

**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 September 10, 2014 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 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D
John Creighton, President, Director District E
Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B
Paula Peairs, Member, Director District F
Mike Schiers, Assistant Secretary, Director District G
Joie Siegrist, Treasurer, Director District A
Bob Smith, Vice President, Director District C

Board Members Absent (Excused):

None

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

Karrie Borski, Timberline PK-8 Principal
David Burnison, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Kellie Clark, Timberline PK-8 Language Arts Instructor
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Betsy Porter, Mead Elementary Principal
Regina Renaldi, Area 3 Assistant Superintendent for Priority Schools
Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction
Dara Ward, Energy and Sustainability Manager

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

Brian Lamer introduced Dara Ward who shared some of the achievements she has made in energy conservation throughout the District which netted \$77,000 a year in savings. The District has received rebates of \$114,000 over the last two years, and Dara described the sustainability initiatives she has created. Board members were appreciative of the savings Dara has brought to the District. Dr. Haddad presented Dara with an Excellence in Education award.

Regina Renaldi introduced Paul Wagner, Hacker High Director and Producer. Paul introduced his business partner, Marc Sotkin, who thanked Regina Renaldi, Patty Quinones, Terry Schueler and Dr. Haddad who were instrumental in making Hacker High at Skyline High School happen. Marc and Paul gave the Board a brief introduction of their professional background. Mr. Wagner showed a presentation on Hacker High which he described as a social network for teen inventors and creators, professional engineers, scientists, artists, teachers and mentors. This “virtual innovation center” website will be launched by December 10, 2014 and will follow the students through the year. Dr. Haddad was grateful that a group of their caliber was working with St. Vrain Schools.

Regina Renaldi introduced Kellie Clark, Language Arts teacher at Timberline PK-8, who was honored by CU-Boulder with the Best Should Teach award. She also received an Excellence in Education award from Dr. Haddad. Regina told the Board of how proud she was to have a teacher like Kellie in the District, and Kellie answered questions from the Board.

Kathy Hall, Executive Director of the Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley, was present to give the Board an update on the successful Crayons to Calculators program. The program has grown from 1,000 backpacks and 25 volunteers to 5,000 backpacks and 400 volunteers. Western Disposal provides the primary funding of over \$100,000 in cash for supplies for both SVVSD and BVSD’s programs. Kathy was appreciative of all the organizations that donated time and money and, especially, the school secretaries who discreetly get the backpacks out to those that needed them the most in each of their schools. The Board appreciated the support of the Education Foundation and thanked Kathy, her staff, and team of volunteers who accomplish this monumental task each year.

John Creighton attended the St. Vrain Invitational where 2,100 runners from across the state competed, and wanted to thank the cross country coaching staff of Lyons and Longmont High who made the event possible. He was very impressed not only with the talent of the students (Paul Roberts ran the 5K in 15:15) but the great camaraderie that was displayed amongst the students, and hopes that the St. Vrain Invitational will be the home of the State Meet in the near future.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)

- Enrollment continues to grow-excited about the increase in students.
- Beginning the conversation with stakeholders regarding a future bond for needed facilities, etc.
- Visited Skyline High School to congratulate them on the move to a performance accreditation rating. Skyline was also celebrating their football team who started the season with a 2-0 record.
- Announced that the Longmont High School Football Team was showcased on the Today Show for their community service work. The LHS team was invited to the Bronco game on Sunday, September 7, and there will be a news clip of the story on Super Bowl Sunday on national TV.
- 1 to 1 technology initiative is going well and middle schools are complete, with high schools next to implement the initiative.
- Excited about Hacker High-great opportunities for our students.
- Invited the Board to Lyons on Sunday, September 14, at 1:00 pm for a day of flood remembrance and honoring Mr. Gerald Boland.
- Attended an I Have a Dream celebration at the Boulder Country Club. Thursday, October 2, 2014 there will be a luncheon at 11:30 am at the Omni Interlocken Resort in Broomfield.
- Student Advisory Council-largest group of students that we've had in the District and reported that the students have many ideas for the Board. Some of these student council members will be attending the CASB Convention in December to participate in the conferences "student strand" of meetings and presentations with students from across Colorado.
- Invited the Board to Mead Community Day on Saturday, September 13, at 4:00 p.m.
- Invited the Board to visit the District website to see changes that John Poynton and his Communications team have implemented. District website has gotten 100,000 hits-feels that 90% of community members gain their perception of public schools through these websites.
- Invited Board members to attend the Lyons Community BBQ at Lyons M/S on Friday, September 12, at 4:00 p.m.

REPORTS (6.0)

2008 Bond Activity Update (6.1)

Brian Lamer reported that the Bond team continues to work achieving the objectives identified in the 2008 program. Staff is working on or has completed the objectives in 40 of the District's 52 facilities.

The original 2008 Bond program was funded at \$189 million. Additional scope was added to the Bond projects through the Capital Reserve funds, interest money earned, BEST grants, cash-in-lieu, insurance funds, and General Fund/Mill-Levy monies.

Present value of the Bond program with the additional projects and revenue increase to a total of \$208 million. The bond team presently has open encumbrances over \$13 million and has spent \$182 million to date.

Dr. Haddad appreciated that Brian and his team walked school grounds with principals and listened to the suggestions of those principals during the construction projects.

Aspen Ridge Application Review-Additional Grade Levels (6.2)

Tori Teague reported that the District received an application from Aspen Ridge Preparatory School for a charter amendment to add grades 6, 7, and 8, and thanked the members of the Aspen Ridge administration and Board that were in attendance. As per CRS 22-30.5-107, the District Accountability/Accreditation Committee reviewed the application on August 12th and 26th, 2014. Staff also reviewed the application. This item will be discussed on September 10th, September 24th, and approval or denial of the application is on the Board agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2014.

