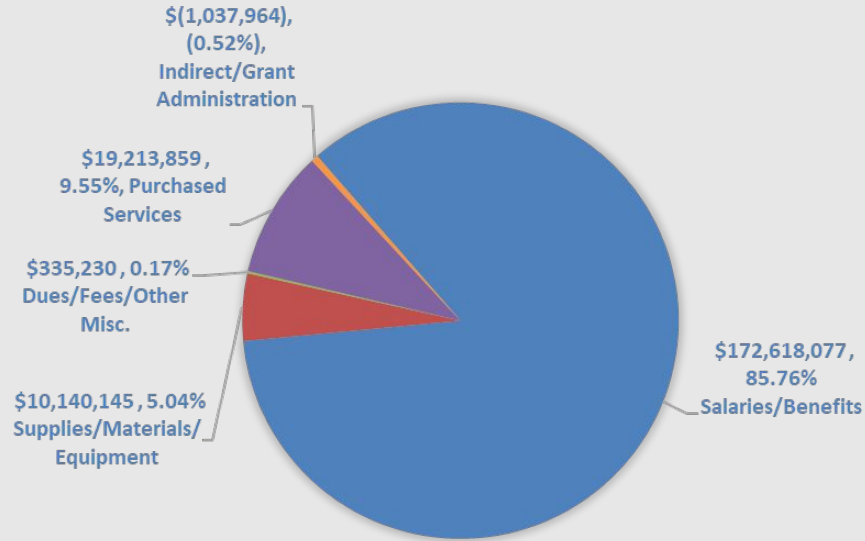
School		2019-20 Projected	2020-21 Projected	2021-22 Projected	2022-23 Projected	2023-24 Projected	2024-25 Projected	2025-26 Projected
A	FTE	(0.01)	(2.40)	(2.69)	(0.25)	1.51		
B	FTE	(3.59)	(0.31)	(1.71)	(2.22)	0.09		
C	FTE	(0.47)	(0.17)	(0.49)	0.17	(0.16)		
D	FTE	0.17	0.36	(0.41)	0.43	0.93		
E	FTE	(1.27)	0.00	(0.89)	(1.90)	1.33		
F	FTE	(1.14)	(0.06)	(0.72)	0.25	1.64		
G	FTE	(0.75)	(4.59)	(3.14)	(0.45)	(1.23)		
H	FTE	(1.12)	(1.08)	(6.67)	(3.70)	(1.86)		
I	FTE	5.41	(16.05)	(2.91)	(1.41)	0.79		
J	FTE	NA	20.16	1.99	1.03	(0.33)		
K	FTE	3.99	0.47	(4.28)	(0.56)	(1.96)		
L	FTE	(1.21)	(0.04)	0.45	(0.68)	(1.05)		
M	FTE	(1.35)	0.18	(1.86)	(1.72)	(1.27)		
N	FTE	(3.59)	(0.59)	(3.75)	(1.90)	(1.60)		
O	FTE	(0.02)	(1.37)	(2.60)	(0.38)	(1.45)		
P	FTE	0.15	1.01	(1.54)	0.26	(2.13)		
Q	FTE	(0.21)	(2.65)	(1.03)	(0.96)	(1.00)		
R	FTE	2.61	1.10	(0.88)	(0.64)	(1.81)		
S	FTE	1.26	2.15	(0.01)	(1.46)	0.29		
T	FTE	(0.07)	(0.52)	(1.77)	(2.51)	(0.29)		
U	FTE	0.15	0.64	0.90	(0.31)	1.30		
V	FTE	0.97	0.37	(1.72)	(2.70)	0.45		
W	FTE	4.10	4.05	0.42	1.53	(0.38)		
X	FTE	(1.46)	(0.15)	(3.18)	0.70	0.35		
		2.55	0.51	(38.49)	(19.38)	(7.84)	(10.90)	(12.10)

Staffing Impacts

Lastly, D51 is in the people business, so a majority of the general fund expenditures in D51 are spent on staff. About 86% of D51's general fund expenditures are spent on staff. Over the years, even before the pandemic and enrollment declines, when the district faced reductions in general fund dollars, D51 has worked to make sure those impacts weren't felt at the school building level. As enrollment continues to decline, that is no longer an option, financially.

