

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

OPENING OF MEETING

The Board of Education of the St. Vrain Valley School District met January 12, 2011 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The meeting was called to order by Board of Education Vice President Rick Hammans at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Rick Hammans, Director District A
Debbie Lammers, Director District B
Mike Schiers, Director District G
Rod Schmidt, Director District F
Dori Van Lone, Director District D

Board Members Absent (Excused):

John Creighton, Director District E
Bob Smith, Director District C

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

David Burnison, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Don Haddad, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent
Rick Ring, Chief Operations Officer
Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer
Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
Amy Weed, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rod Schmidt moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) for purposes of discussing a personnel matter regarding teacher employment. Debbie Lammers seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, absent for vote-arrived 6:40 pm]

Executive Session began at 6:36 p.m.

The following were present in Executive Session: Rick Hammans, Debbie Lammers, Mike Schiers, Rod Schmidt, and Dori Van Lone (arrived 6:40 pm). John Creighton and Bob Smith were absent. Joining the Board in Executive Session were Don Haddad, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, and David Burnison, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Executive Session adjourned by acclamation. [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes].

Executive Session adjourned to the Regular Meeting at 6:55 p.m.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

Board Vice President, Rick Hammans, commended Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools, for completing his Doctorate in Education and presented him with a new desk nameplate with his new title.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

The agenda was adopted as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

None

BOARD RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD & BOARD COMMUNICATIONS/COMMENTS (4.0)

Board Communications

Rick Hammans –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended meeting with representatives of existing charters and felt it was a success and the beginning to a great collaboration with District charters in the future.
- Noted that Board President John Creighton was out of town and Board member Bob Smith was absent on business.

Debbie Lammers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended legislative dinner with the Board on December 15, 2010.
- Attended two IB information sessions at Niwot High School.
- Attended Burlington Elementary parent update meeting that was very well attended.
- Attended NHS/LHS Boys' Basketball game.

Dori Van Lone –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Black Rock Elementary parent update meeting and noted that it was attended by many people.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)

- Shared that Blue Mountain student Thomas Russo performed in "A Christmas Carol" at the Denver Center for Performing Arts in Denver over the holidays.
- Shared article about Steve Payne, Principal of Erie High School, who went on a trip to China in connection with the Confucius Institute. Chinese language classes will be offered at Black Rock Elementary, Elementary 26, and Erie Elementary, Middle and High Schools. Don Haddad will take a trip to China in June.
- Visited Mountain View Elementary ceremony where an area resident knitted hats for every student in the school in honor of the deceased daughter of the school's librarian. The yarn had belonged to the librarian's daughter.
- Hosting parent update meetings and open houses at all schools. Parents have turned out in tremendous numbers to see what is happening in the schools.
- Deniece Cook, Principal of CDC/OCHS, was nominated and selected by the Colorado Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences Association (CATFACS) as the CATFACS Outstanding Administrator Award recipient.
- Announced a state funding budget recession of \$61 per student. SVVSD has built up some reserves, but is anticipating another wave of cuts this spring.
- Natalie Mullis, the chief economic advisor for the state, will be reporting to the Leadership St. Vrain group on the state budget. That impact analysis will be shared with the community so that all parents understand what is happening with the budget.
- Presented brochure that will be sent to the Erie feeder system with highlights of the schools including Elementary 26.

REPORTS (6.0)

2010/2011 2nd Quarter Gifts to Schools (6.1)

Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Board of Education with the summary of public gifts given to the St. Vrain Valley School District for the second quarter of the 2010-2011 school year totaling \$183,637.84 and totaling \$255,055.00 for the year.

Board Vice President Rick Hammans thanked the parents and the community for their generous contributions.

Update on Focus Schools (6.2)

Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement, presented an update on Focus Schools in the District.

The 2010-2011 school year marks year three of strategic expansion of Focus School Programming in the St. Vrain Valley School District. While St. Vrain for years has successfully cultivated academic focus programs such as International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP), over the last few years, they've specifically implemented many additional focus school programs, with more programs planned in the near future. St. Vrain is clearly offering world-class advanced programs.

