

**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 24, 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 Robert J. Smith at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:**

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D  
John Creighton, Member, Director District E  
Paula Peairs, Treasurer, Director District F  
Mike Schiers, Assistant Secretary, Director District G  
Joie Siegrist, Vice President, Director District A  
Robert J. Smith, President, Director District C

**Board Members Absent (Excused):**

Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B

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

David Burnison, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor  
Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)**

City of Longmont Engineering Services Manager Nick Wolfrum was present to provide information regarding the Street Fund Tax Extension, Ballot Issue 2A, on the November ballot.

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

**Board Communications**

John Ahrens –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Been in contact with all schools in his District-growth is going strong and he is tracking the iPad rollout program-very successful so far.
- Attended Erie High football games.
- Attended Erie Elementary Parent Meeting.
- Visited Innovation Center-they are working hard to bring in business sponsors and working on sustaining the program when grant is complete in just over two years and two months.

John Creighton –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended State Assessment Task Force Meeting-still in information-gathering phase and will keep the Board/administration up-to-date.
- Attended Eagle Crest Parent Meeting.
- Attended District Accreditation/Accountability Meeting.
- Attended High School Advisory Council Meeting at Silver Creek High School.
- Attended Silver Creek High School Education Foundation Meeting.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Skyline High staff and Booster Club Meetings.
- Attended Student Advisory Council meeting at Silver Creek High School.
- Attended Centennial BOCES Board Meeting-interesting to see the issues that rural area schools are dealing with.
- Attended Finance and Audit Committee Meeting
- Attended Board Policy Review Committee Meetings.

Mike Schiers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Frederick Miners Day-great participation by Frederick-area school principals/deans and strong presence of SVVSD staff/students.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Lyons Community BBQ.

- Attended the Gerald Boland memorial event in Lyons-thanks to Brian Lamer and Don Haddad for attending. News story on the event can be viewed at <http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2014/09/14/lyons-honors-life-of-teacher-lost-in-2013-flooding/15639593/>.
- Attended two District Accountability/Accreditation Meetings.
- Attended Leadership St. Vrain Meeting-great group of parents.
- Attended Hygiene PTO Meeting.
- Attended Hygiene Fall Festival.
- Attended Sanborn Parent Meeting.
- Attended Board Policy Review Committee Meetings.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Visited Innovation Academy to have students work on his Mac-students were very knowledgeable.
- Attended Longs Peak Middle School Parent Meeting-well attended by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents but encouraged 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents to attend and participate.
- Talked with District principals regarding 0-3 Initiative.
- Attended a meeting of the Foothills United Way-targeted businesses to promote the return on investment evidence which early childhood education produces.
- Toured Mountain View Elementary, Longs Peak Middle School and Longmont High School with Don Haddad, Mayor Dennis Coombs, and City Manager Harold Dominguez to showcase the investment the District has made in those schools. Will have follow-up discussions on neighborhood rejuvenation.
- Distributed report on school finance showing that student revenue right now dates back to the same funding as 1995 levels-remarkable that the District has found resources to do all they have done with significantly reduced revenue.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)**

- October window is fast approaching-will keep the Board posted but current information is all positive.
- Visiting schools to see all the wonderful things going on-thanks to all staff for a great start to the year.
- Auditors will be working for another week and a half - District credit rating will be evaluated in order to further reduce the costs of refinancing outstanding bonds and information so far is positive.

### **REPORTS (6.0)**

None

### **CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)**

John Creighton moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.1. John Ahrens seconded.

1. Approval: Repeal of Board Policies IHD – Adult/Community Education; IHDA – Adult Basic Education/GED Programs; and IHDB – Adult High School

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

### **ACTION ITEMS (8.0)**

#### **Approval of New District Accountability/Accreditation Committee Member (8.1)**

John Creighton moved that the Board of Education approve new member Jane Wolford to the District Accountability/Accreditation Committee as per Policy BDF-Advisory Committees. John Ahrens seconded.