Staffing Impacts

2022-23 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY TYPE



Equipped and Empowered Schools

As the committee delved into the causes of declining enrollment at both the state and local levels and gained insights from various elementary school principals, who shared firsthand experiences of how declining enrollment has impacted staff allocation in their schools, discussions of challenging decisions regarding staff reductions and the advantages of working in schools with stronger enrollment remained a top focus. The committee was committed to creating safe and successful classrooms for students and staff, and the idea of "Equipped and Empowered Schools" was created. Schools under this model offer better staffing and resources, ultimately having a positive impact on student academic success, safety, and teacher collaboration.

Equipped and Empowered Schools

Creating a Sustainable D[★]51

EQUIPPED & EMPOWERED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HAVE...



STRONG TEAMS

- 3-4 Teachers per grade level team allows for strong Professional Learning Communities
- More staff to spread out and reduce essential duties
- More Specials/Enrichments (ex. STEM, library, fine arts)

STUDENT SUPPORTS

- Increased student support roles (Assistant Principals, Counselors, Interventionists, Community Liaisons, Behavior Specialists, etc.)
- More intervention and enrichment opportunities
- Consistent resources across schools regardless of school size and location

QUALITY FACILITIES

- Students access quality and well maintained learning environments and facilities
- Fiscally responsible maintenance of D51 facilities
- Align actions with goals of D51 Facility Master Plan

Equipped and Empowered Elementary (E3) Schools are crucial to ensuring our students receive a high-quality education that prepare them for success in the future.

Equipped and Empowered Schools

Based on enrollment projections for the upcoming school year, it was determined that 18 out of 25 elementary schools fall below the desired minimum enrollment threshold of an equipped and empowered elementary school. Principals expressed that an enrollment closer to 400 students is considered ideal, as it allows for better student support, adequate resources, and appropriate staffing.

Equipped and Empowered Schools

The principals emphasized the importance of consistent staffing to ensure hiring and retention success and to best support our students. The committee also discussed the need to improve staffing in our schools throughout the district. Effectively staffing schools is a challenge, and has been over the last few years, due to limited resources, with declining enrollment compounding that issue. In order to consistently staff all of our schools as an “Equipped and Empowered Elementary School,” regardless of student enrollment size, change has to happen as staffing the current 25 elementary schools at an Equipped and Empowered level would require additional funding.

BOE Actions: Recommendation Menu

The committee spent time weighing the pros and cons of different pathways to address declining enrollment at the elementary school level. The collective agreement of the committee centered on prioritizing solutions that will bolster student support, enhance school staffing, tackle financial obstacles, and improve the overall quality of education in District 51.

BOE Actions: Recommendation Menu

Through many meetings, the committee discussed a multitude of potential solutions, ultimately landing on five pathways to address declining enrollment. While other options were discussed, these five pathways garnered a majority of support from the committee. The committee members agreed that no one pathway will help solve the problems with declining enrollment, and that all five pathways must be pursued in order to better equip and empower our schools to reach the goals set out in our district's Strategic Plan.

BOE Actions: Recommendation Menu

1. **SCHOOL CLOSURE/CONSOLIDATION** - School closure/consolidation was the most supported pathway, with over 80% of voting members ranking it as the most viable option.
2. **MILL LEVY** - The committee heavily supported the district, exploring the potential for additional mill levy overrides to help address funding shortages.
3. **PROMOTE AND INCREASE ROBUST & ALIGNED OPTIONS** - The committee supported exploring ways to highlight the different options the district offers while exploring new options to attract and retain families in D51.
4. **SUBSIDIZE & PROVIDE FLEXIBLE SUPPORT THROUGH POSSIBLE INCREASES IN STATE PER PUPIL FUNDING** - The committee determined the need to possibly use potential future increases in funding from the state to subsidize unfunded positions in the short term.
5. **ONGOING EVALUATION OF CENTRAL OFFICE STAFFING AND PROGRAMS** - The committee recommended the district continue to evaluate central office staffing and programs to identify the level of return on investment and additional savings where possible.

