

**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 November 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
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:

Rachael Ayers, Principal of Mead High School
Damon Brown, Executive Director of HR/Risk Management/Communications
Sean Corey, Principal of Legacy Elementary
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management
Chad Eisentrager, Mead High Athletic Director/Assistant Principal
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Paige Gordon, Principal of Spark! Discovery School
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Shirley Jirik, Principal of Centennial Elementary
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Jason Klatt, Mead High School Football Coach
Bryan Krause, Executive Director of Student Services
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs and Academic Support
Jen Mayer, District Gifted/Talented Secondary Coordinator

Kirsten McNeill, Principal of Prairie Ridge Elementary
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent
Mary Miner, Executive Director of Human Resources
Dr. Karen Musick, Principal of Thunder Valley K-8
Liza Nybo, Principal of Coal Ridge Middle School
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Dina Perfetti-Deany, Executive Director of Human Resources
Regina Renaldi, Area 3 Assistant Superintendent of Priority Schools
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor
Brandon Shaffer, Ex Dir of Legal/Govt Affairs/Community Outreach/P-TECH
Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction
Brian Young, Principal of Frederick High School

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

Board President Robert J. Smith thanked the Bond Campaign Committee, Grassroots St. Vrain, fellow Board members, staff, and community members for their collaborative effort to gain the trust of the community on behalf of the bond. He appreciates the social and civic leaders that stood behind the District, and wanted them to be assured that the District will use those funds conservatively, as always. He recognized the Communications Department for keeping the community informed about the bond. He reminded everyone that our Board of Education's primary directive and single guiding principle is the District mission statement, and then read that mission statement to everyone.

Dr. Haddad echoed the Board President's statements, and thanked the community that rallied around our school district in support of the bond. Dr. Haddad reported on the school districts in the state that did not pass their bond/mill levy in this election and how difficult it will be for them in the coming years. He noted all the wonderful things St. Vrain was going to be able to accomplish with the passing of the bond, and reminded everyone that the District will continue to put updates on the website as the projects progress. The Board President thanked Dr. Haddad for the tireless work and personal time he put in to getting the word out about the bond.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

Myra Tran and Ray Cruz-Silver Creek High School students--attended the Board Meeting as part of their Government Civics in Action Project to encourage the Board to consider increasing Fine Arts graduation credits.

VISITORS (4.0)

Jackie Kapushion introduced Mead High Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Chad Eisentrager who then introduced Mead High Football Coach Jason Klatt. Jason was

recognized for being named Denver Broncos Coach of the Week. Jason recognized Chad for being a great addition to Mead High and was thankful to be in his fifth year in the District working for such a great community. Dr. Haddad visited Mead High recently and was extremely impressed with how well behaved and respectful the student athletes were in study hall. Dr. Haddad thanked Jason for inspiring the students on the field and in the classroom. The Board members thanked Jason for being a great role model, and wished the team good luck on their first playoff game on Saturday, November 12, at 1:00 pm at Lewis-Palmer High School in Monument, Colorado, against Palmer Ridge High School.

Dr. Diane Lauer introduced Executive Director of Student Services Bryan Krause who introduced Jen Mayer, the District Gifted & Talented Coordinator for 23 secondary schools. Mr. Krause announced that Jen was nominated by the Colorado Department of Education for Gifted & Talented Educator of the Year and read the nomination application prepared by her peers. Jen was given a Superintendent's Excellence in Education Award by Dr. Haddad for her nomination. Jen thanked the Board and Dr. Haddad for the honor on behalf of the entire Student Services Department.

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:

- Honored to be on the Governor's Computer Science Task Force-discussed how to get teachers the training they need in this field.
- Toured Google in Boulder-they are concentrating on getting back into the educational market.
- Attended a full-day event with the Computer Science Task Force for Colorado-Patty Quinones was a speaker where they discussed how to give students more opportunities at the Innovation Center to be in business to make money, and how to train our teachers to lead the charge. Discussed House Bill 16-1198 concerning computer science courses fulfilling certain graduation requirements, and House Bill 16-1289 concerning incentives to complete career development courses.

