

**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 March 9, 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 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D
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):

None

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

Betsy Ball, Principal of Mead Elementary
Josh Barnett, Principal of Mead Middle School
Rob Berry, Executive Director of Athletics, Activities and Fine Arts
Damon Brown, Executive Director of Human Resources/Risk Management/
Communications
Kahle Charles, Executive Director of Curriculum
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Traci Haley, Principal of Longmont Estates Elementary
Stephen Hoel, Principal of Rocky Mountain Elementary
Paige Jennings, District Physical Education Coordinator
Dr. Shirley Jirik, Principal of Centennial Elementary
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Doug Kudrna, Assistant Principal of Erie High School
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Kim Lancaster, APEX Homeschool Program Coordinator

Joe McBreen, Chief Technology Officer
Kerin McClure, Language Arts Coordinator
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Dina Perfetti-Deany, Executive Director of Human Resources
Linda Rawlings, Principal of Mead High School
Courtney Sakalosky, Longmont Estates Instructor
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor
Jessicca Shaffer, Longmont Estates Instructor
Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction
Scott Toillion, Planning Director
Jackie Whittington, Executive Director of Student Services

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

None

VISITORS (4.0)

Jessicca Shaffer introduced Longmont Estates special education student Henry Furuta and his parents. Dr. Don Haddad honored Henry with an Excellence in Education award for his knowledge of United States presidents.

Doug Kudrna introduced Erie High School students McKenna Brewer, Gretchen Riedel, and Cassidy Jensen who were present to discuss sex education instruction in the District.

Trip Merklein, President of the St. Vrain Valley Education Association.

Todd Snidow, Senior Vice President of George K. Baum was present for Report Item 6.4 Bond Refinance Update.

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

Board Reports

John Ahrens –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended From Our Lands to Your Hands event at the Boulder County Fairgrounds.
- Attended a Leadership St. Vrain Meeting.
- Attended Carbon Valley Chamber Member Appreciation Dinner.

- Attended LiveWell Longmont Meeting.
- Attended Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Community event.
- Attended the Carbon Valley *I Have a Dream* Dinner.
- Attended Audience with an Astronaut event at Erie High School-thanks to Kristina Stem who brought the grant to all schools in Erie.
- Attended Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley Face benefit concert-half proceeds went to the schools.
- Attended STEM School Night at Erie Elementary.

Debbie Lammers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Career Development Center Open House-thanks to Deniece Cook for hosting that event.
- Attended a Leadership St. Vrain Meeting.
- Attended an Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley Meeting.
- Attended Longmont City Council Meeting-great proposed 2016 Bond presentation by Dr. Haddad.
- Attended the CASB Winter Legislative Conference-very interesting presentations from Colorado Department of Education and State Board of Education.
- Recognized all school staff and administrators that made it possible to hold caucuses-thanks to everyone for getting the buildings ready.
- Attended the Thompson Valley School Board Meeting on February 17, 2016.

Dr. Richard Martyr –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended the St. Vrain Community Montessori Charter School Art Show-toured facility and met members of their Board.
- Met with Brian Lamer and Amory Siscoe to learn more about the District Operations Department.
- Attended the Carbon Valley *I Have a Dream* Dinner.
- Attended Leadership St. Vrain meeting-tremendous opportunity to learn about every facet of our District.
- Attended the Carbon Valley Chamber of Commerce Member Appreciation Dinner.
- Met with Dr. Haddad and Bob Smith about the Longmont High Watson Program.
- Attended a Silver Creek High School Booster Meeting.
- Attended a Longmont City Council Meeting.
- Attended Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Community event.
- Attended Sanborn Elementary Science Fair-tremendously inspiring.
- Attended LHS Smart Team-12 students toured biochemistry lab at CU Boulder-enjoyed presentations by their faculty.
- Met with staff at Silver Creek High School.
- Attended Silver Creek's Chinese New Year event-over 1,000 people participated and what a wonderful model for a connection with the community.
- Visited the Arriba program at Longmont High for Hispanic students-conducted mock job interviews in preparation for the Job Fair on March 10, 2016 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.
- Attended the Carbon Valley *I Have a Dream* Dinner.
- Attended Carbon Valley Chamber Member Appreciation Dinner.
- Attended Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Community event.
- Attended Mead Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting.
- Visited the Capitol in Denver with Grassroots St. Vrain-proposed six initiatives on school funding for the November ballot.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.
- Attended Hygiene Elementary Hawk Air event where the students “visited” Pluto.
- Attended the Carbon Valley *I Have a Dream* Dinner.
- Attended Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Committee event.
- Participated in Fire and Police Department safety demonstration/presentation at Lyons M/S-thank you to Stacy Davis for the outstanding job she does to keep the buildings in our District safe.
- Attended Sanborn Elementary Science Fair-participated as a judge and appreciated the opportunity.
- Thanks to Principal Linda Rawlings for her tour of Mead High School.
- Thanks to all the people that hosted the Longmont Chamber Unity in the Community and *I Have A Dream* events.