1. Closures/Consolidations

This path proposes closing and/or consolidating schools to distribute resources more effectively. However, various factors, such as per-pupil funding formulas, the level of local financial support, and the impact on instructional resources need to be carefully considered.

1. Closures/Consolidations

While this model includes fiscal savings, one of its primary goals is a better utilization of district resources through the redistribution of students and school staff to other schools that have capacity. This approach allows the remaining schools to become fully staffed in ways that better support student success. When looking at comparable districts in Colorado, District 51 is not as well funded. Our comparable districts tend to have higher annual revenue through state per-pupil funding, higher local contributions through mill levy overrides, and, in many cases, fewer schools relative to student enrollment numbers. D51 is distributing less funding amongst more schools, many with underutilized and poorly conditioned buildings, which leads to less staffing in the building and the building being under-resourced.

1. Closures/Consolidations

The Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee has determined that closure/consolidation, in conjunction with additional pathways, could serve as a viable approach to addressing the issue of declining enrollment at the elementary school level.

1. Closures/Consolidations

Some of the positive impacts that closures/consolidations could have on the district, that the committee identified, included more equitable resource allocations, a large number of schools could be equipped through the staffing model for years to come, long term system improvements, it keeps the number of teachers at schools higher so more resources are available, better staffed schools, a more efficient use of resources, quality over quantity in schools, and it helps to equip and empower schools.

1. Closures/Consolidations

The committee also recognized that the closure or consolidation of a school building is not an easy task and must be handled with care. While there are many reasons why the closure of a school can have a positive impact on the district's finances and ability to staff schools properly, there are also many downsides to the closure or consolidation of a school, and those should be recognized. Some of the negative impacts that school closures can have, that the committee identified, were the impact on social connections, a possible negative community impact and resentment, a possible loss of community support from important stakeholders, the negative impact it could have on staff, and questions around the need to also adjust boundaries at the same time.

1. Closures/Consolidations

The committee also weighed in on strategies and guiding principles that the district should consider during the transition of a school closing. Four stakeholder groups were identified, and committee members were asked to share ways to best support students, staff, families, and the community surrounding the school if a closure were to happen. A list of those guiding principles can be found [here](#).

1. Closures/Consolidations

There was also a fair amount of discussion about possibly combining a bond with the closure process to reframe closures as “rebuilding” D51. Looking at a bond, with the community’s help, could build a new elementary school that the consolidated schools move into, which could address declining enrollment and aging facilities at the same time. This could possibly lessen the harm of a closure.

1. Closures/Consolidations

Committee members went through an extensive process and established a set of criteria that could be applied to all elementary schools in order to identify the most appropriate candidates for potential closure/consolidation. The committee was committed to identifying criteria for closure that incorporated accurate data that should be applied through a reliable and defensible process.

1. Closures/Consolidations

The committee suggests that, if the Board of Education chooses to proceed with school consolidation or closure, they utilize the criteria established by the EDEC committee to assess which schools are eligible for consolidation. The original list of potential criteria was discussed over multiple meetings, with committee feedback gathered through multiple surveys.

1. Closures/Consolidations

Ultimately, the committee recommends the following six criteria be used through a weighted system to determine candidates for possible closure/consolidation. While some of the original criteria that were explored did not make it on the final list, the committee expressed that the outcomes related to those criteria are still important. Reasons for why certain criteria did not make the final list revolved around reliability of the data gathered to measure those criteria, and whether or not they were as important to the topic of school closure/consolidation as other criteria.

1. Closures/Consolidations

Final Recommended School Closure/Consolidation Criteria:

- Building Adequacy - Average Weight = 45.3
- Transportation/Proximity - Average Weight = 20.6
- Low Enrollment - Average Weight = 11.6
- Logic of Future Boundaries - Average Weight = 8.7
- School Performance - Average Weight = 7.6
- Geographic Future Growth - Average Weight = 6.4

1. Closures/Consolidations

It should be noted that, with regards to closures/consolidations, the committee was tasked with identifying the pros & cons of consolidation/closure, identify the rationale for consolidation/closure as a viable pathway to address declining enrollment, create a finalized criteria to be applied when identifying candidates for closure/consolidation, and to give recommendations for guiding principles for the naming of schools and a community engagement process/transition plan for closures/consolidations.

