From "Randy Barber <randy.barber@bvsd.org>" <randy.barber@bvsd.org>
Subject **Gold Hill School**
To Jessica Seevers <jessica.seevers@bvsd.org>
Cc Tamara Acevedo <tamara.acevedo@bvsd.org>
Date June 9, 2025 9:47:50 AM MDT

Hi Jess! It sounds like congratulations are in order!!

Regarding this response... I'm a little concerned about this segment:

> Thank you and the community members who contributed to the attached action plan. While there has not been a formal conversation about school closure at this point, we are mindful that sustained low enrollment can raise concerns about long-term viability. I appreciate your proactive approach to exploring ways to bolster enrollment, including ideas such as creative programming and strategic community outreach. These suggestions reflect the creativity and commitment that have long defined the Gold Hill community. As we progress, I remain open to ongoing dialogue and collaborative efforts to support the school while aligning with district policies and resource considerations.

I wonder if you'd want to incorporate some of the language we've been using elsewhere. Here is an edited version for your consideration:

A number of factors have contributed to funding concerns and spending decreases both at the district office and in schools. Declining enrollment and state funding are having significant impacts on districts across Colorado, including here in the Boulder Valley School District, where it is limiting resources to address a variety of issues. While it may look different from school-to-school, every BVSD school is impacted.

At Gold Hill, this has meant a tightening of resources, when it comes to personnel. In the past, we often had funding available to soften changes in enrollment and to bring in additional resources. Unfortunately, we don't have that luxury now.

That being said, Gold Hill and the other mountain schools have been protected from conversations happening in other parts of the district regarding declining enrollment, which includes the potential for possible school closures. We, of course, are very mindful that sustained low enrollment can raise concerns about long-term viability.

On Sun, Jun 8, 2025 at 12:44 PM Jessica Seevers <jessica.seevers@bvsd.org> wrote:

> Would this be a decent response?
>
> Dear Sally,
>
> Thank you for your heartfelt message and continued advocacy for Gold Hill School. It was a pleasure meeting you in May, and I appreciate you sharing your ideas and dedication to the long-term vitality of our special mountain school. Your passion for Gold Hill and its unique legacy is deeply felt.
>
> We recognize how important Gold Hill School is to the community and share the goal of maintaining a vibrant and engaging learning environment for all students. This school year, I will continue to focus on actions centered on quality instruction and data-driven decision-making with staff to meet all students' needs. Historically, our data at Gold Hill has suggested that this is a good place to focus.
>
> Thank you and the community members who contributed to the attached action plan. While there has not been a formal conversation about school closure at this point, we are mindful that sustained low enrollment can raise concerns about long-term viability. I appreciate your proactive approach to exploring ways to bolster enrollment, including ideas such as creative programming and strategic community outreach. These suggestions reflect the creativity and commitment that have long defined the Gold Hill community. As we progress, I remain open to ongoing dialogue and collaborative efforts to support the school while aligning with district policies and resource considerations.
>
> Again, thank you for your advocacy, generosity, and partnership. I look forward to staying in touch and working together toward our shared commitment to Gold Hill's future.
>
> Warmly,
>
> Jessica Seevers
> Principal
> Flatirons Elementary
> Gold Hill Elementary
> Jamestown Elementary
> 720-561-5410
>
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>
> On Thu, Jun 5, 2025 at 3:41 PM Sally Eckert <sallyaeckert@gmail.com> wrote:
> > Dear Principal Jessica and Superintendent Anderson,

My name is Sally Eckert. I am a concerned local in Gold Hill. I introduced myself to Principal Jess on the last day of school back in May. I have been a longtime advocate and donor to the Gold Hill School and its unique programming. Both of my daughters went to GHS during the time it was last threatened to be shut down, about 18 years ago. I am writing to you today in hopes that we can work together to keep this special school, the oldest continually run school in the state, open and at full capacity.

I have been talking with other concerned locals and we have come up with several solutions to bolster the current number of students at the school in hopes to reinstate a two-teacher policy. I have written up our plan and attached it below. I have already begun collecting signatures and gathering interest from the community but we want to enroll a larger group.

One of our first ideas was to name the school for what it already is: a gifted and talented program. Chrissy, the current teacher at the school, is already a registered TAG teacher and would be able to tweak the current schools curriculum to match that of a TAG program. We would also like to implement a Spanish immersion program at the school. We believe both of these special programs will engage and attract people from Boulder and surrounding areas to come to Gold Hill School. What we need from you in this regard is simple: support. If you know of current, registered BVSD para-teachers looking to be a part of a Spanish immersion curriculum, we would like to be put in touch with them or for you to reach out to them. We are planning on hosting several events over the summer to drum up interest, we would like you to be in attendance if possible to once again show your support for this special little school.

To clarify a few things, we know that the current enrollment needs to go up to get back to a two-teacher program at GHS, what number of students would be required to do so? This will help us move forward with our goals. Are you able to outreach to families or other overcrowded schools in the district where families could be open by using the local Climb bus to reverse commute students to Gold Hill and back to Boulder? Are there parent groups we would be able to outreach to?

Any help and support you can give would be much appreciated. Our goal as a community is to keep GHS as it is; a thriving, interesting, small and special school with two full time teachers. We look forward to hearing from you and discussing further.

All the best,
Sally Eckert

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