Amory Siscoe –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Met with Brian Lamer and Dr. Martyr to learn more about the District Operations Department.
- Attended the Carbon Valley *I Have a Dream* Dinner.
- Attended a Leadership St. Vrain Meeting.
- Attended Carbon Valley Chamber Member Appreciation Dinner.
- Attended Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Community event.
- Toured Spark! Discovery Preschool.
- Attended a Frederick City Council Meeting with Dr. Haddad.
- Toured Career Development Center-very impressed with those opportunities for students.
- Attended the St. Vrain Community Montessori Charter School Art Show and toured the school.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Thanked Mead High Principal Linda Rawlings for the Student Advisory presentation and her leadership.

- Congratulations to the District in being honored with the Large Business of the Year award by the Carbon Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- Announced the Job Fair to be held at the Boulder County Fairgrounds on March 10, 2016 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Commended Mead High School for a well-fought playoff basketball game.
- Good luck to Longmont High School in their state playoff basketball game on March 11, 2016.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Thanks to all the community members that showed up and participated in the great conversations about the proposed bond at all the schools and municipalities in our District.
- Announced that a Race to the Top event will bring 16 national winners to St. Vrain.
- Participated in the largest technology gathering in Denver-St. Vrain students have been asked to be involved in panel discussions.
- Attended Hygiene Elementary's Hawk Air Pluto event that Channel 9 News also attended-congratulations to parents, teachers, administration and students on a great event.
- Attended an Altona Middle School celebration for veterans-very proud of them to honor the veterans.
- Very proud of all staff, parents and students.

REPORTS (6.0)

Mead High School Student Advisory Council Feeder Report (6.1)

Jackie Kapushion was honored to serve the Mead feeder system. She introduced Mead Principal Linda Rawlings who recognized the administration that was in attendance from the Mead feeder system. Mead Student Advisory Council student Zack Rehder was in attendance. He introduced his mother who is a 2nd grade teacher at Mead Elementary. Students Noel Lopez-Avina, Sam Back, and James Maher were unable to attend the Board Meeting. Zack thanked the Board and stated that it was an honor to represent Mead High and the District at the CASB Convention. Zack presented a video featuring the Mead feeder system schools. Other Mead feeder system principals in attendance: Josh Barnett, Principal of Mead Middle School; Betsy Ball, Principal of Mead Elementary; and Dr. Shirley Jirik, Principal of Centennial Elementary. Board members thanked Zack for representing Mead High and our District, and Linda Rawlings for her leadership.

Board member Joie Siegrist announced that the May 14, 2016 Happy Smackah proceeds will benefit Mead High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Frank Buck.

Winter Athletics Report (6.2)

Rob Berry reported on the highlights of the winter athletics and music awards. He introduced Paige Jennings who reported on the \$1.4 million physical movement grant and the 100 Mile Club. Paige was very honored for the chance to report to the Board, and thanked them for the chance to come to the meeting and talk about her program.

Rob invited the Board to the Longmont High basketball playoff game on Friday, March 11, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at CU-Boulder Events Center. If they win on Friday night, they will play at the Events Center at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2016.

Dr. Haddad thanked Rob for doing a great job with so many varied responsibilities.

District Enrollment Projections 2016-2020 (6.3)

Scott Toillion gave an extensive report on the enrollment projections from 2016 to 2020. The Planning Department and the Long Range Facility Planning Committee (LRFPC) have evaluated a wide variety of indicators and developed enrollment projections for 2016-2020. The basis for determining these projections is a cohort-survival statistical model developed by the Planning Department that analyzes the student progression ratios and migration on a grade-by-grade basis. As part of this analysis, monthly enrollment counts; the number of lots with final plat approval; the number of building permits issued and anticipated by the local municipalities; birth data; private, charter and home school enrollment; open enrollment in and out the District; the real estate market; changes in student yield; potential educational/programmatic changes; economic forecasts developed by other entities; and impacts from new schools and attendance boundary changes are all evaluated.

There are many signs pointing to strong growth ahead, including strong housing demand, increased development activity in annexations, platting and issuance of building permits, and the increased draw of programming in the St. Vrain Valley Schools.

