

**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 March 9, 2011 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President John Creighton at 5:53 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Creighton, Director District E
Rick Hammans, Director District A
Debbie Lammers, Director District B
Mike Schiers, Director District G
Rod Schmidt, Director District F
Bob Smith, Director District C

Board Members Absent (Excused):

Dorinda Van Lone, Director District D

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)(a) for purposes of discussing the sale of District-owned property. Rick Hammans seconded.

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

Executive Session began at 6:00 p.m.

The following were present in Executive Session: John Creighton, Rick Hammans, Debbie Lammers, Mike Schiers, Rod Schmidt, and Bob Smith. Dori Van Lone was absent. Joining the Board in Executive Session were Don Haddad, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools; Rick Ring, Chief Operations Officer; and Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer.

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

Executive Session adjourned to the Regular Meeting at 6:25 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

The agenda was adopted as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

No non-agenda item participation. Audience members were present to support the Niwot High trail easement-Consent Item 7.4 which was pulled to discuss.

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

Board Communications

John Creighton –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Grassroots St. Vrain Committee meeting discussing state budget implications for the District.
- Attended Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) legislative meeting on budgets.
- Attended Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Community.
- Attended Longmont High School Boys' and Girls' basketball games.
- Read to students at Central Elementary for Dr. Seuss Day.
- Attended Longmont High feeder system orchestra concert.
- Attending Trail Ridge Middle School hosting regional competition for the Odyssey of the Minds.

Rick Hammans –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Lyons Boys' and Girls' basketball games.
- Attended Silver Creek High School Performing Arts Parent Organization meeting.
- Updated the Board on the bills that he testified on in Denver.
- Read to the students of Lyons Elementary, including his grandson's class.

Debbie Lammers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended parent updates and PTO meetings at Niwot and Sunset.
- Attended evening event at Sunset.
- Attended Longmont Multicultural Action Plan Committee meeting.
- Attended Niwot High Girls' basketball game.
- Attended two performances of "Oklahoma" at Niwot High.
- Attended Education Foundation of the St. Vrain Valley board meeting.
- Read to kindergartners and first graders at Fall River Elementary.
- Attended Indian Peaks Elementary PTO meeting.

Mike Schiers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Superintendent Feeder meeting at Frederick High.

Rod Schmidt –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended state charter subcommittee authorizer meetings.
- Educational Access Gateway Learning Environment Network (EAGLE-Net) successful in securing \$17 million line of credit which will allow them to hire developers and staff. Transferral of \$100 million grant from CBOCES to EAGLE-Net was delayed by six months but has now been approved.
- Attended CBOCES meeting where they reviewed consolidation plans-downsizing to accommodate districts that are leaving.
- Attended Mead Elementary PTO meeting.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended PTO and parent update meetings.
- Attended Front Range multi-district health care meetings.
- Attended the Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Community.
- Attended Job & Career Fair attended by approximately 800 students. Two dozen people volunteered to interview students. Huge thanks to Niki Brady and Lora Lawrence for all their hard work on the Fair.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)

- Email from Jackie Whittington about 134 students showing two or more years of growth in a semester in Reading in the Scholastic reading intervention program.

- Casa MESA VEX Robotics Team won second place in the Colorado Championship Games.
- Shared flyer on Erie community feeder system with the Board.
- Shared 9News article about Mead High School having their first year of seniors next year and the athletic history of the school.
- Shared that this is the second time that Niwot High School's Symphony Orchestra will compete in National Orchestra Cup Competition in New York City.
- Mead Middle School received the 2010 Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award-an award from the Colorado Department of Education that demonstrates the highest rates of student growth measured by the Colorado growth model.
- Longmont High basketball player Cade Kloster and Chase Webb from Erie High have been named to the National McDonalds All-American Basketball team.
- Niwot High student Meg Thornbury won the National Shakespeare Championship and will be going to New York City for Nationals in May.
- Donna Goodwin, Art Instructor at Sunset Middle, created an article, "Pop Art-Inspired Self-Portraits," and it will be featured in the April 2011 issue of the **Arts & Activities Magazine**.
- Shared an article about Trail Ridge Middle School students that are involved in an Earth Explorers group that was featured in the Winter 2011 issue of the **ESRL Quarterly** through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Shared an email from a community member thanking the Longmont High athletes and coaches for being outstanding people that the community is very proud of. She thanked the District for allowing senior citizens to have passes to school activities.
- Attended Spotlight on SpringBoard showcase at Longs Peak Middle School where Principal Matt Buchler hosted parents and visitors. Thanks to Matt for his exceptional leadership. Thanked Mark Mills for his leadership as he mentored Matt Buchler.
- Shared a picture of the Coal Ridge Middle School students that were selected to perform at the Colorado Music Education Association Conference in Colorado Springs.
- Attended Girls' Longmont High basketball games.
- Referenced an article "Deep Education Cuts Loom" from the February 13, 2011 **Denver Post**. Thanked the District financial and leadership team and teachers and building principals for their hard work to continue to focus on the students during the budget cuts.

