

**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 January 13, 2016 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 6:55 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B
Dr. Richard Martyr, Director District E
Paula Peairs, Treasurer, Director District F
Joie Siegrist, Vice President, Director District A
Amory Siscoe, Assistant Secretary, Director District G
Robert J. Smith, President, Director District C

Board Members Absent (Excused):

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

Damon Brown, Executive Director of Human Resources/Risk Management/
Communications
Eddie Cloke, Principal of Trail Ridge Middle School
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Regina Renaldi, Area 3 Assistant Superintendent for Priority School
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor
Brandon Schwirtz, Assistant Principal of Timberline PK-8
Mark Spencer, Principal of Westview Middle School
Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction

Jackie Whittington, Executive Director of Student Services

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

Board President Robert J. Smith moved Action Item 8.1 School Board Recognition to a Report Item.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

None

VISITORS (4.0)

Dr. Don Haddad presented Jackie Whittington with an Excellence in Education award for receiving the Governors Summer Job Hunt Employer Award from the School-to-Work Alliance Program at the Governor's Mansion on October 1, 2015. Dr. Haddad thanked Jackie for the leadership she displays in the very difficult position she holds.

Apple, Inc., representatives Scott Elias, Development Executive; Corey Carson, Field Engineering Manager; Matt Cooper, Region Manager; Mike Scott, Systems Engineer; and Michelle Smith, Account Executive were in attendance to present the Apple Distinguished School Award to Westview Middle School Principal Mark Spencer and Trail Ridge Middle School Principal Eddie Cloke. Mark Spencer introduced two of his instructors Nicole Kmoch, Band Director, and Dina Linzer, Literacy/ELL Instructor. Eddie Cloke introduced two of his instructors Toni Hoehn, STEM Coordinator, and Sara Magley, Art Instructor. The instructors told the Board how the technology improved the instruction of their students. Both principals invited the Board to their Apple Distinguished School Events-Trail Ridge Middle School on May 3 from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. and Westview on May 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Lee Berg, Executive Director of Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley.
Trip Merklein, President of the St. Vrain Valley Education Association.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD & BOARD COMMUNICATIONS/COMMENTS (5.0)

Board Reports

Debbie Lammers –
Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley Meeting in December where three new Board members were introduced-Brandon Shaffer, Erik Salo, and John Creighton. Looking forward to being involved in a communications network that supports all the individual schools' education foundations.

- Attended Niwot High School 10th Grade International Baccalaureate information session-some new courses for students to take advantage of in the Diploma Programme.
- Attended Longmont Multicultural Action Committee Meeting which provides for multicultural opportunities and events around Longmont-they are part of the Martin Luther King, Jr., event at Silver Creek High School.
- Announced that Niwot High School Education Foundation will host a speaker, Teju Ravilochan, on January 28, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. More information on this speaker can be found at <http://unreasonableinstitute.org/team/>.

Dr. Richard Martyr –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Goal for his first year-try to get acquainted with as many people as possible-listening and talking with constituents.
- Met with Erick Finnestead on three different occasions-toured Silver Creek and talked about their programs. Two students in SCHS Leadership Academy were concerned with health and safety issues and with student-to-counselor ratio.
- Attended Silver Creek's Parent Update-wonderful diversity that exists within the high school system.
- Met with Jeremy LaCrosse and Travis O'Hair at Altona Middle School at the Parent Update meeting-astounding to look at all the opportunities for our students.
- Attended Timberline PK-8 Parent Update Meeting. Enjoyed the STEM demonstrations and the University of Colorado-Boulder mentors in their after school program. In awe of the quality of teachers and the leadership and performance levels expected of our students to achieve.
- Attended a meeting with Timberline PK-8 administrators about their uniform improvement plan.
- Met with Principal Jim Hecocks and John Creighton at Central Elementary.
- Attended an Eagle Crest Elementary PTO Meeting.
- Met with Stephen Hoel at Rocky Mountain-wonderful to see the obvious care and pride that the staff and students take in that building and the relationship Stephen has built with his students was inspiring.
- Attended a presentation of the Spellbinder Storytellers-wife Linda is a volunteer and feels it is a wonderful opportunity to extend the literacy opportunities of students.
- Looks forward with great eagerness to meet more staff and community members.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended all open houses in her district-would be great events for the public to attend even if you don't have school-aged children.
- At Skyline in December when Senator Bennett visited-Principal Heidi Ringer and staff took him on a tour of the classes.
- Attended Building a Better Colorado community meeting-touched on TABOR and how we nominate candidates-good process to be involved in to discuss current issues that the community will be involved in.