Based on this review, an estimate of 725 additional students is expected for the 2016 school year, with a total enrollment of 31,416 in 2016 (not including pre-school students). By 2020, based on the current trends and indicators, there is potential for a gain of 3,809 students (762 per year) for an enrollment of 34,500 at the mid-level.

Based on recent growth, building capacity will become a significantly greater issue moving forward. Since the last bond election (2008) for new schools and capacity, the District has added 5,774 students. With the projected growth out to 2020, the District could see a total of 9,583 new students added to the District since the last bond. The urgent need for new and expanded educational facilities extends across all areas of the District.

Bond Refinance Update (6.4)

Greg Fieth reported that the District took advantage of historically low interest rates and refinanced over \$115,000,000 of its General Obligation bonds. Lower interest rates result in lower than projected property tax mill levies for all property taxpayers within the District. The refinancing will save taxpayers \$20,147,470 of interest expense over the remaining life of the bonds. This savings will be reflected in lower interest payments due on the District debt through the year 2033. Annual savings to District taxpayers will be between \$354,000 and \$3,024,400 per year between 2023 and 2033. This is the fifth bond refinancing the District has done since 2010, resulting in a total gross savings of over \$34.45 million.

The solid bond ratings of the District contributed significantly to the overall savings. The District's strong financial position, financial management policies and procedures, and business and community support have allowed the District to hold one of the top bond ratings for a school district in the state of Colorado. Ratings of "Aa2" from Moody's and "AA" from Standard and Poor's allowed the District to lock in lower interest rates and save taxpayers on future interest payments.

Todd Snidow, Senior Vice President of George K. Baum was present to describe the benefits of the bond refinance to the District/taxpayers.

Update on Small Talk, Big Results-A Birth to Three Reading Initiative (6.5)

Connie Syferd provided the Board of Education with an update on a community initiative designed to build language awareness and reinforce reading success for our youngest learners, ages birth to three.

Connie Syferd reported that she will be attending the Longmont City Council Meeting on April 12, 2016 to give a report on the 0 to 3 Initiative. She provided that there is a link on the District website <http://www.svvsd.org/about/departments/small-talk-big-results-birth-three-reading-initiative> that describes the Initiative, and she will be asking the City of Longmont to provide a link on their website as well.

Shela Blankinship reported on the 0 to 3 Initiative, and announced that the Week of the Young Child event will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Mountain View Elementary School.

Dr. Haddad added that he will put Connie in contact with the administrators of the Longmont YMCA to see if they could collaborate for more preschool space, late start day activities, and summer programs.

Board members thanked Connie and Shela for their extensive report and leadership.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.4 and 7.6 through 7.9. John Ahrens seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the February 10, 2016 and the February 24, 2016 Regular Meetings
4. Approval: Approval to Purchase iPads from Apple, Inc.

6. Approval: Approval of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) for Playground Equipment Replacement & Upgrade Project at Various Schools
7. Approval: Approval of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) for ESC Support Center & Maintenance Building Project
8. Approval: Approval of Architect Selection for Mead High Addition & Renovation Project
9. Approval: Approval of Architect Selection for Innovation Center Project

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].

Consent Item 7.5 was pulled for further discussion.

5. Approval: Approval of Contract Award-Alternative Transportation Solutions

Jackie Whittington and Brian Lamer explained to the Board why the District has chosen to contract out for special transportation needs for a select group of special education students, and that it would be a door-to-door service. Board members were concerned with the cost provisions and asked Brian Lamer to research the benefit of contracting for these services each year. They were assured that the drivers were held to the same high standards as District bus drivers.

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.5. Amory Siscoe seconded.

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 (8.0)

Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal of Erie Middle School (8.1)

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Ms. Kim Watry as Principal of Erie Middle School, effective July 1, 2016. Amory Siscoe seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that Ms. Watry graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder,

with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She continued her education at the University of Phoenix where she completed her Master's in Education, Administration and Supervision.

Ms. Watry has ten years of administrative experience and, for the past three years, she has served as a Principal of Cal Young Middle School in Eugene, Oregon. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Principal at Longs Peak Middle School in St. Vrain. She was also a Community Administrator in the Cherry Creek School District. She has direct experience with 1:1 iPad integration initiatives and Springboard curriculum. Prior to that, Ms. Watry was a middle school teacher for eight years with a focus on science and math curriculum. Annual salary will be according to schedule.

Ms. Watry was unable to attend the Board Meeting, but Ella shared a letter that Ms. Watry wrote to the Board.

