

**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 26, 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 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D
Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B (arrived at 6:36 pm)
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:

Carrie Adams, Silver Creek Leadership Academy Coordinator
Ryan Ball, Principal of Eagle Crest Elementary
Kevin Brown, Director of Choral Music for Frederick High School
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management
Ernie Derrera, Frederick High Athletic Director/Assistant Principal
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Erick Finnestead, Principal of Silver Creek High School
Jane Frederick, Senior District Accountant
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Traci Haley, Principal of Longmont Estates Elementary
Stephen Hoel, Principal of Blue Mountain Elementary
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Jeremy LaCrosse, Principal of Altona Middle School
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs and Academic Support

Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Jill Ripa, Frederick High School Theatre Director
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor
Patty Quinones, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation Center

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

None

VISITORS (4.0)

Jackie Kapushion introduced Ernie Derrera, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal of Frederick High School. Ernie introduced a portion of the cast members of Frederick High's production of "Beauty and the Beast", and they performed a few musical pieces. Ernie thanked Frederick High School Theatre Director Jill Ripa and Director of Choral Music Kevin Brown for this monumental task of producing this musical theatrical performance with over 70 students.

Dr. Haddad reported that there would be no bond campaign committee report because Ken Schuetz was unable to attend the meeting. He did announce that the Board was invited to an event that was scheduled to watch the election results. Board President Bob Smith recognized everyone that participated in canvassing the neighborhoods and honk and wave events.

Matt Marino and Cheryl Wallace, RubinBrown, LLP, were present to report on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report-Action Item 7.3.

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

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

Superintendent's Report

- Visited Black Rock and Skyline-incredible work teachers in both schools are doing and thanked community members for their support.
- Enjoyed the Silver Creek students' projects in Justelle Grandsaert's Civics class-- had a great time talking to students about their projects.
- Looking forward to fall athletic playoffs; several schools are involved. Full report will be given in January by Rob Berry.

- Thanks to everyone at the Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley (EFSVV) for the 2016 Innovation Gala—huge success with over 400 attendants. Board President Bob Smith also thanked everyone at EFSVV for their work organizing and hosting the Gala.
- Pointed out that SVVSD students were offered college scholarships for 2015 graduates totaling \$16.5 million and totaled \$25 million in 2016.
- Announced Hygiene Elementary’s STEAM After Dark event on November 3, 2016 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- Announced that the Communications Department is about to publish the new High School Options literature-thanked the Communications team for their outstanding publications.
- Discussed the *Times-Call* editorial about graduation rates across Colorado—wanted everyone to be mindful of the numbers reported because all Colorado school districts vary in that there are very different graduation requirements among them. St. Vrain’s graduation requirements are significantly more rigorous than what other Colorado school districts require, and yet SVVSD continually has higher graduation rates than the state-wide rate.

REPORTS (5.0)

Silver Creek High School Advisory Council Feeder Report (5.1)

Mark Mills introduced Silver Creek High School Principal Erick Finnestead who then introduced Silver Creek Student Advisory Council students Austin Leech, Jacob Boettcher, Parker Nicholas, Katie Emberley and Delaney Tureson. Students from each Silver Creek feeder system gave an interactive nearpod.com presentation based on the theme of “Innovation”. Erick thanked the students for their outstanding report and for the support of their parents. Other Silver Creek feeder system principals in attendance: Jeremy LaCrosse, Principal of Altona Middle School; Stephen Hoel, Principal of Blue Mountain Elementary School; Ryan Ball, Principal of Eagle Crest Elementary; and Traci Haley, Principal of Longmont Estates Elementary. Dr. Haddad and the Board commended the students for their presentation and appreciated the leadership that they demonstrated. Dr. Haddad also thanked Carrie Adams for her role as the Director of the Silver Creek Leadership Academy.

Safety/Security Report (5.2)

Stacy Davis reported on the four safety/security areas of activity: physical facility assessments; climate and culture promotes positive interpersonal relationships; accessing information to avert violence and destructive behavior; and emergency readiness. The safety/security report was discussed at length at the October 19, 2016 Study Session, and Stacy recapped the most important aspects of that discussion. Dr. Haddad announced that administration is planning to host a community event around safety/security so that Stacy can showcase safety/security procedures in our schools.

Board members commended Stacy for her in-depth report and for being appointed to Governor Hickenlooper's Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council. The Board members appreciated the progress and success of her leadership with the District.

2015-2016 Scholarship Recipients (5.3)

Dr. Haddad provided the Board of Education with information relative to the local high school scholarships awarded to 2015-2016 District graduates. The sponsors of these scholarships range from civic organizations and local businesses to families who have set up scholarships in memory of loved ones. Students were awarded a total of \$530,552 in local scholarships and awards. In addition, students were offered a total of \$24,730,876 in scholarships and awards from colleges and universities across the country.

CONSENT ITEMS (6.0)

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.1 and 6.2. John Ahrens seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Contract Increase-Niwot High School Corridor Wall Upgrades Project
2. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Exhibit JFABB-E – Admission of Non-Immigrant Foreign Exchange Students

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 Aspen Ridge Preparatory School Bond Construction Projects Agreement (7.1)

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education approve the presented Agreement for Funding of Capital Construction and Operating Revenue Needs for Aspen Ridge Preparatory School in the amount of \$4,778,730.00, and further authorize the Board President to sign the Agreement document. John Ahrens seconded.

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. He assured the Board that the funds aren't given to the charter school, but are retained and managed by the district just as any other school building project would be. It is to be used only for capital construction and not for the operating expenses of the 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].

Approval of Request to Grant Exception to Conflict of Interest Policy GBEA (7.2)

Amory Siscoe moved that the Board of Education allow an exception to the current Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest Board Policy GBEA. This exception would enable Jeanette Welch, a substitute teacher in the District, to sell a violin to the Coal Ridge Middle School Orchestra Program. John Ahrens seconded.

Board Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/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 its schools or staff goods or services of any kind without express prior written consent of the Board of Education."

Greg Fieth reported that Jeanette Welch is a substitute teacher in the District. She has offered to sell a violin to the Coal Ridge Middle School Orchestra Program for student use for \$100.00. This would be the same cost as if it were purchased from any other music vendor.

Since Ms. Welch is an employee and she would like to sell the violin to benefit the Orchestra Program, she is requesting a waiver from Policy GBEA.

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].

Acceptance of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) (7.3)

Joie Siegrist moved that the Board of Education accept the 2016 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. Paula Peairs seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that the 2016 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was audited by the certified public accounting firm of RubinBrown, LLP. At the worksession prior to this meeting, Matt Marino and Cheryl Wallace from RubinBrown reviewed the 2016 CAFR with the Board in detail and reported that the audit has an "unmodified opinion" which means that the District audit had no concerns, discrepancies or issues. Matt and Cheryl thanked the Financial Services team for their diligence in providing excellent financial reporting.

Jane Frederick thanked Greg Fieth, the Financial Services team, RubinBrown, the teachers, staff, and parents for collectively being part of the larger picture that supports student achievement and excellence.

Board members congratulated Jane Frederick for being awarded, again, with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association, and noted that students have wonderful programs to choose from due to the strong financial reporting and oversight that Jane and the Financial Services team provides.

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)

None

ADJOURNMENT (9.0)

John Ahrens moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Amory Siscoe 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.