1. Closures/Consolidations

The committee was not tasked with identifying which schools to close. If this pathway is to be further explored, work would need to be done by district staff to identify reliable data sources for each criteria, a method for applying those data and criteria through a weighted system, and developing a plan and process for better supporting schools through the closure process. All of this would need to be done before any schools would be recommended for closure/consolidation to the Board of Education.

Potential Closure/Consolidation Policy

- One possible next step for Pathway #1: Closures/Consolidations is to create a district policy for closures/consolidations that the board adopts and uses.
- D51 currently does not have a policy for closures/consolidations.
- Districts dealing with potential closures/consolidations due to declining enrollment are adopting policies to help address the issue.
- Having a policy creates an agreed upon rationale for why a district might close/consolidate a school, how it should be carried out, and expected outcomes.
- Not having a closure/consolidation policy leaves the topic open to interpretation by members of the Board of Education, which changes membership every 2 years.

2. Mill Levy

Exploring a mill levy override to address declining enrollment is a forward-thinking approach that can benefit the district and our students. As our district faces the issue of declining enrollment, we face budgetary constraints that can hinder our ability to maintain the quality of education and resources we can provide for our students. A mill levy can serve as a crucial additional funding source, allowing the district to bridge the financial gap created by declining student numbers. This revenue can be allocated towards things that ultimately improve the overall educational experience for students, like retaining experienced teachers.

2. Mill Levy

Moreover, investing in K-12 education through a local mill levy demonstrates the community's commitment to the future of its youth, which can help attract families to the area, potentially reversing the enrollment decline in the long run. Therefore, exploring a mill levy can be a proactive strategy to ensure that students continue to receive a high-quality education in the face of demographic challenges.

2. Mill Levy

The committee identified reasons why a mill levy override would play an important role in addressing declining enrollment, including the community showing buy-in/support and shared commitment to K-12 education, the additional funds could help to adequately staff schools through the Equipped and Empowered model, helps to address the resource gap between D51 and other districts, and it frees up general fund dollars for educational uses. Committee members did mention that if schools are closed, it will likely be hard to get a mill passed.

2. Mill Levy

The committee recommended that, if the district is to go for a mill levy override, D51 should form a committee to begin exploring a future mill levy override, ask for a reasonable amount of money to increase the chance of passing, have a clear plan for the additional funding that is linked to the Strategic Plan, should ask to continue what is already in place through prior mill levy overrides, including the 2017 mill levy override that sunsets in 2027, and use this as an opportunity to show the public how much per-pupil funding other districts receive compared to D51, and how we are lacking.

2. Mill Levy

1	Calculation Assumptions:						
2	August 2023 Preliminary Assessed Valuation (AV):	\$2,656,728,470					
3	Current Residential Assessment Rate:	6.765%					
4	Current Commercial Assessment Rate:	27.9%					
5	Property Value	\$300,000					
6							
7	Current Mill Levy Overrides @ August 2023 AV:	Revenue	Mills	Residential/Yr	Residential/Mo	Commercial/Yr	Commercial/Mo
8	1996 (Permanent-adjusts for inflation)	\$5,970,398	2.247	\$45.61	\$3.80	\$188.10	\$15.68
9	2004 (Permanent-flat amount)	\$4,000,000	1.506	\$30.56	\$2.55	\$126.02	\$10.50
10	2017 (10 year sunset-flat amount)	\$6,500,000	2.447	\$49.65	\$4.14	\$204.78	\$17.07
11		\$16,470,398	6.200	\$125.82	\$10.49	\$518.90	\$43.25
12							
13	Options for Additional Mill Levy Overrides @ August 2023 AV:	Revenue	Mills	Residential/Yr	Residential/Mo	Commercial/Yr	Commercial/Mo
14	Transportation @ 22/23 Costs	\$7,000,000	2.635	\$53.47	\$4.46	\$220.53	\$18.38
15	23 Elem SSE @ 22/23 Costs	\$2,000,000	0.753	\$15.28	\$1.27	\$63.01	\$5.25
16	39.6 K-12 SSE @ 22/23 Costs	\$3,200,000	1.204	\$24.45	\$2.04	\$100.82	\$8.40
17	Safety and Security @ 22/23 Costs	\$1,200,000	0.452	\$9.17	\$0.76	\$37.81	\$3.15
18	Summer School and General Fund Interventions @ 22/23 Costs	\$900,000	0.339	\$6.88	\$0.57	\$28.35	\$2.36
19	Unreimbursed Special Education expenditures \$ @ 21/22 Costs	\$15,000,000	5.646	\$114.59	\$9.55	\$472.57	\$39.38
20	1 Additional Student Contact Day, @ 22/23 Costs	\$650,000	0.245	\$4.97	\$0.41	\$20.48	\$1.71
21	MLO to reach current avg PPR+MLO per student of Comp Districts	\$24,000,000	9.034	\$183.34	\$15.28	\$756.12	\$63.01

