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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danae Sims</th>
<th>646 Gold Hill Drive</th>
<th>Jenni Frank</th>
<th>1791 Primrose Place, Erie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>180 Summerfield Court</td>
<td>Ariel</td>
<td>1666 Alpine Drive, Erie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominic Maes</td>
<td>1390 Hickory Dr, Erie</td>
<td>Amanda Haas</td>
<td>1455 Peach Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lola Hamby</td>
<td>2333 Billings Lane</td>
<td>Ashley Sinclair</td>
<td>1579 Daily Drive, Erie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Wilson</td>
<td>542 Green Mountain Dr</td>
<td>Kristy Thasiah</td>
<td>2207 Madison Drive, Erie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erika Cutlip</td>
<td>1315 Serene Drive</td>
<td>Carolyn Hein</td>
<td>591 Gold Hill Drive, Erie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Mowat</td>
<td>1131 Petras Street, Erie</td>
<td>Megan Humbrecht</td>
<td>1431 Lombardi Street, Erie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Lewis</td>
<td>111 S. High Street, Erie</td>
<td>Batista</td>
<td>6005 Granite Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Pfeiffer</td>
<td>703 Gold Hill Drive, Erie</td>
<td>Stephanie Streeter</td>
<td>1313 McGregor Circle, Erie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa</td>
<td>1272 Hummingbird Circle</td>
<td>Rio Penman</td>
<td>Erie</td>
</tr>
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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.