- Attended High School Student Advisory Council Meeting at Silver Creek High School.
- Overall theme of all District school events amazes her and how impressive our community is.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Finance and Audit Committee Meeting-reviewed the five-year budget tool. Thank you to all the community members that volunteer their time on that Committee.
- Thanked everyone that hosted the Open Houses at the high school and middle school level-the amount of choices for our students are remarkable.
- Looking forward to attending basketball games and wrestling matches.
- Enjoyed the Up-A-Creek Robotics Open House.
- Will be attending numerous PTO meetings at schools in her district in January and February.
- Looking forward to the Longmont Estates Parent Update Meeting and the Lyons M/S Booster Club Meeting.

Amory Siscoe –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended meetings in all of the schools in her district.
- Attended Up-A-Creek Robotics Open House-so impressed with the organization.
- Attended Frederick High School Music Foundation-astounded at how much money they are raising to support their activities.
- Attended Frederick High School Booster Club Meeting-starting to plan their Aces & Hearts fundraiser and have raised \$24,000 in two months to put towards trips and supplies the students need.
- Attended Thunder Valley *I Have a Dream* Dinner.

Robert J. Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Recognized Ella Padilla and her Human Resources team for all of their efforts in the healthcare open enrollment window, particularly in a year that the District is transitioning to a new plan administrator.
- Thanks to all District staff for St. Vrain being recognized as one of the key districts in one of the four leading states in education-enjoyed watching the video regarding Skyline High.
- Commended Grassroots St. Vrain for their leadership and appreciate their time representing our District to legislators.
- Attended Up-A-Creek Robotics competition in December.
- Feedback from Building a Better Colorado Meeting that 50 to 60 community leaders attended is that the support for our District by these community leaders was outstanding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Announced the acceptance of our Pathways in Technology (P-TECH) program application and the program will start in the next school year. Students could graduate with an Associate Degree in Computer Information Systems-excited to start the program and to partner with IBM and Front Range Community College.
- Announced Altona Middle School was notified they were named Best in the State 2016 Verizon Wireless App Challenge, and now Best in the Region. Altona will have an Assembly to celebrate this achievement and invited the Board to the Assembly on Thursday, January 21 at 3:15 p.m.
- Read a letter from Boulder Community Food Share thanking the District for its donation of 37,641 pounds of groceries on December 17.
- Received a letter from the *I Have a Dream* foundation thanking the District for their continued support. The foundation has extended into the Carbon Valley. Their next Dream-Maker Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Saddleback Country Club at 8631 Frontier Street in Firestone.
- Announced that Erie High School will feature Audience with an Astronaut on Wednesday, February 17, from 11:45 to 2:15, with a lecture by former astronaut Dr. Leroy Chiao from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.
- Attended High School Student Advisory Council Meeting at Silver Creek High School-discussed XQ super schools-what schools will look like in the future and the \$10 million grant sponsored by Steve Jobs' wife-District submitted initial application and it has made it through the first round of reviews out of 1,300 submissions.
- Thanked all teachers, administration and parents for the amount of work being done to help our students succeed.

REPORTS (6.0)

2nd Quarter Gifts to Schools, Fiscal Year 2016 (6.1)

Greg Fieth provided the Board of Education with a list of public gifts given to the St. Vrain Valley School District for the second quarter of the 2015-2016 school year totaling \$146,146.27. The total of all gifts given to the District for the 2015-2016 school year so far total \$236,977.75.