REPORTS (6.0)

2008 Bond Activity Update (6.1)

Rick Ring, Chief Operations Officer, gave a report on 2008 Bond activities school-by-school. He thanked Brian Lamer, Director of Construction, for the hard work he has done with the bond activities.

The team has encumbered over \$107 million and spent \$73 million of the Bond program. As projects move from design into the construction phases in the next three months, total encumbered is expected to hit \$119 million.

Continuing in a favorable bidding market has allowed the team to improve the original Bond objectives by advancing goals associated with educational delivery, energy, roofing, electrical, IT infrastructure, and numerous individual goals identified through the building-level investigation phases. However, it should be noted that the Bond team is seeing an increase in pricing associated with fuel, copper, steel and aluminum.

District Enrollment Projections for 2011-2015 (6.2)

Scott Toillion, Director of Planning, gave a detailed report on District enrollment projections for 2011-2015.

The Planning Department and the Long Range Facility Planning Committee (LRFPC) have evaluated a wide variety of indicators and developed enrollment projections for 2011-2015. The basis for determining these projections is a cohort-survival statistical model developed by the Planning Department that analyzes the student progression ratios and migration on a grade-by-grade basis. As part of this analysis the following are also evaluated: Monthly enrollment counts at each school; the number of lots by area that have received final plat approval; the number of building permits issued and anticipated by the local municipalities; birth data by attendance area; private, charter and home school enrollment; open enrollment both within and outside the District; the pace of sales and the real estate market; changes in student yield per household; potential educational programmatic changes; economic forecasts developed by local, regional and state entities; and impacts from opening new schools and attendance boundary adjustments. Student enrollment for next year is predicted to be 27,164 which is a growth of 670 students from the current year.

Aspen Ridge Preparatory School Budget Report (6.3)

Allison Schnell, President of the Aspen Ridge Board, provided information about their budget for 2011-12. Sherri Stephens-Carter, Charter Liaison, introduced Bill Rader who gave the Board details on the Aspen Ridge budget.

Don Haddad suggested that they have a dialogue with the other elementary schools in Erie to look at student enrollment numbers to make sure there is no danger of double counting of students.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Rick Hammans moved to approve Consent agenda items 7.1 through 7.3 and 7.5 through 7.7. Bob Smith seconded. Consent agenda item 7.4 was pulled for further discussion.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2011 Regular Meeting; February 16, 2011 Study Session; and the February 23, 2011 Televised Study Session
5. Approval: Approval of Final Payment-Weld County Road 7 Improvements Project
6. Approval: First Reading, Approval, Board Policy JFABB – Admission of Exchange and Foreign Students
7. Approval: Approval of Payment for Weld County Competency Based Diploma Program

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

4. Approval: Approval of Perpetual Trail Easement for Public Access-Niwot High School

7.4 was pulled to accommodate the following visitors that were present to support the trail easement:

Bruce Warren, 7321 Dry Creek Road, Niwot 80503
Kathy Koehler, 8884 Morton Road, Niwot 80503
Heidi Storz, 7324 North 83rd Street, Niwot 80503

Debbie Lammers moved to approve the trail easement. Bob Smith seconded.

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

ACTION ITEMS (8.0)

Adoption of Elementary Math Textbooks (8.1)

Rick Hammans moved to approve the adoption and purchase of ***Math Expressions***, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2011, for elementary mathematics; a purchase contract to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for these textbooks and materials not to exceed \$925,000 in FY11, based on the estimated student enrollment for 2011-2012; and the annual purchase of primary consumable books estimated to cost \$200,000 maximum each following year for the duration of this seven-year adoption. An additional \$165,000 was budgeted for initial professional development to cover the estimated cost of teacher extra duty pay. Rod Schmidt seconded.

Greg George, Math Coordinator; Kahle Charles, Director of Curriculum; and Tori Teague, Executive Director of Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction were available for questions. Several District elementary instructors were present with testimonials in support of the **Math Expressions** program. During the fall of 2009, a textbook adoption committee made up of elementary teachers, parents, and principals from across the District representing all grade levels was formed to evaluate elementary mathematics programs, pilot the selected program, and recommend a program for adoption by the St. Vrain Valley Board of Education. The committee reviewed the draft Colorado Academic Standards, current District curriculum, current effective teaching practices in mathematics, and developed an evaluation form for elementary mathematics programs.

Materials were solicited from six publishers for initial review and consideration, providing diversity in approaches and philosophy. Publisher presentations were conducted for four of the candidate programs, and a final selection was made for pilot. Forty-three teachers volunteered to pilot for the 2010-2011 school year, representing every District elementary school and every grade level, including Bilingual classes.

Input was gathered from pilot teachers, students, parents, non-pilot teachers, and the community. After selecting a pilot program, piloting the program for a school year, and gathering input about the selection, the committee recommended **Math Expressions** to the Board for adoption.