3. Promote & Increase Robust and Aligned Options

The committee also recommends that the district continue to promote the robust school options that it already has, and explore additional options based on family desire. This can potentially attract families to D51, increasing student enrollment, and retain current D51 families who might be looking for other options outside of what the district currently offers. Committee members expressed that promoting and increasing robust and aligned options in D51 allows students to have many competitive options like most urban school districts, creates better equipped and empowered students, attracts families back to the district with robust choices, keeps students in D51 schools, and can allow the district to be more competitive with out-of-district charter and private schools.

3. Promote & Increase Robust and Aligned Options

The committee suggests that the district spend time determining why people leave and go to charters and address those reasons, look at matriculation data and how programs can have a better aligned pathway from elementary through high school, and ensure that the options support the Strategic Plan. The committee recognized that increasing the number of options might cost more money, but also might bring in more kids, which equals more per pupil revenue. The committee also recommended strengthening partnerships with outside entities, like CMU Tech, to help fund and promote these additional robust options.

3. Promote & Increase Robust and Aligned Options

Within our three-year Strategic Plan, a key Priority Area involves the exploration of comprehensive and coordinated learning options, or "Robust & Aligned Options." The recommendation is to task the Robust and Aligned Options Strategic Plan Implementation Team, with the task of gathering the data necessary to determine why some families may not be choosing D51, and gather data from families on which options families are looking for that D51 doesn't currently offer. A plan would then be developed to address the findings, along with strategies for better promotion of the options D51 currently has to offer.

4. Subsidize & Provide Flexible Support Through Possible Increases in Per Pupil Funding

The committee also recommends that the district explore the possibility of utilizing a portion of any additional state funding it receives to subsidize staffing for a period of time to provide flexible support during enrollment declines. Increases in state funding are unpredictable and vary from year to year. Some years the state has reduced funding to schools.

4. Subsidize & Provide Flexible Support Through Possible Increases in Per Pupil Funding

The committee recommended that this pathway would only be used as a temporary solution to equip schools experiencing declining enrollment with adequate staff for a period of time. This can provide stop gaps, if needed, to buy time for a short term. The committee also felt it was important for the community to understand how utilizing this practice of subsidizing unfunded staff positions during times of declining enrollment will impact increases to staff pay and the ability to hire as those dollars being utilized for subsidizing staff could have been spent on teacher and staff pay. While D51 has been able to increase starting teacher pay, the district still lags behind its comparable districts. The committee also pointed out that this pathway is not sustainable for the long term.

4. Subsidize & Provide Flexible Support Through Possible Increases in Per Pupil Funding

As part of our Strategic Plan Focus Area of Engaged and Supportive Community Partners, D51 has a team that focuses on Transparent & Effect Resource Allocation in our district. Through this proposed pathway, this team would work to explore the possibility of allocating additional state funding to our schools to ensure adequate staffing levels, address short-term needs, and carefully assess the impact on staff salaries and hiring within the district. Subsidizing and providing flexible support through possible increases in per-pupil funding ensures that our schools have the necessary staffing levels to maintain a high-quality educational environment when faced with changes in demographics.

