

**MINUTES  
ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**OPENING OF MEETING**

The Board of Education of the St. Vrain Valley School District met on July 22, 2020 at the Educational Services Center, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The Special Meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Joie Siegrist at 6:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:**

John Ahrens, Secretary, Director District D  
Jim Berthold, Member, Director District C  
Chico Garcia, Member, Director District G  
Dr. Richard Martyr, Member, Director District E  
Paula Peairs, Vice President, Director District F (via Webex)  
Karen Ragland, Treasurer & Assistant Secretary, Director District B  
Joie Siegrist, President, Director District A

**Board Members Absent (Excused):**

None

**St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:**

Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent

**Visitors:**

Heather Crate, School Planning Liaison for Boulder County Public Health Department  
Dr. Chris Urbina, Chief Medical Officer for Boulder County Public Health Department  
Steve Villarreal, President, St. Vrain Valley Education Association  
Jeff Zayach, Executive Director for Boulder County Public Health Department

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

In compliance with the terms of the current executive order by Colorado Governor Jared Polis requiring no large gatherings, a personal six-foot distance from other people, and to wear a mask in public where you are unable to socially distance from other people, there were no visitors and no physical public participation other than the four listed visitors.

Board member Paula Peairs read 10 minutes' worth of comments from the public submitted to the dedicated link on the District website. All comments were related to COVID-19 and how school starting in the fall would impact their children and teachers.

Danae Sims	646 Gold Hill Drive	Jenni Frank	1791 Primrose Place, Erie
Melissa	180 Summerfield Court	Ariel	1666 Alpine Drive, Erie
Dominic Maes	1390 Hickory Dr, Erie	Amanda Haas	1455 Peach Place
Lola Hamby	2333 Billings Lane	Ashley Siclair	1579 Daily Drive, Erie
Angela Wilson	542 Green Mountain Dr	Kristy Thasiah	2207 Madison Drive, Erie
Erika Cutlip	1315 Serene Drive	Carolyn Hein	591 Gold Hill Drive, Erie
Kimberly Mowat	1131 Petras Street, Erie	Megan Humbrecht	1431 Lombardi Street, Erie
Sarah Lewis	111 S. High Street, Erie	Batista	6005 Granite Court
Ashley Pfeiffer	703 Gold Hill Drive, Erie	Stephanie Streeter	1313 McGregor Circle, Erie
Lisa	1272 Hummingbird Circle	Rio Penman	Erie
Courtney Kowalewski	1396 Lombardi St, Erie	Daniel Kowaleski	1396 Lombardi Street, Erie
LoraLee H	1242 Judson Street	Michelle Kaiser	1003 Equinox Drive, Erie
Molly Schultz	612 Teal Circle	Sarah Meyer	1035 Eichhorn Drive, Erie
Courtney Spurio	1366 Padfield Place, Erie	Kathryn Whitt	4127 Hawthorne Place
Katy Haverstick	635 Summer Hawk Drive	Lynda Bidlake	Central Elementary
Angela Schaffer	688 Florence Avenue	Benjamin Wilson	8484 Pace Street
Nicole Williams	1897 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue	Joseph Zanovitch	1612 Twin Sisters Drive
Margaret Smart	2424 Ninth Avenue	Diane Berthold	2143 Spencer Street
Jeremy Rodgers	7221 Lacey Court, Niwot	Maren Eargle	1343 Lombardi Street, Erie
David Eargle	1343 Lombardi St, Erie	Jeremy Rodgers	7221 Lacey Court, Niwot
Leslie Scott	1612 Twin Sisters	Jim Fisher	11732 Victor Drive
Kim/Adam Francis	1662 Holland Way	Christy	1627 Ervine Avenue
Steve	1627 Ervine Avenue	Erica M. Cooper	8470 Stirrup Lane
Lori Kichler	23500 140 <sup>th</sup> Road	Ania Plocha	1607 Mountain Drive
Athena Barnes	7392 Rozena Drive	Laura Leigh	833 Allen Drive
Lisa Week	8053 Meadow Lake Road	April Waskiewicz	3210 Billington Drive
Kori Loadman	2128 24 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Casey Longo	4106 Spy Glass Lane

Dr. Haddad thanked them for their comments and encouraged anyone with questions to contact him.

