At-A-Glance – Summary of BOE Meeting

**Superintendent Gaal’s Statement**

**What?** The BOE meeting drew significant public engagement. Superintendent Gaal closed the meeting with a statement requesting refocus on decorum in the boardroom and a call to action to ensure safe environments for our students.

You can access the two-minute meeting clip [here](#), and/or review the community letter sent on 3/12 [here](#).

**Awards & Recognitions**

**More than 30 D11 Students were Selected for Middle School All-State Choir** Students from Swigert, Jenkins, Russell, Sabin, and Holmes were selected to represent the district at the upcoming middle school All-State Choir weekend. Singers were selected after auditioning with a prepared song and demonstration of vocal theory and skills. At the festival, performers will spend two days rehearsing and working with master choral directors to grow their vocal ensemble skills. At the end of the weekend, all ensembles will perform a concert in the Belco Theatre at the Colorado Convention Center on March 10th, 2023.

**21 D11 HS Students Participate in the 2023 All-State Choir.** Students from Doherty, Coronado, Palmer, and CIVA were part of the select few that were chosen from across the state to perform in the annual All-State Choir festival in Denver. Singers were required to be high school juniors or seniors and participate in their school vocal program. They were selected through a rigorous audition process, including melodic and rhythmic sight singing, scales, intervals, and a prepared vocal solo. The festival’s final day culminated with a performance at the Buell Theatre, showcasing their hard work, talent, and skills. The festival took place February 9th–11th, 2023, in Denver.

**Mitchell Thespian Troupe Selected as Colorado Thespian’s February Troupe Spotlight** Under the direction of Lin Goodwin-Wittry, Mitchell High School Thespian Troupe 2959 was selected as the Colorado Thespian Spotlight Troupe in February 2023. After submitting for the chance to be chosen for this honor, the 20-student Troupe was selected because they demonstrated inclusivity, community, and excellence. Troupes honored by this spotlight strive to impact the communities they live in positively; Mitchell’s Troupe has been reaching out to nearby community schools to educate them in Theatre further and spread their knowledge to younger students in the area. In addition to community building, the Mitchell Thespians hope their Troupe will inspire others around the state to find new ways to impact their communities. The Troupe was highlighted on the Colorado Thespians’ social media platforms and in the February Colorado Thespian newsletter.

**Doherty Wrestler Wins CHSAA Girls Wrestling Champion Title** Katey Valdez, wrestling for the Doherty High School Girls team, has earned the Colorado State Championship in the 100-pound weight class. Katey started her wrestling career at Russell Middle School, where she won the City Title against the boys. She is now a sophomore and attends an online school through another district, but she chooses to wrestle for DHS and is allowed to do so since she lives within D11 boundaries and her school doesn’t offer sports. In addition to her state champion title, Katey is currently ranked 7th in the country in her weight class. 2023 is the third year of Colorado High School Activities Association’s (CHSAA) sanctioned girls wrestling. They now award individual state champions and a team state champion.
Coronado HS shared many of the opportunities available to students and how courses, clubs, and sports support the HS mission of **Finding Your Excellence** while in HS. Students spoke about Cougars Care, which supports the community with needs from food and clothing to field trip funds and the launch of a non-profit leadership course connected to running the Corner Market. Cougars Gone Wired Robotics Team interacted with the BOE by showing off their robot and discussing their work and competitions. Coronado’s newly launched Outdoor Learning Course student spoke to opportunities for hands-on and fieldwork, including water testing, raising trout, and supporting elementary students in biodiversity studies in the outdoors. Teacher shout-outs from students tonight went to Brent Urban, Steve Ottmer, and Bryce Mclean.

**Superintendent Report**

**Shoutouts to...**

- **Monroe ES: School Counselor Maddie Francis**, who works with students using heart rate watches to see the physiological impact of emotions and encourage emotional regulation
- **D11 CARE Team** who support our community of schools in times of need. This dedicated group has deployed eight times this year, with 26 counselors responding to the need.
- **all therapy dogs**, especially those that attended the BOE meeting. These dogs are engaging with students and staff across our district. They support emotional regulation, are read to by our students, are available for pets and comfort, and spread joy. Partnerships with organizations like All Breed Rescue bring volunteers and dogs to several of our schools.
- **our partnerships that support** mental health including Holmes Middle School’s partnership with Colorado Motion to provide counseling during the school day, Mindsight, Thriveworks, In the Schools Counselors, Children’s Hospital, Diversus Health, and Burning Sage Therapy
- **all of our teachers**, including our **Teacher Tuesday**, spotlights this week from Howbert, Columbia and Russell
- **our Human Resources department** for completing our hiring for principals, APs, and Executive Directors earlier than in the past, and for all that is to come in hiring fairs
- **Chipeta and Roosevelt Charter Academy** who are two of twelve schools that are being awarded $50,000 for their growth in math achievement since 2019
- **Family School and Community Partnership Bright Spots - Stratton Elementary** - celebrating veterans, working with Mackenzie Place - singing carols and sipping hot cocoa with residents, with community partners, students in grades 3-5 rehearse for and perform musicals at Mann Middle School, chocolate art night and family-friendly events, including school carnival, skate night and Popcorn Fridays. **Adult and Family Education** - Family Literacy program, GED prep classes, parent and child PACT time, children’s early learning literacy development skills, physical and mental wellness skills, and home visits.

### Consent Item Adoption

**What?** The BOE unanimously approved the adoption of the following items.

- E2. Approval of February 22, 2023, regular meeting minutes
- E3. Approval of the Personnel Recommendations for March 8, 2023
- Minutes for Feb. 22 BOE Meeting
- Personnel Recommendations

### Resolution - Diversity In Education Month April

**The BOE unanimously approved** the resolution for Diversity in Education Month.

### Resolution - Month of the Military Child

**The BOE unanimously approved** the resolution for the Month of the Military Child.

Though CO has not adopted Purple Star schools, D11 has to support our military families. [Learn more here](#).

Schools in D11 that are Purple Star Schools to support our military families are McAuliffe, Jenkins, and Doherty.

### FY 2023-24 Benefits Insurance Committee Plan Design and Premium Recommendations

**Sample Premiums 1-6**

See the links above for detailed information.

**What?** A Request for Proposal (RFP) process was employed to search for the best healthcare plan for employees. The BOE heard information on the health plan options that the committee explored, heard the committee recommended option and considered employee and district costs. The BOE will discuss and vote to approve one of the health plan options at an upcoming meeting.

**RFP Goals**
- An efficient and reliable Claims Administrator
- Dedicated service team – focused on high-value health care
- PeakMed Direct Primary Care incorporated as a standard benefit
- Lower overall cost to the district and the employees on their contributions
- Improved plan designs to include lower deductibles, out of pockets, and other possible enhancements
- Dual option— an employee can elect which plan they would like instead of qualifying through the health promotion program.

If you would like to view policy discussion and updates, BOE Report Outs and Public Comment, time-stamped links below take you to each section of the meeting video:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01:23:04</td>
<td>Public Comments</td>
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<td>Policy Updates</td>
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<td></td>
<td>❖ Policy LC – Research Projects, Studies, and Experiments</td>
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<td>❖ Policy GCFA – Hiring of Instructional Staff/Portability of Nonprobationary Status</td>
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These other policies are tabled until the next BOE meeting due to time constraints at the 3/8/23 meeting:

❖ Policy FF – Naming of District Facilities, Properties, and Assets
❖ Policy GBC – Whistleblower Protections