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].

Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal of Burlington Elementary School (8.2)

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Ms. Kerin McClure as Principal of Burlington Elementary School, effective July 1, 2016. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that Ms. McClure graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts in English with Honors. She continued her education at Capella University where she completed her Master of Science in Education. She received her Principal Licensure from Colorado State University.

Ms. McClure has served as Instructional Coordinator of Language Arts in St. Vrain Valley for five years, where she has been instrumental in leading the innovation and adoptions of new language arts curriculum at all grade levels, aiding to expand literacy. Prior to that, she was an elementary teacher at Mountain View Elementary School for seven years. She also taught middle school at John Bosco K-8 School in Phoenix, Arizona, and at Fairmount Elementary in Everett, Washington. Ms. McClure has been the recipient of the SVVSD Encore Award and SVVSD Teacher of the Month. Annual salary will be according to schedule.

Ms. McClure thanked the Board for the opportunity and is looking forward to working with the Burlington community.

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].

Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal of Blue Mountain Elementary School (8.3)

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Mr. Stephen Hoel as Principal of Blue Mountain Elementary School, effective July 1, 2016. Joie Siegrist seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that Mr. Hoel graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies and an emphasis in Elementary Education. He continued his education at the University of Northern Colorado where he completed his Master's in Education Leadership.

Mr. Hoel's entire career has taken place in St. Vrain Valley. He has thirteen years of administrative experience and, for the past nine years, he has served as Principal of Rocky Mountain Elementary where he integrated several innovation programs including the new District STEM initiative. Prior to that, he was the Principal at Prairie Ridge Elementary for four years. He was also an elementary school teacher at both Northridge Elementary School and Fall River Elementary School for a total of six years where, during his teaching career, was awarded the AMGEN Teacher of the Year Award. Annual salary will be according to schedule.

Stephen was very excited to begin his new role at Blue Mountain Elementary. He thanked Ella, Dr. Haddad, and the Board for this opportunity.

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].

Approval of Recommendation to Hire Executive Director of Student Services (8.4)

Joie Siegrist moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Mr. Bryan Krause as Executive Director of Student Services, effective July 1, 2016. Paula Peairs seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that Mr. Krause graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing Education. He continued his education at the University of Colorado where he completed his Master's in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Instructional Leadership, where he also received his Principal/Administrator Licensure.

Mr. Krause previously worked as Director of Student Services and Emergency Management in Jefferson County School District where he created and implemented the Suicide Risk Assessment and developed professional learning opportunities for mental health professionals. Mr. Krause oversaw the budget of the Student Services Department and received the Counselor Corps Grants, which is the largest grant given

by Colorado Department of Education. Prior to that, he was the Principal at Windy Peak Lab School in Jefferson County School District. He was also a Principal at Platte Canyon High School in Platte Canyon School District for six years. Annual salary will be according to schedule.

Mr. Krause introduced his wife, Shelley, and thanked her for her patience in all his career moves. He was very happy to start his new position, and thanked everyone that believed in him. He thanked Connie Syferd for the tour of Student Services. He was very impressed with the department, and felt everyone was very kind and welcoming.

Board members thanked Jackie Whittington for her many years of leadership.

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].

Approval of Recommendation to Hire Executive Director of Special Education (8.5)

Amory Siscoe moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Ms. Laura Hess as Executive Director of Special Education, effective July 1, 2016. John Ahrens seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that Ms. Hess graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She continued her education at California State Dominguez Hills in Carson, California, where she completed her Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction. She received her Master of Arts in School Leadership from Concordia University in Chicago, Illinois.

Ms. Hess previously worked as a Project Manager for MAXIMUS, Inc., where she supported school districts with implementation of online modules in the areas of Special Education, 504, Response to Intervention and Service Capture products. Prior to that, she was the Special Education Divisional Director in Oak Park, Illinois. She was also a District Special Education Coordinator in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Ms. Hess was a Special Education Teacher for six years and also served as part of the IAA Test Coordinator Committee, Autism Resource Team, Innovative Technology Committee and ISBE LRE Cohort Co-Leader. Annual salary will be according to schedule.

Ms. Hess introduced her husband, Brad, and thanked the Board for this opportunity. She was very happy and excited to get started.

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].

Approval of Recommendation to Hire Assistant Superintendent of the Innovation Center (8.6)

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to move Ms. Patty Quinones into the Assistant Superintendent position of the Innovation Center, July 1, 2016. Paula Peairs seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that Ms. Quinones graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Health. She continued her education at the University of Northern Colorado where she completed her Master's in Educational Leadership.

