

**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 November 12, 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 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Creighton, Member, Director District E
Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B
Paula Peairs, Treasurer, Director District F
Joie Siegrist, Vice President, Director District A
Robert J. Smith, President, Director District C

Board Members Absent (Excused):

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D
Mike Schiers, Assistant Secretary, Director District G

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

David Burnison, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Jane Frederick, Senior Accountant
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent
John Poynton, Executive Director of Organizational Development & Communications
Regina Renaldi, Area 3 Assistant Superintendent for Priority Schools
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor
Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction

Visitors:

Laura McDonald, Grassroots St. Vrain
Trip Merklein, President of St. Vrain Valley Education Association

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

Report Item 6.1 Frederick High School Advisory Council Feeder Report was rescheduled to the January 14, 2015 Regular Board Meeting and the Final Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was added to the packet to replace the draft CAFR.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

None

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

Board Communications

John Creighton –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Silver Creek High School Performing Arts Booster Meeting-recommended the Board visit carrythetune.com that shows the role that music plays beyond high school and college. Screening on Saturday, November 15, at SCHS at 5:30 p.m.
- Thanked Dr. Haddad for the DASSC event at Xilinx featuring John Couch, Vice President of Education from Apple, Inc.
- Attended State Assessment Task Force Meeting and Public Hearing in Loveland and Monte Vista. Attended an SVVEA Meeting on an invitation from Trip Merklein President of SVVEA where assessments were the topic. Throughout the Task Force, Public Hearings, and talking to townspeople, he is hearing the following things:
 - Universally, assessment data is a critical tool for assessing students-there is value in benchmarking students against other students for comparison reasons and as an informative tool.
 - There is value in having the students have high stakes days once or twice a year and students learning how to prepare and having a lot at stake.
 - Concerns of public-Mostly not about the common core standards, opposed to the Social Studies standards but no other concerns.
 - Biggest concern is the disruption in the schools for the assessments.
 - Interrupts continuity and integrity of instruction.
 - Half the class pulled out one day; half another day.
 - Instructors pulled out of class to be proctors.
 - Don't introduce any new material after March.
 - Lose instruction time in the morning for the testing but afternoon is compromised as well.
 - Diverts resources, e.g., technology, support staff; rural districts must contract for additional staff; administrator priorities.
 - Current tests have not been validated or tests with consequences.
 - Disrespects pedagogy of school design, e.g., Montessori and Waldorf.

- Testing causes undue stress on the student and student feels responsible for instructors' jobs.
- Infecting the cultures of the schools-teachers and administrators are feeling the pressure of too many initiatives.
- Assessments have co-oped the culture of education in the state right now.
- The Task Force will start deliberating recommendations.
 - Proposals to roll back to the Federal minimums for third through 10th grade, but feels rolling back to the minimums alone won't address the concerns.
 - At the same time, the Federal Government has stated that districts must operate within that context or there is \$380 million at stake. If one district opts out, the whole state loses out on federal money.
 - In order to limit disruption to the schools, John Creighton will suggest to the state one week a year for three to five hours of testing time.
 - Before there are consequences tied to any of this, tests need to be validated.
 - Biggest problem that needs to change is for the state to take in account Colorado's sensibilities. In practice, different districts should be able to choose from several tests that best meet their needs. Have to have tests be more relevant to students.
- Thanks to the students, teachers and staff for the work they are doing for participating in the testing.

Debbie Lammers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended CASB Regional Meeting in Loveland & CASB Board Meeting-assessments were a popular topic and seems to affect districts equally no matter their size.
- Attended Indian Peaks Parent Update-announced STEM Saturday, November 15, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Attended Niwot High School Education Foundation Meeting.
- Attended Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley Meeting-annual grant awards night at Timberline PK-8.
- Attended Board Policy Review Committee Meeting.
- Presented to Niwot Community Association Meeting-discussed the District's Senior Tax Work-Off Program.
- Attended I Have a Dream luncheon.
- Attended Niwot High School Boosters Meeting-successful athletic teams even with budget challenges.
- Attended DASSC Event at Xilinx.
- Attended Burlington and Niwot Elementary Parent Update Meetings.
- Thanked Joe McBreen for the Niwot High School Education Foundation Tech Forum that explained the District-wide Learning Technology Plan.
- Enjoyed attending the High School Student Advisory Council Meetings.
- Announced that a Niwot High student achieved a perfect ACT score-she is also a National Merit semi-finalist, cross country state team championship member, and the homecoming queen.