Out of 49 schools, 27 schools currently offer 33 programming choices. Ms. Syferd also gave a report on the progress of the CU Gold Program and Altona Middle School's Leadership Program and WEB (Welcome Everybody) Program. She introduced Sam Risdon, a 7th grade student at Westview, who told the Board and audience how technology is so helpful and makes learning fun at Westview. Mark Spencer, Westview Principal, and Jeremy LaCrosse, Assistant Principal, were introduced and told the Board and audience about their parent update meeting at Westview on February 3, 2011. Mr. LaCrosse guides the technology committee at Westview and thanked the Board and the audience because mill-levy dollars supported their efforts in technology for the students.

LiveWell Longmont Task Force Update (6.3)

David Burnison, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented a brief overview of the LiveWell Longmont organization, the various initiatives and how the District is participating. The mission of this organization is to create a movement in the Longmont community designed to ensure that healthy lifestyle choices are always available and convenient for all who work, live, play, and learn in our community.

Additional information and copies of the presentation slides were handed out at the meeting. David Burnison introduced the School Wellness Coordinator, Colleen McMilin, who is paid by a grant to help support the goals of LiveWell Longmont. Ms. McMilin detailed the successes of the LiveWell programs in the St. Vrain Valley School District.

CDC/Career Tech Program Update (6.4)

Deniece Cook, Principal at CDC/Olde Columbine High School, was present to give a report on the Career and Technical Education programs offered at the Career Development Center. CDC is unique in the fact that they are only one of eight Career and Technical Education centers in Colorado. CDC will have an Open House on Sunday, January 30, 2011, from 1-4 p.m.

Summer School Program Update (6.5)

Regina Renaldi, Executive Director of Priority Programs, and Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement, provided an update on programming options and plans for building use for the summer of 2011.

St. Vrain Valley School District is developing a plan for summer school enrichment, intervention and school use programming. There are several programs that will support varied opportunities for students and their families. There are over 4,500 students signed up for summer classes.

Ms. Renaldi thanked all school district departments, i.e., Transportation, Nutrition Services, etc., for their help in making the summer programs successful.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Rod Schmidt moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.9. Dori Van Lone seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2010 Regular Meeting and the December 15, 2010 Study Session
4. Approval: Approval of Annual Official Posting Notice
5. Approval: Approval of Scope Changes – Northridge Elementary Renovation Project
6. Approval: Approval of Contract Awards – Roof Projects 2011
7. Approval: Approval of Architect Selection for Westview Middle School Renovation Project
8. Approval: Approval of Easements for Public Access – Silver Creek High School
9. Approval: Approval of Carpet Purchase for Elementary 26

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes].

ACTION ITEMS (8.0)

Action Item 8.3 was moved up to the first Action Item to accommodate Imagine Charter of Firestone representatives.

Approval of CTE Month Proclamation, February 2011 (8.1)

Dori Van Lone moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution proclaiming February 2011 as Career and Technical Education Month. Debbie Lammers seconded.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) represents approximately 29,000 teachers, administrators, educators, and counselors involved in career and technical education across the U.S. and abroad. Career and technical education (CTE) prepares both youth and adults for a wide range of careers, from registered nurse to computer technician. These careers may require varying levels of education--from high school, to postsecondary certificates, to two- and four-year college degrees.

There are 11 million secondary and postsecondary career and technical education students in the U.S., according to the U.S. Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

Across the country, career and technical education programs are offered in about 11,000 comprehensive high schools, several hundred vocational-technical high schools and about 1,400 area centers, which serve students from several "sending" high schools. About 9,400 postsecondary institutions offer technical programs, including community colleges, technical institutes, skill centers and other public and private two- and four-year colleges. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, eighteen of the 20 fastest growing occupations within the next decade will require career and technical education.

Board member Dori Van Lone read the resolution.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes].