Ms. Quinones currently serves as the Executive Director of the Innovation Center. She is responsible for overseeing the Race to the Top Federal grant (\$16.6 million). The Innovation Center is providing a pipeline for students in St. Vrain to be involved in mentorships, internships, and client-based employment projects. Due to her success with the Innovation Center, Ms. Quinones has been asked to present at many national and regional educational conferences. Prior to that, she served as Principal at Skyline High School for five years; she transformed and developed the STEM & Visual Performing Arts Academies, which currently have over 600 students as part of these certification programs.

Ms. Quinones also organized efforts to implement Industry Partnerships (25), 1:1 Laptop Initiative, Mini-STEM Academy, and Computer Science classes at the secondary level. Annual salary will be according to schedule.

Ms. Quinones was thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to improve on the programs she started. She thanked the Board and Dr. Haddad for their continued support. She recognized Regina Renaldi's mentorship, and thanked her family and spouse for supporting her.

Board members thanked her for her work and were truly amazed at the things that are happening at the Innovation 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].

Adoption of Textbooks for Elementary Language Arts Program (8.7)

Amory Siscoe moved that the Board of Education approve the adoption and purchase of *ReadyGen*, Pearson Education, 2014 for elementary language arts; and, that the Board of Education approves a purchase contract to Pearson Education for these materials not to exceed \$2,310,000.00 in FY16, based on the estimated student enrollment for 2016-2017. Paula Peairs seconded.

Kahle Charles reported that, during the fall of 2014, an instructional materials adoption committee made up of elementary teachers, several representatives from the Department of Learning Services, and principals from across the District representing grades kindergarten through five, was formed to evaluate elementary language arts programs, pilot the selected program, and recommend a program for adoption by the St. Vrain Board of Education. The committee reviewed the Colorado Academic Standards, current District curriculum and effective teaching practices in language arts. Utilizing these resources, they developed an evaluation form for elementary language arts programs.

Materials were solicited from ten publishers for initial review and consideration, providing diversity in approaches and philosophy. Publisher presentations were conducted for three of the candidate programs and a final selection was made for the pilot. Thirty-seven teachers volunteered to pilot for the 2015-2016 school year, representing all District elementary schools.

Kerin McClure introduced teachers Amy Criswell, 1st grade at Alpine Elementary, and Nadine Vitullo, 4th grade at Legacy Elementary, that piloted the textbooks.

Board members thanked the teachers for the work that they did to test the textbooks.

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].

First Reading, Discussion, Board Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements (8.8)

Joie Siegrist moved that the Board of Education approve the revisions to Board Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements. Paula Peairs seconded.

State graduation requirements have changed, and school districts have had to find a way to make sure the old guidelines are still available for students entering the 9th grade in 2016, as well as new guidelines for students entering the 9th grade in 2017. St. Vrain's previous guidelines were approved by the Board Policy Overhaul Project in October of 2015. The new guidelines were approved by the Board on January 27, 2016. The attorney for the District recommended both the old and the new guidelines be combined until such a time where the old requirements are no longer needed. The Board packet included the old and the new guidelines separately and then the revised Board policy that includes both guidelines.

Board members had a few minor edits to the policy, but it was suggested that the Board take action on this Board policy at tonight's Board Meeting since it was simply a combination of what had been approved on October 28, 2015 and January 27, 2016.

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 (9.0)

Bond Planning Process Update (9.1)

Brian Lamer updated the Board of Education on the bond planning process. The 2016 Bond Citizen Advisory Team (CAT) has been assembled with the first meeting planned for March 17, 2016. The team will review objectives and roles of the committee as well as agendas and future bond discussions.

The Operations team continues to refine the proposed 2016 bond measure in anticipation of the first CAT meeting. Presently, the measure addresses capacity mitigation, safety, building preservation and educational improvements to an appropriate degree in every school in St. Vrain.

The Operations team is planning to propose two plans to the CAT in the near future. The most recent changes will include a review of charter schools as well as refinements to existing scopes that will change the cost of the proposal and balance needs and resources.

Should the proposed 2016 bond measure be approved by voters in November, it will strengthen the economic energy throughout the region. Voters with and without students will benefit from a stronger economy with schools that have addressed critical repairs, safety, classroom capacity and educational enhancements. Students will enjoy learning in safe environments designed to enhance every learning opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT (10.0)

Amory Siscoe moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m., and Joie Siegrist seconded.

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].

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 April 13, 2016.