

**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 October 12, 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  
Paula Peairs, Treasurer, Director District F  
Dr. Richard Martyr, Director District E  
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:**

Rob Berry, Executive Director of Athletics, Activities, and Fine Arts  
Ruby Bode, Assistant Principal of Erie Middle School  
Damon Brown, Executive Director of HR/Risk Management/Communications  
Matt Buchler, Principal of Erie High School  
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management  
DeAnn Dykes, Assistant Principal of Black Rock Elementary  
Lauren Eker, Principal of Erie Elementary  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs and Academic Support  
Cathy O'Donnell, Principal of Black Rock Elementary  
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Regina Renaldi, Area 3 Assistant Superintendent for Priority Schools

Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction  
Kim Watry, Principal of Erie Middle School  
Cyrus Weinberger, Principal of Red Hawk Elementary

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

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

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

None

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

Dr. Haddad introduced Josie Heath, who has been the President of the Community Foundation of Boulder County for 25 years. He presented a Superintendent's Excellence in Education award to her for her years of service to our county-wide community. Her husband, Senator Rollie Heath, was in attendance. The Board members thanked them both for a lifetime of service to the citizens of Boulder County and the St. Vrain Valley School District.

Trip Merklein, President of the St. Vrain Education Association-did not address the Board.

Retired SVVSD Bus Dispatcher Jim Berthold-did not address the Board.

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

#### **Board Reports**

John Ahrens –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Welcomed all students, staff, and parents that were present from Erie schools.
- Attended the Erie Elementary 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration-long-time Erie Elementary teacher Charlie Garcia was honored.
- Honored to be involved with the District's implementation of computer sciences into the curriculum-amazed at the support that school administration, staff, and public have for this instructional addition.

Debbie Lammers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Continues to be very involved in various committees on behalf of SVVSD and CASB.
- Thanked Anton Dworak, Attorney from the Lyons, Gaddis, Kahn & Hall law firm, for making himself available annually for parent organization financial trainings. Thanks to Joanne Harbert and Greg Fieth for setting it up every year.

- Thanked Grassroots St. Vrain for accompanying Board members to the parent group and community meetings as they provided invaluable information on the bond measure and state-wide school financing.
- Thanked the Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley for their work and for hosting the first annual Innovation Gala.
- Thanked Dr. Haddad for inviting the Board members to school staff meetings.
- Continues to attend state meetings on behalf of CASB-latest Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) Advisory Board Meeting presented an interesting report on Safe2Tell and will pass that information along to CASB. Thanked Stacy Davis for being involved in CSSRC.
- Will be attending CASB Fall Delegate Assembly in Ft. Collins October 14 & 15.

Dr. Richard Martyr –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Reported that, in all school and community events, he has found the same resounding support for the bond even from schools that will not have a major project in the bond. The care in which the District has made in their investments, the quality of education occurring in the classroom, and attracting and recruiting the very best teachers has earned the trust of the community. Congratulated the Professional Development Department for induction programs that provide the support to bring great new teachers into the District and to give them the support to remain and enhance their classroom skills.
- Acknowledged the high professionalism at Longs Peak Middle School after the death of long-time teacher Matt Barz and Longmont High after the death of Jared Sommervold. Staff at both schools provided tremendous support as did the entire District for the students. It was a tremendous privilege to witness the support the teachers themselves provided to each other so as not to skip a beat to continue the excellent education that Jared and Matt embodied.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Terrific support for the bond from all the school/community events-thanks for the terrific job Grassroots St. Vrain does by coordinating with all the schools to present information about the bond.
- Found that all schools are supportive of the bond even if they aren't scheduled to receive significant funds.
- Thanks to Ken Schuetz and the bond campaign committee for the tremendous effort and time that they are all contributing as volunteers.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Parent and community group support has been incredible everywhere she visits.
- Recognized Lyons Community BBQ-thanks to everyone that made that happen.
- Recognized Jane Frederick, Senior District Accountant, for the work she does on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)-asked Greg Fieth to pass the Board's appreciation along to Jane.

Amory Siscoe –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Legacy Elementary Parent Update Meeting-impressed with the interaction between the parents and students regarding curriculum.
- Judged the Frederick Miners' Day Parade-great participation from staff and students from area schools.
- Met with Joe McBreen for a tour of the District Technology Services facility-met with staff and students that are hired to repair computers.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Commended Dr. Haddad and all the administrators for the tremendous amount of time spent informing the community about the bond. He has witnessed the respect that this District has earned in the community, and the work of the staff is recognized throughout the Front Range.
- Thanked Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley, Trip Merklein and his staff at the St. Vrain Valley Education Association, and Grassroots St. Vrain (GSV) for their work on getting information to residents about the bond election. He encouraged everyone to watch the videos about school finance on the GSV website.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Thanked all staff for their hard work and dedication getting information about the bond election to our communities, and is truly amazed at the overwhelming support of the staff and community.

