

Former D51 school board members support 4A, 4B

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Letter to the Editor

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Businesses have known for a long time that to be successful an organization needs to pay their workers a competitive wage, provide a safe and functional working environment, and deliver a quality product. At the very end of your ballot you will have a chance to vote on two proposals that would implement for our schools this proven formula for success. 4A and 4B will maintain teacher salaries, improve the educational spaces in our schools, and invest in our children's future. As former D-51 School Board Members we are asking your support for 4A and 4B.

Without increasing taxes, 4A would provide up to \$190 million in improvements to schools across the valley. Central and Fruita Monument High Schools will receive major upgrades, with Central receiving \$65-68 million and Fruita Monument getting \$18-21 million. 4A would invest in safety and security enhancements, maintenance and life safety, and improvements in learning environments across the district. Many of our schools are old - one was built in 1938 and the average age is 43. But with improvements in maintenance, life safety, and security, we can extend the useful life of these buildings. Investing in our schools is an investment in our future. A vote yes on 4A is timely and prudent.

4B is like 4A in that it does not increase taxes. It simply asks voters to continue the mill levy approved by the voters in 2017. The mill levy would remain at the same level and for the same purposes. Since 2017, when the additional funding was approved, the district

has been using those dollars to improve technology support, update curriculum and teacher training, provide additional maintenance support, and add 5 additional teaching days to the school calendar. Since 2017 it has proven to be a valuable use of funds as we are now seeing the highest graduation rates in 17 years and remarkable academic growth. 4B simply asks that we continue the funding with no increase in taxes and no change of use.

As former school board members we believe in the importance of public education for our children and our community. We might have differed in our approaches to improving District 51. But we all agree that supporting 4A and 4B is a way to make major improvements to Fruita Monument and Central High Schools, enhance safety in schools throughout the district, extend the useful life of our buildings, fund additional teaching days, and ensure that our children have the resources they need to succeed.

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