

**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 February 24, 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 7:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:**

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D  
Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B  
Dr. Richard Martyr, Member, 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):**

None

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

Matt Buchler, Principal of Erie High School  
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Janis Hughes, Principal of Burlington Elementary  
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent  
Amy Keen, Human Resources Specialist  
Mollie Kelleher, Computer Science Instructor at Altona Middle School  
Jeremy LaCrosse, Principal of Altona Middle School  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Dr. Dawn Macy, Principal of Sunset Middle School  
Chase McBride, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Niwot High School  
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent  
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Nancy Pitz, Principal of Niwot Elementary

Eric Rauschkolb, Principal of Niwot High School  
Regina Renaldi, Area 3 Assistant Superintendent for Priority Schools  
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor  
Andrea Smith, Assistant Principal of Niwot High School

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)**

None

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

Regina Renaldi introduced Jeremy LaCrosse who was present to honor the Altona students that received the Best in State, Best in Region, and Best in Nation awards for their Verizon App Challenge idea. Those students are Advika Jayanthi, Sterling Gardner, Jeffrey Hew, Carolyn Qiu, and Rachel Su. Their instructor/club advisor, Mollie Kelleher, gave a summary of the process of their achievement and they showed a video about their App. It is called "Diction Defender" and helps people improve their writing skills in a game environment. Each student received a certificate, a tablet and a backpack, and Altona received a banner and a \$20,000 grant for technology. Mollie Kelleher thanked the students, the parents in attendance, and Board member Dr. Martyr who she felt was of great inspiration to her as a fellow former teacher.

Mark Mills introduced Matt Buchler who then introduced Erie High School staff members Kelsey Brax and Kelsey Johnson who were honored with Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF) Teaching Fellowships. Matt shared that it was very impressive to have four instructors in the District that were Knowles Fellows, noting that there were 300 fellows in 42 states. Kelsey Johnson told the Board of the process to become a KSTF Senior Fellow and that they also provide extensive financial and professional development support.

Matt Buchler also honored Keith Steiner, CEO of AirComm, for being an outstanding partner of Erie High School and that he and his company were instrumental in the creation of their Academy of Engineering and Aerospace. Matt shared that Keith took 65 students to AirComm to show them his company's Engineering Department. He also shared that Keith is a Niwot High School graduate. Keith told of how he hopes that Erie students, along with the Career Development Center Engineering classes, will learn how ideas go from the design stage to a finished product. Board members thanked Keith for his partnership with the District.

In Principal Erick Finnestead's absence, Regina Renaldi honored Silver Creek instructor Eric Rasmussen for being a Knowles Fellow. She read to the Board a letter that Erick

had asked her to read about Eric's attributes along with the fact that he is a Knowles Fellow.

## **REPORTS (5.0)**

### **Niwot High Student Advisory Council Feeder Report (5.1)**

Mark Mills introduced Niwot Principal Eric Rauschkolb who then introduced Niwot Student Advisory Council student Rachel Oliver. Niwot Advisory Council students Brynn Chavez, Matthew Clark, Emily Cranny, and Thomas Stager were unable to attend the Board Meeting. Rachel presented a video featuring the Niwot feeder system schools. Eric thanked Chase McBride and Andrea Smith for helping to produce the video. Other Niwot feeder system principals in attendance: Nancy Pitz, Principal of Niwot Elementary School; Dr. Dawn Macy, Principal of Sunset Middle; and Janis Hughes, Principal of Burlington Elementary.

Eric Rauschkolb announced that Niwot has three Presidential Scholars' recipients, one Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation finalist, seven National Merit Scholarship Finalists, three students with perfect ACT scores, three Boettcher Scholarship finalists, and their seniors have garnered \$8 million in scholarship offers from colleges and universities that students have applied to.

Retiring Burlington Principal Janis Hughes thanked Dr. Haddad and the Board for how far the District has come since she started teaching 30 years ago. Board members thanked her for her superb leadership.

### **Colorado Department of Education Human Resources Staffing Report (5.2)**

Amy Keen, Human Resources Specialist, gave a presentation on the process to complete the annual staffing report for the Colorado Department of Education. This report has extensive staff demographics as of December 1 each year. The Board thanked Amy for completing this monumental task every year.

Dr. Haddad thanked the team of people that help Ella Padilla and Greg Fieth with the new teacher salary schedule.

### **January Financials, 2015/16 Fiscal Year (5.3)**

Greg Fieth reported on the financials at a work session before the Board Meeting. There were no further questions from the Board. Greg thanked HR Specialist Amy Keen for helping him with Affordable Care Act documentation.

## **CONSENT ITEMS (6.0)**

Amory Siscoe moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 6.1. John Ahrens seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Easement at Career Development Center

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

**ACTION ITEMS (7.0)**

**Approval of Superintendent's Contract (7.1)**

Joie Siegrist moved that the Board of Education approve a one-year extension to Dr. Haddad's contract to recognize his performance over the past year. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

At its January 20, 2016 Study Session, the Board reviewed Dr. Haddad's accomplishments toward the goals that had been previously adopted. Given that Dr. Haddad's performance meets or exceeds the Board's expectations in every regard, the Board granted a one-year extension to Dr. Haddad's current Employment Agreement from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

The proposed Addendum makes no provision for a salary increase at this time, but will consider whether a salary adjustment will be made following the annual evaluation as part of the 2016/2017 budget.

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS (8.0)**

**Bond Community Input (8.1)**

Dr. Haddad updated the Board on the plans to obtain community input on the bond. He thanked Brian Lamer and his team for predicting the needs of the District for the capital reserve budget and the potential bond. Dr. Haddad also thanked the newly formed Community Bond Committee that consists of 45 people from all walks of life throughout the community. Dr. Haddad shared that the District will be sending out monthly brochures showing facts of what bond money could do for the District, and a letter will be sent to key influencers in the District to explain specifics. Results of a future community-wide survey will also gather information. In August, Dr. Haddad and the Committee hope to bring forward to the Board a recommendation of the amount of bond the Committee feels it needs to ask for with specific areas of priority. Should the Board approve to go forward with a bond election, community members Ken Schuetz, Karen Ragland, and Rita Liu are prepared to form a campaign committee that will conduct community presentations along with Grassroots St. Vrain.

**Board Retreat Follow-Up (8.2)**

Board members attended a Board Retreat on January 28, 2016. Topics discussed were academic scorecards, Every Student Succeeds, and District Strategic Priorities. Board members each discussed individually what they learned from this Board Retreat. They each appreciated and thanked administration for their leadership and the creation of the scorecard. Dr. Haddad will bring the draft scorecards to the Board members in late March.

**ADJOURNMENT (9.0)**

Before adjournment of the meeting, Board President Bob Smith announced that the March 16, 2016 Board Study Session will be cancelled.

John Ahrens moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Joie Siegrist seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous acclamation: [John Ahrens, yes; Debbie Lammers, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, 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 March 9, 2016.