## REPORTS

Dr. Haddad reminded everyone that graduation ceremonies would be held July 25, 2020. He thanked everyone involved in making the graduation ceremonies a reality, a tribute to students, teachers, staff, parents and the community.

## COVID-19 Report

Dr. Haddad updated the Board on the new plan for starting school, in accord with state mandates and local health department requirements, and he reminded everyone that the plan continues to evolve. Given updated input from the Boulder County Public Health Department, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, teachers, parents, and students, the school start plan for 2020-2021 will be a hybrid model for all grades.

- Acknowledged the leadership team that has been working through the challenges that accompany the global pandemic to provide choices to our families for a safe return to school.
- Boulder County Public Health officials have assigned an epidemiologist and several contact tracers to the District who will be working with District nurses and leadership should an outbreak occur.
- Described the health and safety measures that will be used at each school to keep staff and students safe. The District will provide two COVID tests a month for staff with a 48-hour turnaround on test results.
- Teacher and student safety are highest priority – accommodations have been made for teachers who have health issues to be strictly online teachers.
- Set aside \$3 million to pay for additional teachers so that class sizes can be reduced, as needed.
- Announced he will send the next communication to parents on July 23, 2020 with details of options for students to begin school. Principals from each school will send out a video to parents showing a walk-through of what the start of school will look like for students.
- Thanked Dr. Kapushion and Kerri McDermid for their leadership, responsiveness, and dedication to solving the issues involved with the pandemic.
- Thanked all Board members, teachers and staff for their patience and support.
- Thanked Steve Villarreal, President of the St. Vrain Valley Education Association, and the Boulder County Public Health professionals for attending the Board Meeting, for their partnership, and for providing their expertise.

Dr. Kapushion reported that additional devices have been purchased to ensure all students are equipped for blended synchronous online learning and independent work. Infinite Campus will again be used to post grades and to monitor attendance and students' progress. Principals and teachers will be trained on best practices for blended learning.

Board members expressed their appreciation to Steve Villarreal and members of the Boulder County Public Health Department for participating and sharing their unique perspectives on the District's plan to begin school. Board members appreciated the reassurance from them that teachers and students can return to a safe learning environment under the proposed plan. District leadership assured that there is a solid framework to respond to needs that arise on a case-by-case basis.

Jeff Zayach, Executive Director of Boulder County Public Health (BCPH), introduced his Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Chris Urbina, and the BCPH School Planning Liaison,

Heather Crate. They presented the most recent data from Metro Denver Partnership for Health, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and endorsed Dr. Haddad's plan for students to safely return to school with the lowest risk possible. They commended Dr. Haddad for demonstrating his commitment to the students of the District by keeping in constant contact with the BCPH to gain the most up-to-date information to mitigate potential problems.

Steve Villarreal thanked the Board members and Dr. Haddad for dealing with the pandemic crisis skillfully and inclusively. He recognized the teachers of the District for doing their best in this challenging year. He shared some of their concerns and fears for themselves and their students for starting school in the fall, and acknowledged there are no easy answers for the serious situations that teachers face and will encounter. He assured the teachers that decisions being made for the start of school are based on the best medical and science practices available. He thanked the BCPH professionals for their endorsement of the District's plan to begin school.

Board members unanimously endorsed Dr. Haddad's plans to begin school with his commitment to the health and safety of all staff and students.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Jim Berthold moved to adjourn the meeting and Karen Ragland seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. by unanimous acclamation.: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes (via Webex); Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

Respectfully submitted,

John Ahrens, Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on August 12, 2020.