4. Subsidize & Provide Flexible Support Through Possible Increases in Per Pupil Funding

Striking a balance between funding unfunded positions while effectively allocating resources to recruit and retain staff will be crucial for the successful implementation of this pathway. Ultimately, this approach can allow the district to adapt to a challenging environment while safeguarding the quality of education we provide our students.

5. Ongoing Evaluation of Central Office Staffing and Programs

Having a process in place to consistently assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the staff and programs at the Central Administration level is an important component of a successful organization. D51 has worked over the past few years to make adjustments at the central office level that have yielded cost savings to the general fund budget and have led to better service to schools. By not backfilling some open positions, combining positions in areas that make sense, and restructuring some departments, D51 has found ways to save money and work to keep central office staffing from being “top heavy.”

5. Ongoing Evaluation of Central Office Staffing and Programs

The committee recommends that this practice continue for not only analyzing spending at the central office level on staffing, but also analyzing spending on district and school programs. This should be done through a program evaluation to see what the return on investment is, and could involve utilizing an outside entity to conduct the study. Any savings from an ongoing evaluation of central office staffing and programs could be used to address the financial impacts of declining enrollment within the district and reduced pressure on the general fund.

5. Ongoing Evaluation of Central Office Staffing and Programs

The committee mentioned that many in the public believe that this is a viable option, and by doing this it would be a show of “good faith” to the community, which might help with passing a future mill levy override. The committee mentioned that this is a best practice that is within our control, is tied to the Strategic Plan, and could have a positive impact on students and schools. The committee also mentioned that, while this is a viable option to help address the impacts of declining enrollment, that it will most likely yield little cost savings, isn’t a long term solution, it doesn’t directly address declining enrollment, it would not improve district performance or functionality of the reduction in central office supports ends up putting more work on the schools, and that past reductions have highly impacted non-school support staff already.

5. Ongoing Evaluation of Central Office Staffing and Programs

As part of our Strategic Plan Focus Area of Engaged and Supportive Community Partners, D51 has a team that focuses on Transparent & Effective Resource Allocation in our district. Through this proposed pathway, this team would work to explore a process for conducting an evaluation of current programs in D51, their return on investment, and propose ways that D51 can continue to evaluate staffing at the central office level to see if savings can be realized without sacrificing service.

Next Steps

- Present final report to BOE & public on 9/19
- Board Resolution to accept the report & charge district with pursuing the 5 Pathways on Oct. 3.
- Potential Closure/Consolidation Policy
- Form committees and/or charge existing committees to take action on the 5 Pathways
- Report back to the Board & community on progress of each Pathway.



Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee

Final Committee Report

Board of Education - 9/19/23



Mesa County Valley School District 51
Licensed and Administrative Personnel Action

Board of Education Resolution: 23/24: 11

Presented: September 19, 2023

Name	Location	Assignment	Effective Date
Retirements			
LIVINGSTON, WADE A	EMERSON	PSYCHOLOGIST	9/11/2023
MORAN, JOANN R	GRAND MESA	SPC, SPED LEARN & DEVELOP	8/31/2023
Resignations/Termination			
BASKIN, HEATHER LYN	COMPASS	DIR, GIFTED/TALENTED	8/31/2023
Leave of Absence			
NONE AT THIS TIME.			
New Assignments (Transfer/New Hires)			
BOWNS, TAYLOR MARGARET	FRUITA MS	SCIENCE	8/21/2023
CABARRON, MARY GRACE C	GRAND MESA	SP ED-MODERATE NEEDS	8/21/2023
CASTLETON, KIMBERLEE D	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	SP ED-SNB	9/18/2023
CHRISTENSEN, KIMBERLEY S	SUMMIT PROGRAM	SP ED-MODERATE NEEDS	9/5/2023
HOLTZ, SIERRA N	R-5	COUNSELOR	9/11/2023
HURT, PHILLIP	MT GARFIELD	6TH GR SCIENCE	8/21/2023
LYBARGER, VIVIAN JOY	MT GARFIELD	INTERVENTIONIST	8/7/2023
MASON, KAILA R	MT GARFIELD	8TH GR SCIENCE	8/21/2023
MONAHAN, SARAH L	THUNDER MTN	GRADE 5	8/10/2023
PANGMAN, HALEY R	DUAL IMMERS ACD	COUNSELOR	10/17/2023
SCREWS, JUSTINE MICHELLE	BOOKCLIFF	INTERVENTIONIST	9/12/2023
SMITH, MELISSA M	NISLEY	COUNSELOR	8/14/2023
STREEVAL, REBECCA G	GRAND MESA	SCIENCE	10/2/2023
VIZENA, ANNA LISA	GRAND RIVER	MATHEMATICS	8/30/2023
WALTERS, JESSICA C	R-5	MATHEMATICS	10/12/2023
WATTERS, CYRA L	GRAND MESA	SCIENCE	10/17/2023
Return from Leave			
ETCHEVERRY, BRIELLE E	COMPASS	SCHOOL NURSE	9/5/2023