Debbie Lammers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended CASB Fall Delegate Assembly-each school board provides a delegate to the Assembly. Priority resolutions concerning the upcoming state legislative session

were debated, discussed, and voted on. Debbie will bring forward more details as the session starts.

- Attended Sunset Middle School's IB Middle Years Program luncheon during the state IB coordinators' two-day visit to verify application accreditations-visitors were very impressed with how many administrators/Board members came to the luncheon, and Sunset should hear results within a few months.
- Attended Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley (EFSVV) Board Meeting-they were recognized as a vital contributor to our success in the District. Thanks to all members of the EFSVV.
- Attended High School Student Advisory Council Meeting at Niwot High-great to hear from students directly. Thanks to Jackie Kapushion, Regina Renaldi, and Mark Mills for spearheading that very successful high school advisory group.
- Looking forward to this year's CASB Convention.
- Plans to attend Niwot High IB information sessions.

Dr. Richard Martyr –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Thanked District staff, the community, volunteers, and parents for tremendous work to build the consensus to pass the bond. Thanked Grassroots St. Vrain's Laura McDonald and Hadley Solomon and Dr. Haddad and his staff for making those connections.
- Passing our bond was no simple matter-out of 26 bond issues in the state, 15 passed, 8 failed, and three were too close to call as of November 9, 2016. Grateful to our voters-pledges that the District administration will be the best of stewards with these resources as we pursue excellence for our students.
- Very encouraged by the work of Dr. Haddad and Jackie Kapushion with the new District attendance initiative, and eager to see results of how it will help students in the transition from middle to senior high.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended High School Student Advisory Council Meeting at Niwot High-interested in District attendance initiative and what it looks like going forward-interested as a whole in how it will affect District-wide activities.
- Attended Student Senate Meeting-encouraged that it brings students in from all different schools to participate in civics and that the students will be engaged in the process of current Colorado legislation.
- Thanked the community for passing the bond-excited that the new Innovation Center will be for all high schools.
- Attended staff meetings with Dr. Haddad. Thanked the staff for everything.
- Thanked the staff, as a parent, for calming the students over the past anxiety-ridden election. Principals and teachers spoke to parents and students about the election process and having confidence in the process.
- Attended P-TECH mentoring program-nice to hear from area companies and how committed they are to their partnerships with the District. Honored to be part of this community, and thanked everyone for their contributions to this program.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended *STEAM After Dark* at Hygiene Elementary-a great example of the variety of programs for students in St. Vrain.
- Thanked everyone involved in the fantastic Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley 2016 Innovation Gala.
- Attended Northern Colorado Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Pool Meeting-reaffirmed the value of having the risk management pool; District portfolio is invested wisely with no areas of concern.
- Attended "Experience Dyslexia Simulation" at the City of Longmont Public Library. Recommended Board members attend the February 25, 2017 presentation at the Library from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Recognized Dr. Diane Lauer for her efforts to focus on what's best for every student in the District with special needs.

Amory Siscoe –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Frederick Urban Renewal Authority Board Meeting-so different than Board of Education duties and is reminded how all-encompassing the job is to be a member of the Board of Education that serves students first and foremost.
- Attended Frederick High School college athletic intent signing event-great reminder, between that event and graduation, of why it's so important for all students to be successful.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Halloween parade-St. Vrain bands were excellent.
- Reminded everyone that Veterans Day is November 11, 2016-some schools will be celebrating it with special programs and urged Board members to attend if they were available.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Thanked and appreciates everyone involved in helping the bond pass. Thanked Brian Lamer and his team for getting the bond projects started.
- Budget projections from Governor's office subject to change-estimating a 2.45% increase for SVVSD which would come out to \$5.3 million additional revenue per pupil allocation, not including growth, for current FTE. As a state, the budget adds \$45 million to the negative factor-hoping now it will stabilize and we'll get some clear direction heading into the spring and will see what happens as it moves through the legislature process. Administrators will be working with a group exploring school finance reform possibilities.
- Attended California National Association of School Superintendents Conference-main topic regards teacher shortage in 48 states for Special Education, Math, and Science. The Special Education teacher crisis results from the number of new teachers with certification compared to the increasing numbers of such students.

