Potential Boundary Changes to Balance Enrollment
FMHS / GJHS / Fruita 8-9 – Mesa 51 School District

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The Challenge

• Grand Junction High School and Fruita-Monument High School populations have diverged in size and new housing growth in Fruita is more widespread than new housing in northwest Grand Junction.
  – GJHS - 1402
  – FMHS / FM89 9th – 1378 + 485 = 1863

• Even during the pandemic, housing growth has continued in Fruita, the Redlands and Northwest Grand Junction, but

• Housing growth has been more concentrated in Fruita and the Redlands
The Challenge (continued)

• Relative school sizes among the three Mesa 51 full-sized high school buildings (Palisade High was constructed smaller - includes the IB curriculum)
  – Enrollment at GJHS this fall was lower
    • (1402 total, average grade size 350)
  – Central HS (1610 total, average grade size 403)
  – FMHS (1378 total, average grade size 460)

• GJHS average grade sizes are becoming smaller than Central HS and FMHS
  – Fruita-Monument – 460
  – Central – 403
  – Grand Junction - 350
The Challenge (continued)

• High school boundary changes have been discussed historically to ensure that all three high schools have:
  – Similar enrollment
  – Similar course offerings and
  – Similar resource levels

• School boundaries have been unchanged for decades other than when new buildings have activated
Process

• The Board of Education has requested that stakeholders consider relatively small, phased school boundary changes in a few areas

• High school faculty have been involved in conversations and data awareness

• No decisions have been made

• Virtual parent meetings and a survey will help guide Board decision

• School Board will consider stakeholder input and make a decision in January
Timing

- GJHS to be replaced by a new facility
- Eventual Conversion of FMHS to 4-year HS and conversion of Fruita 8/9 to its designed MS configuration depend upon further classroom expansion at FMHS
- Boundary changes would be phased-in over four years
- Choice and pandemic effects will continue to influence enrollment
Overall High School Student Distribution – Redlands / Grand Junction

- GJHS Students – Shown in Red
- FMHS Students Shown in Blue
- Fruita 8/9 School Students Shown in Green
Scenarios

- Scenario 1 – Move FMHS students in the Scenic Elementary and Broadway Elementary attendance areas to GJHS
- Scenario 2 - Move FMHS students in Scenic, Broadway and the area around and east of Wingate Elementary to GJHS
- Students would continue to feed Redlands MS and a partial feeder might result
- Affects enrollment at FMHS and Fruita 8/9, but that affect is eventually replaced by future growth
Scenario 1 - Area Proposed for Movement

Scenario 1 - Scenic and Broadway – 185 Students Assuming 70% Compliance
Scenario 1 Streets
Scenario 1 Streets

Scenic Elementary School
Scenario 2 – Area Proposed for Movement

Scenario 2 - Scenic, Broadway and eastern portion of Wingate – 245 Students Assuming 70% Compliance
Scenario 2

Streets

- Wingate Elementary School
Discussion / Questions

• Are you noticing housing growth in the area?
• Do you believe that we should try to balance school size?
• Do you think we should manage school size with boundary changes or portables?
• Do the scenarios make sense to you?
• Please complete the survey online.