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on September 19, 2023.

 Amy Navarette, Assistant Secretary
 Board of Education



Board of Education Resolution: 22/23: 12

Presented: September 19, 2023

William Larsen - Gifted and Talented Director (Interim)

Mr. Larsen will be returning to Mesa County Valley School District 51 as the interim Gifted and Talented Director for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Larsen began teaching in Mesa County Valley School District 51 in 1976 and taught at the middle school and high school level for 11 years. He served as Assistant Principal and Principal at the secondary level for 15 years, Executive Director of High School for 8 years and Chief Academic Officer for 2 years prior to retirement. Following retirement Mr. Larsen has continued to support District 51 filling in for several temporary positions.

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 Board of Education on September 19, 2023.

*Amy Navarette, Assistant Secretary
Board of Education*

Board of Education Resolution: 23/24: 10

Presented: September 19, 2023

Donor	Martial Arts Research Systems
Gift	10 backpacks filled with school supplies
Value	\$250
School/Department	Chipeta Elementary School Family Center

Donor	Sharon Thompson
Gift	6 backpacks filled with school supplies
Value	\$88
School/Department	REACH Program

Donor	Zach of Diamonds Jewelry
Gift	Cash
Value	\$100
School/Department	Palisade High School Future Business Leaders of America

Donor	Logic Wealth Strategies LLC
Gift	Cash
Value	\$1000
School/Department	Grand Junction High School Volleyball

Donor	Janice M. Cucchetti
Gift	Cash
Value	\$25
School/Department	Grand Junction High School Volleyball

Donor	Nicole Richards
Gift	Cash
Value	\$100
School/Department	Grand Junction High School Cross Country

Donor	Francey Partsch
Gift	Cash
Value	\$100
School/Department	Chipeta Elementary School Family Center

Donor	Kurtis L. & Erica Thomas
Gift	Cash
Value	\$400
School/Department	Grand Junction High School Volleyball (\$200), Boys Soccer (\$200)

Donor	Tyler Jolley
Gift	Books
Value	\$390
School/Department	Pomona Elementary School, 5 th Grade Reading Class

Board of Education Resolution: 23/24: 10

Presented: September 19, 2023

Donor	WM Symposia Inc.
Gift	Cash
Value	\$2,000
School/Department	Tope Elementary School STEAM Program

Donor	Bringing Music to Life
Gift	3 flutes, 3 clarinets, 3 trumpets, 1 French horn, 2 saxophones
Value	\$12,000
School/Department	Bookcliff Middle School Band Program

Donor	Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation
Gift	Cash
Value	\$1,000
School/Department	District Athletics Department for athletic apparel for students in need.