A review of the four candidate elementary mathematics programs was held February 2-4, 2010 at the Learning Services Center. The event was advertised in the Longmont Daily Times-Call, District Leadership Update, and on the District web page. In addition, an email invitation was sent to District elementary teachers. During this review, 82 responses were collected and were used as data in the pilot program selection.

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

Approval of Proclamation for National Library Week, April 10-16, 2011 (8.2)

Rick Hammans moved that the Board of Education adopt a resolution proclaiming April 10-16, 2011 as National Library Week. Debbie Lammers seconded.

Holli Buchter, District Media Tech, provided a slideshow of all 42 District libraries. Bonnie Meyers, Media Clerk at Lyons Middle/Senior, read the resolution.

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

Approval of School Fee Adoption, JQ-E (8.3)

Mike Schiers moved that the Board of Education approve minor revisions to Board Policy Exhibit JQ-E – Schedule of Student Fees. Rod Schmidt seconded.

Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement, was present to answer questions.

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

Approval of Grant Applications (8.4)

Rod Schmidt moved that the Board of Education approve the grant applications submitted, which value over \$100,000 for each grant request. Debbie Lammers seconded.

Per Board Policy DD, Grants Management, all grant applications over \$100,000 require Board approval before the grant application can be submitted. Regina Renaldi, Executive Director of Priority Schools, has submitted applications to apply for the following grants:

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|---|---------------|
| 1. Colorado Summer School Grant | \$180,000 |
| 2. Next Generation Learning Challenges Wave 2 | \$250,000 |
| 3. Innovative Technology Experiences for Students
And Teachers | \$1.2 million |
| 4. Colorado Mathematics and Science Partnerships | \$350,000 |

Regina Renaldi and Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement, were available for questions.

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

Approval of Spectrum K-12 Contract Extension (8.5)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve the Spectrum K-12 Contract Extension for the licensing and service of Encore Special Education software in the amount of \$142,092 for the term March 12, 2011 – March 11, 2012. Bob Smith seconded.

The District has contracted with Spectrum K-12 since 2004 for Encore Special Education, the software used for the development of Individual Education Plans and the collection and maintenance of state and federal reporting data.

Beginning with this contract extension, Amendment No. 3, St. Vrain will contract with Spectrum on a year-to-year basis. This will allow St. Vrain to plan for the State IEP system when it becomes available. The IEP system is funded from the IDEA Federal Grant.

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

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

Approval of Sale of District Property-Erie Ball Fields (8.6)

ITEM WAS ADDED AT THE MEETING AFTER IT WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Rod Schmidt moved that the District accept the offer from Calvary Baptist Church at the price specified with the understanding that the District will negotiate additional terms as advised by District legal counsel and that the Board authorizes Rick Ring to negotiate and sign the contract. Rick Hammans seconded.

Rick Ring, Chief Operations Officer, was present to answer questions. The recommendation is that the Board approve a contract with the understanding that the District sell the Erie ball fields and authorize District counsel to finalize contract language for a counter offer to Calvary Baptist Church.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)

Physical Education Waiver Policy Change (9.1)

In 2004, the Board of Education approved a .5 Physical Education Waiver Process. Reassessing the current waiver and acknowledging students' rigorous academic programming, there are times when a student may need to request an additional .5 Physical Education waiver to achieve their academic program. The Board was asked to approve the opportunity for a student to waive 1.0 credits of his/her Physical Education graduation requirement. This new waiver process would go into effect in the fall of the 2011-2012 school year.

Rob Berry, Director of Athletics, Fine Arts, PE and Health was present to provide a verbal report and answer questions. He named the members that were active in the committee that helped develop this PE waiver.

Board members had detailed questions and had some concerns about the waiver. Board members were instructed to email those concerns to Board President John Creighton and Superintendent Don Haddad before the April 13 meeting. The Board will share those thoughts with Rob Berry when compiled.

First Reading, Discussion, New Board Policy/Regulation KHB – Advertising and Sponsorships; and KHB-R – Advertising and Sponsorships (9.2)

These new Board policies were created to align with CASB sample policy and current practice and have been reviewed by District administration and legal counsel.

Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, was present to answer questions.

It was recommended that these policies go to Consent at the April 13 Regular meeting.

Second Reading, Discussion, Board Regulation LBD-R – Relations with Charter Schools (Guidelines for Application Procedures) (9.3)

Revisions to this regulation are necessary due to alignment with current practice, procedure, and applicable statutes and have been reviewed by the administration.

This policy was reviewed by the Board at its Regular Meeting of February 9, 2011.

Sherri Stephens-Carter, Charter School Liaison, was present to answer questions.

With a few changes yet to be made, it was recommended that this regulation go to Consent at the April 13 Regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Rick Hammans moved to adjourn the meeting. Debbie Lammers seconded.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 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 April 13, 2011.