The District Accountability/Accreditation Committee used a process that was objective and purposeful. Using the Colorado Charter School Standard Application, Checklist and Review Rubric, Committee Members scored each section from 1-4 and independently posted comments. The scores were averaged and a composite score was calculated. At their August 26th meeting, the Committee discussed the application, rubric, scores, and comments together. In conclusion, based on the merit of the application alone, the final score of the application was 2.79 points out of a possible 4. Aspen Ridge administration emailed the Serving Students with Special Needs section to the Board just before the meeting.

Aspen Ridge Preparatory School is a high performing school in both achievement and growth. There is also strong evidence of parental support to expand to grades 6-8. At this time, the District Accreditation/Accountability Committee finds the application is adequate and is recommending the Board approve the Aspen Ridge application for a charter amendment to add grades 6, 7, and 8.

The Board thanked Tori and the District Accountability/Accreditation Committee for the thorough report on their review and recommendations.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.4. Debbie Lammers seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the August 13, 2014 Regular Meeting, the August 20, 2014 Study Session, and the August 27, 2014 Regular Meeting

4. Approval: Approval of Contract Award-Nutrition Services Dairy Contract

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

ACTION ITEMS (8.0)

Approval of Appointment of Director of Construction and Maintenance (8.1)

Bob Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Todd Piccone as Director of Construction and Maintenance, effective September 2, 2014. Debbie Lammers seconded.

Mr. Piccone holds a Bachelor's Degree in Construction Management from Colorado State University.

Mr. Piccone began working for the St. Vrain Valley School District as Project Manager of Construction in 2009. Prior to that, he was the Operation Manager for Milender White Construction Company in Arvada, Colorado. Mr. Piccone was also formerly the Construction Manager for 10 years for FCI Constructors in Longmont.

Mr. Piccone thanked the Board for the opportunity and mentioned that he has enjoyed doing the school construction projects. The Board was very appreciative of Mr. Piccone's work in the past, and looks forward to working with him in the future.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

Approval of Appointment of Dean of Mead Elementary and Niwot Elementary School (8.2)

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Christopher Larson as Dean of Students of Mead Elementary School and Niwot Elementary School, effective August 1, 2014. John Ahrens seconded.

Mr. Larson graduated from Gordon College with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He then went on to Lesley University and completed his Master's in Education. He also received a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Purdue University.

Mr. Larson previously worked at Alexander Dawson School in Lafayette, Colorado where he was a Technology Integration Specialist. Prior to that, he was a District Coordinator for Administrative and Academic Technology in the Triton Regional School District in Byfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Larson was also a First Grade Teacher for seven years.

Mr. Larson was thankful to work with SVVSD principals and to get started in his new role. Betsy Porter and Nancy Pitz (who was unable to attend) were pleased to have Chris in their schools.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

Approval of Appointment of Coordinator of Mental Health Support (8.3)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Matthew Hofmeister as Coordinator of Mental Health Support, effective September 2, 2014. John Ahrens seconded.

Mr. Hofmeister graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. He then went on to University of Minnesota and completed his Master's in Social Work.

For the past four years, Mr. Hofmeister was employed at Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School in Minneapolis, Minnesota as a Student Services Coordinator and Provider. Prior to that, he was a Life Skills/Behavioral Specialist where he helped young adults transition to independent living by attaining social skills, post-secondary education, employment and housing.

Mr. Hofmeister is looking forward to contributing to the District and thanked the Board for the opportunity to work in this new capacity.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

Approval of Board Officer Elections (8.4)

Debbie Lammers nominated Bob Smith for Board President and Bob accepted the nomination. Mike Schiers moved that the Board elect Bob Smith as president of the Board. Debbie Lammers seconded.

John Creighton announced at the August 27, 2014 Regular Board Meeting that he would step down from the officer position of president.

Dr. Haddad presented an engraved token of the district's appreciation to John Creighton, and stated that John will always be thought of as a special friend and one that worked tirelessly on behalf of our students and schools.

John thanked Bob Smith for taking on the president role, and introduced his wife and children to the audience.

All Board members and administrators thanked John Creighton for his exemplary leadership and shared special moments of what working with John meant to them. Trip Merklein thanked John for his leadership on behalf of the St. Vrain Valley Education Association.

Bob Smith appreciated the confidence that the Board and administration had in him to take on the president role. He stressed that the Board will continue to meet the challenges of the community in the manner that they always have.

Debbie Lammers nominated Joie Siegrist for vice president and Joie accepted the nomination. Debbie Lammers moved that Joie Siegrist be elected vice president of the Board. Mike Schiers seconded.

Mike thanked all Board members for their tremendous commitment to the Board and the St. Vrain community.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

Approval of Appointment of Board Officers (8.5)

Bob Smith nominated Paula Peairs as treasurer of the Board, and Paula accepted the appointment. John Creighton moved that Paula Peairs be appointed treasurer. John Ahrens seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

Adoption of Resolution for Signature Authorization (8.6)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board adopt a Resolution to enable the Financial Services Department to continue using the previous Board officers' signatures until the signatures are changed to the new officers and new designated administrator signers. John Ahrens seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)

Board Committee Assignments (9.1)

Board president Bob Smith noted that vice president Joie Siegrist was willing to stay on the Finance & Audit Committee. New Board treasurer Paula Peairs will also attend the Finance & Audit Committee Meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

John Creighton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Joie Siegrist seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

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 October 8, 2014.