### **REPORTS (6.0)**

#### **Erie High School Student Advisory Council Feeder Report (6.1)**

Mark Mills gave a brief history about the student advisory group. He then introduced Erie High School Principal Matt Buchler who then introduced Erie Student Advisory Council students Cole Knudson, Ryan Peng, Audra Alvarado, and Katie Huonder. The students showcased special programs about each of the Erie feeder system schools. Matt thanked the students for their outstanding report and introduced two parents that were present at the Board Meeting. Other Erie feeder system principals in attendance: Lauren Eker, Principal of Erie Elementary School; Kim Watry, Principal of Erie Middle School; Cathy O'Donnell, Principal of Black Rock Elementary; and Cyrus Weinberger, Principal of Red Hawk Elementary.

Each student introduced themselves and told the Board of their plans for the future.

Board member John Ahrens praised the students on their presentation, and conveyed his pride to serve the citizens of Erie.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016/2017 Gifts to Schools (6.2)**

Greg Fieth provided the Board of Education with a list of public gifts given to the St. Vrain Valley School District for the first quarter of the 2016-2017 school year totaling \$89,120.80. In comparison, last year there were \$90,000 in donations.

**Bond Refinance Update (6.3)**

Greg Fieth reported that the St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J took advantage of historically low interest rates and refinanced over \$14,390,000 of its outstanding General Obligation bonds on September 28, 2016. Lower interest rates resulted in lower than projected property tax mill levies for all property taxpayers within the District. The refinancing will save taxpayers \$2,777,373 of interest expense over the remaining life of these bonds. This savings will be reflected in lower interest payments due on the District debt from 2017 through the year 2022. Annual savings to District taxpayers will be between \$116,000 and \$1,211,825 per year between 2017 and 2022. This is the sixth bond refinancing the District has done since 2010, resulting in a total gross taxpayer savings of over \$37.2 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 St. Vrain Valley Schools to hold one of the top bond ratings for a school district in the state of Colorado. Ratings of "Aa2" from Moody's allowed the District to lock in lower interest rates and save taxpayers on future interest payments. These ratings are a direct reflection of the support our parents, teachers, staff, businesses, and community members have provided.

Board members thanked Greg for the detailed information he provided.

**CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)**

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.1 through 7.4. Paula Peairs seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the September 14, 2016 Regular Meeting, the September 21, 2016 Study Session, and the September 28, 2016 Regular Meeting
4. Approval: Approval of Renewal of Fourth Amendment to Sublease Agreement for Communications Tower with American Towers, LLC

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)**

**Adoption of Resolution Approving 2016-2017 District Employee Membership in Colorado High School Activities Association (8.1)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education adopt a resolution approving 2016-2017 District employee membership in CHSAA. Amory Siscoe seconded.

The Board of Education recognizes the services of the individuals listed in the resolution to be within the scope of employment of school district personnel and within the performance of such personnel's duties as employees of the school district, as members of the Board of Directors of the CHSAA or as a member of other CHSAA committees, Legislative Council or interscholastic activity league committees under CHSAA.

Rob Berry	Administration	Music, Football, Sportsmanship & Education Foundation
Marty Tonjes	Silver Creek	Volleyball
Rob Johnson	Silver Creek	Soccer & Steinmark Scholarship
Kathy Leiding	Lyons	Executive Board
Chase McBride	Niwot	Baseball Committee, Playoff Organization, Baseball Seeding, Softball Pairing, Softball State Tournament Seeding
Mike Green	Skyline	Seeding Boys and Girls Soccer & Sportsmanship
Ernie Derrera	Frederick	Boys & Girls Swim/Dive & Wrestling

Dr. Haddad thanked Mr. Berry for his support and leadership. Board members asked Mr. Berry to pass on their appreciation to staff members that have extra duties with CHSAA. They also thanked him for how committed he is to each student's personal success, without regard to winning or losing, and for the extra duty he has undoubtedly incurred in order to attend so many District and school sports and fine arts functions.

Mr. Berry invited the Board members to the District Chorale Festival at Longmont High School on Wednesday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m.