Donor	Alpine Bank
Gift	Cash
Value	\$2,500
School/Department	Fruita Monument High School Cheer Program

Donor	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Gift	School supplies
Value	\$100
School/Department	Pomona Elementary School students

Donor	Lavender Association of Colorado; Colorado Lavender Festival
Gift	Cash
Value	\$400
School/Department	Palisade High School Girls Basketball

Donor	Rocco W. Carbone
Gift	Cash
Value	\$50
School/Department	Palisade High School Boys Golf Program

Donor	City of Grand Junction
Gift	Cash
Value	\$700
School/Department	Grand Junction High School Cheer Team

Donor	Mattias and Amber Pommarane
Gift	Cash
Value	\$100
School/Department	Grand Junction High School Cross Country Team

Board of Education Resolution: 23/24: 10

Presented: September 19, 2023

Donor	Landmark Staffing
Gift	Cash
Value	\$250
School/Department	Mesa View Elementary Lego League

Donor	EC Electric
Gift	Cash
Value	\$250
School/Department	Mesa View Elementary Lego League

Donor	Batteries Plus Bulbs
Gift	Cash
Value	\$250
School/Department	Mesa View Elementary Lego League

Donor	D51 Foundation
Gift	Snacks
Value	\$100
School/Department	Student Support Services snacks for MTSS training

Donor	Starbucks
Gift	School supplies and coffee
Value	\$285
School/Department	Appleton Elementary School teachers and students

Donor	Jeannie Cloud
Gift	School supplies
Value	\$52
School/Department	Prevention Services REACH Program

Donor	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
Gift	Cash
Value	\$2,300
School/Department	Rim Rock Elementary for classroom materials

Donor	Patrick Kanda
Gift	Cash
Value	\$500
School/Department	Central High School Outdoor Wilderness Lab Program

Donor	Starbucks
Gift	Coffee
Value	\$70
School/Department	Board of Education and community members

Board of Education Resolution: 23/24: 10

Presented: September 19, 2023

Donor	RM Construction
Gift	School supplies
Value	\$200
School/Department	Appleton Elementary second and fifth grader classes

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education, in accepting the donations listed above, extends their appreciation and acknowledges these important partnerships within the community which support learning for all students.

I hereby certify that the information contained in the above resolution is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on September 19, 2023.

*Amy Navarette
 Assistant Secretary, Board of Education*

WHEREAS, the high schools of the School District are members of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) and Western Slope & Southwestern Leagues pursuant to resolutions adopted by this Board, and

WHEREAS, the CHSAA is an instrumentality of the public schools of the State of Colorado serving the important governmental purpose of administering the interscholastic activities of its members, now

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that, service as a member of the Board of Directors of the CHSAA or as a member of other CHSAA committees, Legislative Council or interscholastic activity league committees under the auspices of CHSAA is deemed to be within the scope of employment of School District personnel and within the performance of such personnel's duties as employees of the School District. In particular, the Board of Education, recognizes the services of the following individuals to be within the scope of this resolution.

<u>Name</u>	<u>CHSAA Position</u>
• Paul Cain	President of the Southwestern League, Tournament & Playoff Finance Committee Chairman, Classification Organizing Committee
• Gregg Hawkins	President of Western Slope League, Football Committee, Legislative Council Voting Member – WSL
• Steve Woytek	Legislative Council Voting Member – SWL
• Jon Watson	Wrestling Committee, Softball Committee
• Josh King	Soccer Committee
• Nate Porter	Baseball Committee
• Madison Hathaway	Girls Lacrosse Committee
• Will Jones	Legislative Council Voting Member

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Education of Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 at a Board Business Meeting on September 19, 2023.

*Amy Navarette
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education*



Resolution to Approve Contract for Facilities Assessment with Hord Coplan Macht, Inc. (HCM)

Board of Education Resolution 23/24: 9

Presented: September 19, 2023

WHEREAS, the District is wanting to develop a Long Range Facilities Master Plan (LRFMP) to prioritize District needs and identify strategies and funding mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, the District put out a Request for Proposal to secure a firm to perform a facilities assessment of District 51 properties; and

WHEREAS, funds were allocated and shown in the adopted 2023-24 budget as a line item on page 58 to cover the cost of the facilities assessment; and

WHEREAS, the District accepted the Request for Proposal by Hord Coplan Macht, Inc (HCM), now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The District wishes to contract with HCM for the purpose of completing the District’s facilities assessment for a LRFMP; and

FURTHER BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent or his designee, to enter into Contract with HCM.

I certify that the information contained herein is accurate and was adopted by the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education on September 19, 2023.

Amy Navarette
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education