- Looking forward to attending other parent update meetings in different feeder groups and the CASB Convention in December.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Thanked John Creighton for the investment of his time on the State Assessment Task Force and his helpful update this evening.
- Attended Mead Chamber of Commerce Meeting.
- Attended Student Advisory Council meeting at Frederick High School.
- Attended Mead Regional Chamber Business After Hours event at King Buick GMC-Yale King, Owner, is meeting with Dr. Haddad to begin a possible partnership with the District.
- Attended DASSC Event at Xilinx.
- Attended Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.
- Attended Board Policy Review Committee Meeting.
- Attended Mead Middle School Parent Advisory Council and Parent Update Meetings.
- Attended Trail Ridge Middle and Fall River Elementary Parent Update Meetings.
- Attended Mead Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting.
- Attended collaborative jazz band performance featuring Mead High School, Niwot High School, and Erie High School Jazz Band-terrific performance.
- Looking forward to the high school play season.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Northern Colorado Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Pool Board Meeting.
- Attended Mayors Meeting.
- Attended Finance and Audit Meetings.
- Attended DASSC Event at Xilinx.
- Attended Hygiene PTO Meeting and Hygiene Fall Festival.
- Attended Sanborn Parent Update Meeting.
- Attended Board Policy Review Committee Meeting.
- Attended Lyons Lions Meeting as a guest speaker-the group was concerned with the number of assessments for students.
- Attended I Have a Dream luncheon.
- Attended State Assessment Town Hall Meeting in Loveland.
- Toured Longmont Estates with Principal Amanda Hall.
- Attended several high school Orchestra concerts.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Thanks to Paula Peairs for the well-written editorial in the Longmont Times-Call.
- Attended I Have a Dream luncheon.
- Attended Mountain View PTO Meeting.

- Attended Mayors Meeting-thanks to all the Mayors that were able to attend and for their support of the 0-3 Initiative.
- Thanks to Dr. Haddad for his visionary leadership in bringing John Couch to present at the DASSC event at Xilinx.
- Met with Longmont High School administrative team.
- Attended Erie Economic Council with John Ahrens presenting strengths and innovations going on in the District and its challenges for the future.
- Toured the north Longmont revitalization/beautification project with City Manager Harold Dominguez and his staff along with Dr. Haddad and Brian Lamer.
- Visited Spark! Discovery Preschool-250 students-1/3 special needs population.
- Attended Northern Colorado Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Pool Board Meeting. \$2 million in bonds managed by Canadian investment group. Expenses up 17% from last year. Losses went up slightly, but costs per 100 of payroll down because seeing growth in district. Operating expenses up a bit-gave the Manager of the group a 5% raise. Investments are 58% treasury and 28% securitized mortgage-backed municipal bonds. The Board meets three times a year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)

- Dr. Haddad announced that John Poynton of the Communications Department, Laura McDonald, and Chico Garcia won Research Project of the Year by the International Association for Public Participation for the development of the Leadership St. Vrain Program. Dr. Haddad presented them with an Excellence in Education award for their efforts. Chico Garcia was unable to attend. Dr. Haddad reported that people around the State look to John for his leadership in organizational development, and parents look to Laura for her leadership in generating parent involvement. Dr. Haddad also reported that the District would not have been as successful passing the 2008 and 2012 mill levies or bond without them. John presented a video regarding Leadership St. Vrain. Laura thanked the Board and reported that she has been contacted by a school district in the province of Alberta, Canada about the Leadership St. Vrain program and looks forward to the opportunity to work with them.
- Attended a meeting of Superintendents from across the state that collaboratively submitted a letter in support of increased funding for our schools directed to our legislators. Their goal is to come up with a reasonable one-time amount to make up for the loss of per pupil funding, and to establish a new direction in the way financial decisions are made for schools in the future. If successful, it could mean \$470 more per pupil (or \$14 million) in additional revenue for St. Vrain Valley. Dr. Haddad will update the Board.
- School facilities are doing very well all over the District. Thanks to Brian Lamer and his team for the various painting and remodeling projects.
- CMAS testing-shared with students and staff the importance of assessment. Will work collaboratively to let CDE and legislators know of the concerns that we have.
- Attending a state awards ceremony to honor a Niwot High School student that received a perfect 36 score on her ACT. Next week attending a state awards

ceremony for St. Vrain schools that won John Irwin Schools of Excellence and Governor's Distinguished Improvement Awards.

- Attending the National Connected Superintendents Summit in Washington, D.C., to be honored for the District's Learning Technology Plan. Dr. Haddad is one of 100 Superintendents in the U.S. to be invited to this Summit which will include a visit to the White House.
- Thanked John Creighton and appreciated the time that he is spending on the State Assessment Task Force.
- Met with Rob Berry and the Executive Director of the YMCA-looking at a partnership about sharing in the cost of renovating the pool so that it can accommodate District swimming practices and competitions.

