

Time for ‘heroes’ to step up again; support 4A and 4B

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I cannot begin to describe the heartache I felt the morning after the failed 2019 bond issue to replace the crumbling Grand Junction High School. I was committed to be at GJHS that morning regardless of the outcome. The staff was in disbelief and rightfully wondered if the community even cared about them. I tried to put on a good face that morning in the library, but inside I was just as devastated. Contrast that morning with the ribbon-cutting for the new GJHS where thousands of students, faculty and community members celebrated what was accomplished by the combined effort of the heroes who voted YES on GJHS in 2021.

Well, it is time for the heroes of Mesa County to once again turn your hearts to the children of our community who need some help with the schools they attend. As a community, let’s continue to make schools a priority. The only reason we have a new GJHS is because enough community members got out and voted for it. This won’t just “happen” because we think Central High School and Fruita Monument High School need major improvements or that we “think” we need to keep additional school days and updated curriculum. It’s up to each one of us as voters to take action and vote.

An updated CHS and FMHS will not only create an inviting facility where students will continue to grow academically with current technology, but it will also bring in and retain health care professionals, businesses, and families. I’m hopeful my three children who are away at college and working will consider moving back to our community one day, and strong well-supported schools will play a significant role.

Let’s keep the positive momentum we’ve seen in School District 51 including the best graduation rates in 17 years and 88% of our schools in the two highest academic rating categories. It’s not enough to support these ideas, we must step up and vote for them. It’s time for us to be heroes once more. Join me to vote YES for 4A and 4B.

Sincerely, **ANGELA CHRISTENSEN**, PhD *Grand Junction*