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 Resolution Proclaiming Classified School Employees Week, October 17-21, 2016 (8.2)**

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve a Resolution proclaiming October 17-21, 2016 as "Classified School Employees Week". Amory Siscoe seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that proclaiming this date as Classified School Employees Week will help to promote public awareness of the importance of classified employees in the public school system. Board member Joie Siegrist read the resolution.

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 Carbon Valley Charter School Bond Construction Projects Agreement (8.3)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve the presented Agreement for Funding of Capital Construction and Operating Revenue Needs for Carbon Valley Academy in the amount of \$294,000.00, and further authorize the Board President to sign the Agreement document. Joie Siegrist seconded.

Dr. Haddad wanted it to be very clear that, even though the memo to the Board and the Agreements along with these charter school Action Items and the title of the Agreement states “Operating Revenue Needs”, this bond is strictly for capital construction and not for operating expenses whatsoever. Dr. Haddad also shared that all charter schools are very aware that this bond money would only be used for building capital construction projects, and that the Exhibits attached to the Agreements for each charter school clarify that.

Greg Fieth reported that this Agreement is required by state statute prior to submitting a ballot question for bonded indebtedness that includes a charter school’s capital construction needs. Board President Robert J. Smith reported that he, Brian Lamer, Dr. Haddad and Terry Schueler have all met with each charter school, and they have all expressed that the capital construction requests they submitted will meet their needs. Greg reported that, should the charters cease to exist or change ownership, property will revert back to the District.

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 Flagstaff Academy Bond Construction Projects Agreement (8.4)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve the presented Agreement for Funding of Capital Construction and Operating Revenue Needs for Flagstaff Academy in the amount of \$860,000.00, and further authorize the Board President to sign the Agreement document. Debbie Lammers seconded.

Brian Lamer assured the Board members that the same process that the District uses to make improvements to District schools are used for the charter school improvements.

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 Imagine Charter School Bond Construction Projects Agreement (8.5)**

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve the presented Agreement for Funding of Capital Construction and Operating Revenue Needs for Imagine Charter School of Firestone in the amount of \$75,000.00, and further authorize the Board President to sign the Agreement document. 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].

**Approval of St. Vrain Community Montessori School Bond Construction Projects Agreement (8.6)**

Joie Siegrist moved that the Board of Education approve the presented Agreement for Funding of Capital Construction and Operating Revenue Needs for St. Vrain Community Montessori School in the amount of \$240,000.00, and further authorize the Board President to sign the Agreement document. Debbie Lammers 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].

**Approval of Twin Peaks Charter Academy Bond Construction Projects Agreement (8.7)**

Amory Siscoe moved that the Board of Education approve the presented Agreement for Funding of Capital Construction and Operating Revenue Needs for Twin Peaks Charter Academy in the amount of \$889,300.00, and further authorize the Board President to sign the Agreement document. John Ahrens 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].

**Approval of Accreditation Recommendations for District Schools (8.8)**

Debbie Lammers moved that the Board of Education approve the accreditation recommendations for schools within the St. Vrain Valley School District. Amory Siscoe seconded.



Tori Teague reported that the District Accountability/Accreditation Committee is made up of parents and community members, an elementary principal, a secondary principal, and a teacher. She works with the Committee as the liaison from the District. The Committee met on October 4, 2016 to review the performance of the District's schools.

The Committee follows the guidelines of SB 09-163 to recommend accreditation levels for schools and uses Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) School Performance Frameworks to identify accreditation levels of schools. The framework considers the following data areas to determine school accreditation levels; Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, and Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness. Olde Columbine High School is a CDE-approved alternative campus and uses different assessment data for the framework calculations. APEX Home School Enrichment Program is a non-traditional school and does not have the same state assessment data as other schools.

The Committee recommends District Learning Services' personnel meet with schools that are accredited with an improvement, priority improvement, or turnaround plan. At those meetings, schools are asked to answer questions about their current performance, plans to improve that performance, for any additional data that the school might have collected, and what support needs to be provided by the District. The Committee also may request to meet with schools and/or District Learning Services to discuss school improvement plans.

Dr. Haddad reported that he and the administrators decided to develop plans with the principals and the community of those schools that need assistance before the holiday break. A second planning meeting could be scheduled, if needed. There will be a special meeting with the Board on January 5, 2017 from 1-3 p.m. with the principals to go over the plans for assistance that the group has developed. At the January 11, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, the Board will have an opportunity to approve the plan to support those schools.

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)**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT (10.0)**

Amory Siscoe moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. John Ahrens 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 November 9, 2016.