REPORTS (6.0)

Frederick High School Student Advisory Council Feeder Report (6.1)

This topic has been rescheduled to the January 14, 2015 Regular Board Meeting.

District-Wide Savings on Procurement Activities for Fiscal Year 2014 (6.2)

Terry Schueler reported that the Purchasing Department provides buying and contracting services in support of all district schools and departments and coordinates the sale and disposal of district surplus property. She shared an extensive report that detailed established key performance measures including procurement cost savings data, vendor participation, solicitation process lead time, procurement card rebate potential, and surplus property sale proceeds and the disposal process.

Board member Paula Peairs was very impressed with the Purchasing Department's extensive report and asked if Terry Schueler could pass on thanks and congratulations to Traci Burtnett and her team.

Update on Purchasing Department Certification (6.3)

Terry Schueler reported that the St. Vrain Valley School District is a 2014 recipient of the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC) Agency Certification Award. This award was created to formally recognize an agency's commitment to the value of acquiring 100% certification in the public sector. The SVVSD professional procurement team of Traci Burtnett, CPPO, CPPB, Director; Tim Wellmann, CPPB, Purchasing Manager; Diana Cantu, CPPB, Senior Buyer; and Bill Oliver, CPPB, Senior Buyer, achieved fully certified public procurement status in August 2014. The goal of the purchasing staff is to pursue the Sterling Agency Award designation in 2016.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Debbie Lammers moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.8 and 7.10 through 7.12. Consent Item 7.9 was pulled for further discussion. Joie Siegrist seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the October 8, 2014 Regular Meeting, the October 15, 2014 Study Session, and the October 22, 2014 Regular Meeting
4. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policy CCA-St. Vrain Valley Organizational Chart
5. Approval: Approval of Architect Selection-Indian Peaks Elementary Renovation Project
6. Approval: Approval of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Indian Peaks Elementary
7. Approval: Approval of Architect Selection-Rocky Mountain Elementary Renovation Project
8. Approval: Approval of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Rocky Mountain Elementary
10. Approval: Approval of Purchase of Audio Visual Systems
11. Approval: Approval of Vendors Providing Purchased Services
12. Approval: Approval of School Health Professional Grant Program

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

9. Approval: Approval of Consultant Fee Adjustment-Facility Audits Project

Brian Lamer was in attendance to answer questions from Board members.

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.9. John Creighton seconded.

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

ACTION ITEMS (8.0)

Approval of Appointment of Dean of Students for Centennial Elementary and Prairie Ridge Elementary (8.1)

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Laura Anna as Dean of Students at Centennial Elementary and Prairie Ridge Elementary, effective November 10, 2014. John Creighton seconded.

David Burnison reported that Ms. Anna graduated from University of Colorado, Boulder, with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism. She then continued her education at the University of Phoenix, completing her Master's in Educational Counseling. Ms. Anna then went on to the University of Colorado, Denver, where she received her Education Specialist endorsement in Administration.

For the past four years Ms. Anna was a Counselor/Interventionist at Mead Elementary School, where she implemented the school-wide MTSS program. She has also been involved in the Kids' Hope Program, and coordinating the New Counselor Orientation for the St. Vrain Valley School District. Prior to that, she was the Lead Counselor at Legacy High School in Adams 12 for six years.

Ms. Anna was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but would like to attend the December 10, 2014 Board meeting to be introduced to the Board.

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

Approval of Joint Use Agreement with Carbon Valley Recreation District (8.2)

John Creighton moved that the Board of Education approve the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) of Facilities between the Carbon Valley Recreation District, the Town of Frederick and the St. Vrain Valley School District, and further authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign contract documents. Paula Peairs seconded.

The St. Vrain Valley School District negotiates Joint Use Agreements with the municipalities in which District facilities are located. Joint Use Agreements are intended to foster partnerships, cooperation and outline shared use of both town/city and District facilities and programs.

The JUA with the Carbon Valley Recreation District will be renewed every two years.

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

Acceptance of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) (8.3)

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education accept the 2014 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. Joie Siegrist seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that the 2014 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was audited by the certified public accounting firm of RubinBrown, LLP. At the work session prior to this meeting, Matthew Marino from RubinBrown reviewed the 2014 CAFR with the Board in detail and responded to questions. RubinBrown auditors Cheryl Wallace and Matthew Marino were in attendance at the work session before the

Regular Meeting to answer questions from the Board. Auditors' opinion was considered an unmodified report which means it is without any qualification.

