Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

As we close out week three in D51, I’m even more energized about the great things happening in our more than 44 schools and programs. Visiting schools not only helps me stay grounded in the “why” behind the work we do as a district, but I also get to see the excitement in the eyes of our students and witness the expertise of our more than 2,600 teachers and staff members, professionals with a gift to engage, equip, and empower all of our more than 21,000 students.

One of the school stops I was able to make recently, along with Board President Haitz and one of our Senior Leadership Team members, was a visit to Appleton Elementary for their beginning of the year assembly. Principal Hawk, along with the amazing Appleton staff, was joined by the award winning Fruita Monument High School Rodeo team for a morning of dancing, singing, showing, and possibly I tried seeing our Stuents excited for a new school year, and I was inspired by the theme of the assembly, which centered around “belonging.”

As part of this commitment to engagement, I will be hosting a series of Listening Sessions next month. The sessions will take place at a variety of times, days of the week, and locations. Please join whichever session is most convenient for you. There are also virtual sessions available. Thank you to Beltspage Coffee Co. and Kiln Coffee Bar for donating coffee, and to the D51 Career Center for providing lunch at the Sept. 13 session. There will also be light refreshments at the MMAS and BTK sessions.

Listening Tour Sessions
Sept. 1 - Bestspage Coffee Co., 129 N. Peach St., 8-9 a.m.
Sept. 12 - Mt. Gareld Middle School, 3475 Front St., 4-5 p.m.
Sept. 13 - Career Center, 2935 North Ave., 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 15 - Bestspage Coffee Co., 129 N. Westgate, 7-8 p.m. (in Spanish, following Multilingual Family Engagement Night)
Sept. 16 - Kiln Coffee Bar, 256 Main St., 9-10 a.m.
Sept. 21 - Bestspage Coffee Co., 129 N. Peach St., 9-10 a.m.
Sept. 26 - Bestspage Coffee Co., 129 N. Peach St., 9-10 p.m.

Leadership D51
We are excited to launch a new program in the district called Leadership D51. The Leadership D51 courses are an entry point that offers established and emerging business and community leaders a unique opportunity to come together to:
- Learn more about District 51 through balanced and open discussion.
- Deepen community relationships in order to support student career exploration, mental health, and family partnerships.
- Recruit and secure new partners and team members to support the efforts of District 51 and its Strategic Plan.

Community members interested in learning more about District 51 who want to help be an ambassador for our district are encouraged to apply to be a part of the first cohort of Leadership D51. There will be four meetings throughout the school year, plus a graduation ceremony at the end of the program. This is a great way to learn about your district and make connections with leaders in the community. Visit d51schools.org or click here to apply before the Sept. 21 deadline. If you are a D51 sta member, please encourage your friends and family to apply.

An “Act” of Kindness
Having “Engaged & Supportive Community Partners” is a focus Area of the Strategic Plan can materialize in many forms. One of our D51 parents, Mr. Mark Leistico, reached out to me recently about a fundraiser he started in order to raise money for our D51 high school theater programs. His eort to raise money caught my eye for a couple of reasons. One, he’s not just invested in the theater program at the school where his daughter attends; he’s invested in supporting ALL of our high school theater programs. That is awesome and a true example of how we are a D51 Family.

The second reason his eort caught my eye is the fact that he’s running the Moab 240 race in order to raise awareness. That’s right…he’s running 240 miles through the Moab desert to raise the funds! As an avid (and very slow) ultrarunner myself, I admire his commitment not only to our students but to such a massive test of endurance. To encourage your friends and family to apply.

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