

**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 23, 2015 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The Regular Meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Robert J. Smith at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D
John Creighton, Member, Director District E
Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B
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):

None

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

Scott Bergamo, St. Vrain Online Global Academy Counselor
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management
Joann Dawe, Principal of St. Vrain Online Global Academy
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Salvatore Martorano, Music Instructor from Westview Middle School
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Regina Renaldi, Area 3 Assistant Superintendent for Priority Schools
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor
Mark Spencer, Principal of Westview Middle School
Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
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)

None

VISITORS (4.0)

Mark Mills introduced Joann Dawe who honored Scott Bergamo, a Counselor at St. Vrain Online Global Academy, with a Gold Star for receiving CU Boulder's "Best Should Teach Award" for 2015. Mark Mills introduced Mark Spencer who honored Salvatore Martorano, a Westview Music Instructor, with a Gold Star for receiving the 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the Colorado Bandmasters Association.

REPORTS (5.0)

None

CONSENT ITEMS (6.0)

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.1. Debbie Lammers seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Resolution Regarding the Legal Defense and Indemnification of SVVSD Directors and Employees

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 (7.0)

Approval of Request to Grant Exception to Conflict of Interest Policy (7.1)

Mike Schiers moved that the Board of Education allow an exception to the current Conflict of Interest Policy GBEA-1. This exception would enable Ana (Kena) Guttridge, a Spanish teacher through the Enrichment Program, to sell fresh produce to the District. John Ahrens seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that Board Policy GBEA-1, Staff Conflict of Interest, states, "No school district employee or firm owned by a school district employee shall be allowed to sell to the district or to school districts served by the school district, goods or services of any kind without express prior written consent of the Board of Education."

Ana (Kena) Guttridge is employed by the District as a Spanish teacher through the Enrichment Program. She is also co-owner of Ollin Farms, a local farm that sells vegetables at the Farmer's Market and supplies vegetables to local grocery stores, restaurants and schools. Since Mrs. Guttridge is an employee and she is also part-owner of a farming business, we are requesting a waiver from Policy GBEA-1 so that Ollin Farms can provide produce to the District as part of the farm-to-school initiatives.

Board member Paula Peairs reiterated that Board Policy GBEA-1 will be repealed through the Board Policy Review Project, but that newly adopted Board Policy GBEA-E still includes the language that allows for an exception to the conflict of interest policies of the District.

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 (8.0)

Follow-Up Discussion with Twin Peaks Charter Academy (8.1)

Board President Bob Smith reported that the events surrounding the graduation ceremony at Twin Peaks Charter Academy (TPCA) have received notoriety in the press and the attention of elected officials and advocacy groups. The District has limited authority regarding TPCA's principal's administrative decisions and those of its Board. However, the District has a responsibility to ensure that its charter schools do not operate in a discriminatory manner as defined by applicable federal and state laws.

At its June 10, 2015 Regular Meeting, the Board approved a letter to TPCA's Board President to explain that the District not only concurs in their decision to conduct an external investigation regarding this issue, in particular, but also to inform TPCA that the District's Wellness, Culture and Safety Inventory will assist them, and us, in measuring whether students feel safe at school and free from bullying or harassment.

Bob Smith concurred that the leadership of TPCA should participate in the District's Wellness, Culture and Safety Inventory, and that the District will continue to work with them. Recommendations to TPCA are that the dimensions of student well-being and safety should be applied to all District schools and that the District would like to write into all its charter school contracts that have high schools that they will participate in the Wellness, Culture and Safety Inventory. The contract language should also call for an automatic notification of claims of discrimination; and that follow-up and documentation of issue resolutions might request further actions by way of surveys.

Bob Smith, John Creighton and Dr. Haddad appreciated the collaborative conversations that they had with TPCA Board members and administrators, and also feel that working together is imperative so that the students have every opportunity to be successful. Dr.

Haddad was also very grateful that TPCA administration has agreed to participate in trainings with Colorado University-Boulder staff.

Board members thanked Bob Smith, John Creighton and Dr. Haddad for collaborative efforts to resolve this unfortunate situation. Members also underscored the importance of visiting the charter schools in each of their director districts regularly to build a relationship with them as with the District schools.

Board Policy Overhaul Project Update (8.2)

Board member Paula Peairs reported on behalf of the Board Policy Review Committee that most Board policies have been received back from Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), and the Committee is in the process of proofreading and correcting mostly minor issues. The Committee hopes to be able to have certain groups of sections approved by the Board as they become finalized.

Board members thanked the Committee for their efforts on this Board Policy Review Project. It is the hope of the Committee that the Board policies are able to be approved by the current Board that started with the Project in the fall of 2013. Dr. Haddad told the Board that policy changes would be made known and discussed via administrative meetings as well as the usual postings.

ADJOURNMENT (9.0)

Before adjournment, Dr. Haddad thanked John Ahrens, Terry Schueler, and Greg Fieth for their work with the Erie Urban Renewal Authority Agreement. He also thanked Ella Padilla, Terry Schueler and Vick Mair for their work on the new health insurance plan.

Board President Bob Smith informed the Board members that they will be receiving a brief self-assessment form to fill out to bring to the October 21, 2015 Study Session where CASB Executive Director Ken DeLay will be a speaker.

John Ahrens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. John Creighton seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous acclamation: [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 14, 2015.