Paula Peairs reminded the Board that the CAFR was thoroughly reviewed at the last Finance & Audit Committee Meeting. Bob Smith thanked the Finance team for their hard work.

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

Adoption of Resolution Proclaiming American Education Week, November 16-22, 2014 (8.4)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution proclaiming November 16-22, 2014 as American Education Week. Joie Siegrist seconded.

To make our schools the best they can be requires a commitment from every member of the community, from retired citizens to parents, from business leaders to school board members. The goal of American Education Week is to increase public understanding and appreciation of the nation's schools, to encourage parents and non-parents to visit schools, and to build civic and community pride and support education.

Board member Debbie Lammers read the resolution.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)

First Reading, Introduction, Board Policy BEAA – Electronic Participation in School Board Meetings (9.1)

This Board Policy was recommended by the Colorado Association of School Boards and reviewed by the attorney for the District and the Board Policy Review Committee.

John Creighton did not support the adoption of this policy because he felt there needed to be more of an investment in technology resources for the Board Room before he would support Board members participating in a Board Meeting remotely. Debbie Lammers agreed that the Board should wait until the Board is really able to communicate well with traveling Board members. Debbie shared the background of this sample Board policy and that it was created by legislators at the request of the Telluride school board to assist mountain/rural/isolated areas with their low Board participation.

Board President Bob Smith deemed that the policy was not practical at this point in time and felt the policy should be tabled until updated technology is available in the Board Room. He felt that the Board could discuss the updating of the technology in the Board Room when the District's Technology Plan is discussed at the February 25, 2015 BOE Regular Meeting.

Feedback on Technology in Education-John Couch Presentation (9.2)

John Couch, Vice President of Education from Apple, Inc., presented on October 23, 2014 at Xilinx Conference Center to a crowd that included our Board of Education along with superintendents from DASSC (Denver Area School Superintendents' Council). Dr. Haddad and the Board members shared feedback on the presentation.

John Creighton- Exciting to think that curriculum can adapt to the student rather than the student having to adapt to the curriculum-curriculum that moves with the student. This talk is dispelling myths about public education and that there can be room for experimentation. Some things that were tried didn't work and let the students be part of the experiment rather than being experimented on. The generation that is in high school now expects to and wants to go in the direction of technology in the classroom.

Paula Peairs- Made note about statements around moving technology to the next level while augmenting educational instruction rather than replacing it. The power in that was really important. Amazed at how much professional development is required not only for the student using the technology but also in retraining staff. Wondered if the colleges are keeping up with training teachers that can continue to move forward in education. Elizabeth Hein is the new Dean of Education at Metropolitan State University of Denver- she's onboard with preparing students with the technological delivery of education.

Debbie Lammers- Enjoyed his comments, presentation, and enthusiasm. Especially pointed out his comments about the new global world and preparing our students and the community on how our kids are experiencing new technology. Keep in mind that if parents, residents, and business people are not involved in our schools on a daily basis they won't know how different technology is affecting education in the classroom today in comparison from when they were in school. Liked his comment that parents look at technology as tools and kids see it as an environment. Feels that involving the community in these discussions is worthwhile on the District's part.

Joie Siegrist- Thanks and appreciation to the community for supporting technology through mill levy dollars and appreciation for the creators of the technology plan. Underscored that everything needs to be relevant-students need to be educated for the world that they will live in-not ours.

Bob Smith- Felt his knowledge of technology in education was expanded by the presentation. It reminded him 40 years ago of the first order entry system in hospitals. Observed then and since the strong tendency to automate existing automatic system

processes. Facilitation of design change forces a change in the delivery system. Fascinated to see how you can achieve differentiation in the classroom, and how does a teacher keep all students moving in the same direction.

Don Haddad- In a leadership role, you have to be comfortable with ambiguity and transition. Structure can get in the way of progress and difficult to overcome. Actions have to demonstrate that you are willing to create the educational experience that's best for students. John Couch's comment about tool vs. environment demonstrates what kids are born into now as opposed to what they were born into 20 years ago. In order to really move forward you have to be willing to move forward. Thankful that the Board is willing to lead in a new direction, and that we have the staff and funding to implement the new level of technology and to sustain it. The entire District will only use 5% of the new bandwidth in the community where the District was currently using about 90% of its bandwidth, so thanks to the community for that.

ADJOURNMENT

Joie Siegrist moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. John Creighton seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, absent; John Creighton, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Mike Schiers, absent; 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 December 10, 2014.