Senior Volunteer Program (6.2)

Terry Schueler presented information on the District's Senior Volunteer Program. The name was changed from Senior Tax Work-Off Program to the Senior Volunteer Program. In the past, participants made \$8.00 an hour for a total of 40 hours. This year, participants will make \$8.25 an hour for up to 40 hours to help mitigate tax increases on our senior and disabled population. Press releases were sent out to the Longmont Times-Call and the Boulder Daily Camera, and the community can find information on our District website.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.7. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the December 9, 2015 Regular Meeting and the December 14, 2015 Special Meeting
4. Approval: Approval of Annual Official Posting Location Notice
5. Approval: Approval of Closure of Schools-Snow Storm
6. Approval: Approval of Ditch Relocation Agreement Between Newmark Merrill Mountain States, LLC, the Ditch Companies and SVVSD
7. Approval: Approval of Increase in Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Longs Peak Middle School 5th Grade Playground and Interior Improvements Project

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, absent; Debbie Lammers, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

ACTION ITEMS (8.0)

School Board Recognition (8.1)

The administration of the St. Vrain Valley School District is very proud of the work that our Board members do, and the role that they play in creating a quality public education system that is fundamental to a vibrant and strong community and democratic society. They would like to show their appreciation by proclaiming January 2016 as School Board Recognition Month, and urge all citizens to recognize the dedication and hard work of our Board of Education members.

Administrators told Board members that their success is, in a big part, a result of the way the Board operates and the leadership they represent. Administrators also commended the Board on their cohesiveness and willingness to set aside personal feelings and perform as a group for the good of the students. Students from the High School Student Advisory Council told their administrators that they were humbled by the support of the board members and were so appreciative of the candid conversations they've had with the Board members and how much they appreciate their partnership. Administrators feel a trust in the Board members and vice versa when seeking open and transparent feedback on how administration should proceed when they have questions, and is incredibly proud to work for this Board. Trip Merklein thanked the Board for all that they do on behalf of the District teachers as well as the entire community.

Board members themselves believe in the collective wisdom of their members and trust that they will always make decisions with the best interest of the students, and appreciate the cohesion of the members and the support of the St. Vrain community.

There was no vote for this item, as Board President Robert J. Smith moved this item to a Report Item.

Adoption of School Priority Improvement Plans (8.2)

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education adopt the School Priority Improvement UIPs. Paula Peairs seconded.

Tori Teague reported that the Education Accountability Act of 2009, the School Board must adopt UIPs for any schools identified for a Priority Improvement UIP. This year, those schools are Olde Columbine High School, Northridge Elementary School, and Timberline PK-8. The deadline for adoption is January 15, 2016. Brandon Schwartz, Assistant Principal of Timberline PK-8 was present to discuss how Timberline was able to increase their proficiencies.

Board members appreciated the time and effort that Tori and Brandon took to go through the UIP goals for Timberline. Board member Richard Martyr requested that it would be helpful in the future to have an opportunity to read priority improvements as much in advance as possible.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, absent; Debbie Lammers, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)

First Reading, Board Policies/Exhibit AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity; AC-E-1 – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity; GBA – Open Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity; JB – Equal Educational Opportunities (9.1)

Connie Syferd reported that revisions to these policies and the accompanying exhibit are necessary due to alignment with current state language, procedure, and applicable statutes and have been reviewed by the administration and legal counsel.

Board members suggested minor changes to the Board policies. The Board approved the proposed changes, and these policies will go before the Board, as an Action Item, at the January 27, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

First Reading, Board Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements (9.2)

Connie Syferd reported that revisions to this policy are necessary due to alignment with current practice, procedure, and applicable statutes and have been reviewed by the administration and legal counsel.

Board members discussed and suggested changes to this Board policy. The Board approved of the new proposed changes after the discussion, and this policy will go before the Board, as an Action Item, at the January 27, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

BOE Committee Assignments (9.3)

Every two years, Board members discuss the needs of civic/municipal committee duties and discuss assignments for each member to participate on those committees. Tonight, Board members discussed which committees they would like to serve on.

CASB Follow-Up (9.4)

Annually, the Colorado Association of School Boards holds a convention in Colorado Springs for school board members, select school district administrators and board staff throughout Colorado to exchange ideas, learn about current issues, gather input, and develop skills. Representatives of the SVVSD High School Advisory Council attended the Student Strand program at the convention. The Board shared the information they gathered from this Convention.

ADJOURNMENT (10.0)

Debbie Lammers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m., and Amory Siscoe seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, absent; Debbie Lammers, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Pears, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, 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 February 10, 2016.