Jane Wolford, OD, is an optometrist practicing in Old Town Longmont since 1986. Her children attended Central Elementary, Westview Middle and Longmont High School. She and her husband Dan have been host parents to eighteen exchange students, all of whom attended St. Vrain Valley Schools. Jane serves as Foundation liaison to the Longmont High School Medical and BioSciences Academy. In 2008, she served as chair for the SVVSD Bond and Mill Levy Committee. Jane is currently very active with the Longmont Rotary and their exchange student program. Dr. Wolford is interested in the District Accountability/Accreditation Committee as she feels it is important to give back to the community. She will serve on the Committee as a business member.

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

#### **Adoption of Resolution for Refinancing General Obligation Bonds (8.2)**

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve and adopt the Bond Refinancing Parameters Resolution as prepared by Butler Snow, District Bond Counsel. John Ahrens seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that, at the Study Session on September 17, 2014, District staff presented their recommendation to refinance Series 2004, 2005-A and 2006-B General Obligation Bonds. This series will refund approximately \$51 million in bonded debt, saving district taxpayers an estimated \$5 million.

Passage of this Resolution will authorize Gregory Fieth, Don Haddad or Robert J. Smith to authorize a bond refinancing issuance that falls within the parameters set by the Resolution any time during the remainder of Fiscal Year 2015.

Greg Fieth invited the Board to witness the bond sale which is tentatively set for Tuesday, October 7, 2014.

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

### **Decision Regarding Collaboration with Town of Lyons (8.3)**

John Creighton moved that the Board of Education decline moving forward with collaboration between the Town of Lyons and the District to use the Lyons M/S ball fields for a housing development. Joie Siegrist seconded.

In September, the Board of Education was approached by Lyons Mayor John O'Brien and Dan Greenberg, member of the Lyons Board of Trustees. They were seeking a possible collaboration between the Town of Lyons and SVVSD to create space for housing to replace what was destroyed during the September 2013 flood. They asked that the Board consider a land swap where the existing Lyons M/S ball fields would be used for building homes and the ball fields would be relocated to the west of the football field in the existing town park area. This collaboration was formally discussed for the first time at the September 17, 2014 Study Session at Sunset Middle School.

Board members and Dr. Haddad expressed their concerns with supporting the housing development, citing that they all had to make their decisions based on what was best for the students, parent community and the school district. They all value the relationship and respect that they have for the administrators of the Town of Lyons and the town itself, especially after how closely they worked with them during the flood to continue educating Lyons students.

Several of the Board members and Dr. Haddad visited the site to envision what the housing project would look like and what issues would be encountered in the process, i.e., traffic congestion, length of project, coordinating with Boulder County Housing Authority, etc., and collectively decided that this venture was not in the best interests of the school and district.

Mayor O'Brien hoped that there could be a task force committee set up with two or three Board members to look at the issues more closely and, as the community's leader; he felt that the issue of providing affordable housing to bring displaced residents back was creating divisions among the town residents.

Trustee LaVern Johnson asked that a task force committee be formed also and reminded the Board that she has been on the Parks and Recreation Committee for almost 50 years, and that Parks and Recreation would love to be part of a task force committee as well. The Board declined to form such a task force.

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

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)**

#### **Executive Summary on Board Policy Manual Overhaul Project-Board Policy Manual Section I-Instruction (9.1)**

Board member Paula Peairs gave a summary report on the progress of the Board Policy Manual Overhaul Project for Board Policy Section I-Instruction.

- Several policies regarding graduation requirements were tabled because of upcoming possible changes by the state.
- Policies regarding volunteers in the schools (background checks) need to be looked at more in-depth.
- Alternative Education policy needs to be looked at more in-depth.
- Board Member Paula Peairs was willing to talk to principals of the middle and high schools with Dr. Haddad regarding non-curricular student clubs.

The Board Policy Review Committee meets weekly on Mondays (no holidays). The public is welcome to attend those meetings and can call or email the Secretary to the Board of Education for meeting dates and times at [steege\\_barb@svvsd.org](mailto:steege_barb@svvsd.org) or 303-682-7292.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

John Ahrens moved to adjourn the meeting and Joie Siegrist seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Schiers, Assistant 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.