Third Reading, Approval, Board Policy/Regulation/Exhibit LBD – Relations with Charter Schools; LBD-R – Relations with Charter Schools; and LBD-E – Charter School Intent to Apply Form (8.2)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve Board Policy/Regulation/Exhibit LBD – Relations with Charter Schools; LBD-R – Relations with Charter Schools; and LBD-E – Charter School Intent to Apply Form with changes discussed that would revert LBD back to a form which does not address charter governing board members' residence . Rod Schmidt seconded.

Revisions to this policy and regulation, as well as the new exhibit, are necessary due to alignment with current practice, procedure, and applicable statutes and have been reviewed by the administration and District legal counsel.

These policies were first reviewed by the Board at its Regular Meeting on August 11, 2010, and had a second reading by the Board at its Regular Meeting on September 8, 2010.

Board intent would be to have local governing boards comprised of SVVSD residents for all charter school boards. Board members Mike Schiers and Rod Schmidt are very

strong supporters of keeping the charter boards comprised of local residents to support and provide accountability for local tax dollars.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, no; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Approval/Denial of the Renewal of Imagine Charter School at Firestone (8.3)

Dori Van Lone moved that the Board of Education approve the renewal of Imagine Charter School at Firestone. Debbie Lammers seconded.

Sherri Stephens-Carter, Charter School Liaison, was present to give the Board information on the renewal request. Paul Glover, Vice President of the Imagine Board, and Ralph Garbart, Imagine Principal, were present to answer questions from the Board.

The District reviews and approves charter school renewal applications during the last year of their current charter. On November 23, 2010, Imagine Charter School at Firestone submitted an application for renewal of their charter. The application was due by December 1, and therefore met that requirement of state law and District policy. The application contained all components required by both state law and District Board policy. The Board is required to make a decision on the renewal application by February 1, 2011.

Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, confirmed that Imagine is always on time with their budgets. Board member Rod Schmidt asked specific questions about how they are dealing with low math scores and how they are recruiting free and reduced lunch qualified students in the Firestone community.

Board member Mike Schiers feels that Imagine Charter of Firestone has really settled into the community and feels it has been good for the community.

Board member Rick Hammans feels that Imagine should make a concerted effort to allocate and budget more of the money that they receive from the State of Colorado to the classroom.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Approval of i3 Grant Evaluator (8.4)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve the EPI International Contract for outside evaluator services in connection with the Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant. Rod Schmidt seconded.

Regina Renaldi, Executive Director of Priority Programs, was present to answer questions.

St. Vrain Valley School District has received an Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant initiative. A requirement of the initiative is contracting the services of an outside evaluator. Following a Request for Proposals and review and selection process, the i3 leadership team has selected a very experienced Virginia consulting firm called EPI International as the outside evaluator for this project. The \$240,000 five-year contract will be paid from the proceeds of the \$3.6 million i3 Grant and will begin December 2010 through December 2015.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between SVVSD and Boulder County Housing and Human Services (8.5)

Dori Van Lone moved that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding between St. Vrain Valley School District and Boulder County Public Health Services. Debbie Lammers seconded.

St. Vrain Valley School District and Boulder County Public Health Services have worked collaboratively to secure funding from The Colorado Health Foundation to support the employment of a Medicaid Outreach Worker. The person will be employed by Boulder County Public Health Services and located at Student Services in St. Vrain Valley School District. The Medicaid Outreach Worker will support families attending St. Vrain Valley School District (across county lines) to apply for Health Care Services.

Jackie Whittington, Executive Director of Student Services, was present to answer questions.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Approval of Physical Education Quality Improvement Grant (8.6)

Mike Schiers moved that the Board of Education approve Department of Learning Services application for, and acceptance if approved, a \$765,283 Physical Education Quality Improvement Grant through the Colorado Health Foundation. Dori Van Lone seconded.

The Colorado Health Foundation believes that if kids attend a “healthy school” where they are served healthy meals, have opportunities for physical activity and access to

basic health care, then they are better able to learn and maintain healthy habits into adulthood. Providing students with high quality physical education is one component of an overall healthy school, and offers a meaningful opportunity to improve student fitness and learning. The Foundation invites school districts to submit applications to increase the number of students who engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity by improving the quality of physical education.

Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement, and Rob Berry, Director of Athletics, Fine Arts, PE and Health, were present to answer questions.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Adoption of District Unified Improvement Plan, and School Priority and Turnaround Unified Improvement Plans (UIPs) (8.7)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education adopt the District UIP, as well as School Priority and Turnaround UIPs. Dori Van Lone seconded.

Per the new Education Accountability Act of 2009, the School Board must adopt the District UIP as well as UIPs for any schools identified for a Priority and Turnaround UIP. Those schools are Heritage Middle School on a Priority Improvement Plan, and Spangler, Frederick, and Central Elementary Schools which are all on a Turnaround Improvement Plan. The deadline for adoption of these plans is January 15, 2011.

Tori Teague, Executive Director of Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction, and Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement, were present to answer questions.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes]

DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)

Charter School Authorizing Process (9.1)

The Board reviewed the process of authorizing charter schools in the future.

In 2004, the state legislature established a Charter School Institute to oversee charter schools established independent of school districts. The act that established the Charter School Institute also describes the circumstances under which a district may retain exclusive authority to authorize charter schools within that district. The St. Vrain Valley School District currently has exclusive chartering authority granted by the State Board of Education.

Sherri Stephens-Carter, Charter School Liaison, reported on charter school authorization processes and Colorado State Statute. Ms. Stephens-Carter also reported on what options the Board has for inadequate charter school applications they receive in the future.

Board member discussion centered on administrative costs and costs associated with contracting the review process to an outside consultant and which entity would bear those costs. Board member Rick Hammans is very concerned with the inordinate amount of time that administrators and staff are required to spend on reviewing charter applications. Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, also feels that there is a considerable amount of administrative time spent on evaluating budgets of charter school applicants.

First Reading, Introduction, Board Policy DBI – Budget Implementation/Monitoring; and Board Policy DEA – Funds From Local Sources (9.2)

Revisions to the financial policies/regulations are necessary for improved clarity and alignment with current practice, procedure, and applicable statutes.

Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, was available for questions from the Board.

It was recommended to bring these policies back in Consent at the February 9, 2011 Regular Meeting.

First Reading , Introduction – Board Policy ECAB – Access to District Facilities (9.3)

These minor revisions are necessary for alignment with CASB sample policy, current practice and procedure, and have been reviewed by District administration.

Rick Ring, Chief Operations Officer, was available for questions from the Board.

It was recommended to bring this policy back in Consent at the February 9, 2011 Regular Meeting.

First Reading, Introduction, Board Policy/Regulation JICH – Substance Abuse by Students; and JICH-R – Substance Abuse by Students (9.4)

Board member Rod Schmidt felt there was concern about adherence to this policy and its enforcement for infractions. He suggested that the policy be reviewed by coaches and athletic directors, and would like to see these policies strengthened and uniformly enforced.

Rob Berry, Director of Athletics, Activities and Fine Arts, was available for questions from the Board.

Amended Budget for FY11 Update (9.5)

Greg Fieth, Budget Director, presented a brief overview of expected changes for the FY11 Amended Budget. The Board will see a list of revisions in detail at the Board Study Session on January 19, 2011. The FY11 Amended Budget will be brought forward for approval on January 26, 2011.

Miscellaneous

Rick Ring, Chief Operations Officer, introduced Stacy Davis, the new Security Manager, and summarized for the Board her extensive professional background and experience.

Rick Hammans thanked the staff that spent a significant amount of time working during the holiday break.

Reminders

January 19 6:00 – 9:00 pm Study Session at Skyline High School Library
January 26 6:30 pm 2nd Quarter Financials
7:00 – 9:00 pm Televised Study Session
February 1 7:00 – 9:00 pm Study Session
February 9 7:00 pm Regular Meeting
February 16 6:00 – 8:30 pm Study Session at Silver Creek High School IMC
February 23 6:30 pm January Financials
7:00 – 9:00 pm Televised Study Session

ADJOURNMENT

Rod Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting. Dori Van Lone seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, absent; Rick Hammans, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Bob Smith, absent; Dori Van Lone, yes].

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lammers, Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Secretary to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on February 9, 2011.