We must continue to focus on recruitment and retention and the importance of getting the right teachers in the classroom.

- Invited Board members to an annual Longmont Chamber event on Thursday, November 10, at 5:00 p.m.
- Looking forward to the next Leadership St. Vrain Meeting.
- Met with former Colorado Congressman David Skaggs, Dick Lyons, and Brandon Shaffer about joining current litigation regarding a TABOR challenge. Due to appellate decisions, school districts are being asked to consider joining as plaintiffs. Will have a conversation with David, Dick and Brandon again to expand the conversation and to meet with Board members to see how they feel about involvement in this ongoing matter.

REPORTS (6.0)

Frederick High School Student Advisory Council Feeder Report (6.1)

Jackie Kapushion introduced Frederick feeder leadership and Frederick High School Principal Brian Young who then introduced Frederick High Student Advisory Council students Cameron Hadley, Payton Garcia, and Grace Brunstrom. Student Advisory Council student Mackenzie Green was unable to attend. The students showcased special programs about each of the Frederick feeder system schools, and students thanked the principals for their assistance. Brian Young thanked the students for their report and introduced parents that were present. Other Frederick feeder system principals in attendance: Lyza Nybo, Principal of Coal Ridge Middle School; Kirsten McNeill, Principal of Prairie Ridge Elementary; Sean Corey, Principal of Legacy Elementary, Dr. Karen Musick, Thunder Valley K-8; and Dr. Shirley Jirik, Principal of Centennial Elementary. Paige Gordon, Principal of Spark! Discovery Preschool, was unable to attend.

Board members appreciated their presentation and are so proud of the progress the Frederick feeder system has made. Each student introduced themselves and told the Board of their plans for the future. Board members thanked the students and principals for their presentation which they thought gave them a deeper understanding of what is happening out in the schools.

District Attendance Priority Report (6.2)

Jackie Kapushion provided the Board of Education with an overview of the new District attendance priority initiative and why attendance matters so much. The tag line is "I'm here." using a tear drop-shaped location icon and the slogan "Attend, Aspire, Achieve". Right now, District attendance rate is 95%. The goal is to gain a percentage point each year for the next three years. For strategies supporting chronically absent students, she has 11 attendance liaisons within the District, and teachers, office staff and administrators are aware of the goals to reduce absenteeism. She has employed retired teaching staff to create a mentoring and tutoring program. The Communications Department has created flyers with attendance expectations for elementary, middle and

high school in English and Spanish. They created stickers with the “I’m here.” logo, signage, and postcards for teachers to send home when there is an absence. There are stickers on the concrete in front of the schools, and lapel pins for the staff for the students to identify with the importance the District is placing on attendance. As of November 4, every school has a draft plan to follow. Students, parents, and staff feedback were consulted for this attendance initiative.

Plans are in place to help students transition from elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school. Jackie hopes to engage every student in participating in some type of before, during or after school activity that interests them so that they feel connected to the school in some way. She also has staff working on staying connected to the families of students that have chronic absenteeism to connect them to community resources. Every school has a very carefully chosen attendance committee using job descriptions for specific outcomes.

Board members thanked Jackie for this impressive program and were very supportive of her efforts and look forward to the outcomes of the plan. They believe, with the planned approach, that personal barriers could be removed and student success achieved.

Dr. Haddad shared that \$500,000 has been used for this program, mainly for the hiring of liaisons and retired teachers, but that this is a minimal cost for the results that they hope to achieve. He shared that a recent gallop poll on public education resulted in three important keys to student success--the students having a sense of hope for their future, that they are engaged in some type of meaningful experience at school, and that they have family support.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.1 through 7.4. Amory Siscoe seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the October 12, 2016 Regular Meeting, the October 19, 2016 Study Session, and the October 26, 2016 Regular Meeting
4. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policies BE – School Board Meetings; JB – Equal Educational Opportunities; JF – Admission and Denial of Admission; JICDE* – Bullying Prevention and Education; JII – Student Concerns, Complaints and Grievances; and KFA – Public Conduct on District Property

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 Proclaiming American Education Week, November 14-18, 2016 (8.1)

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education approves the resolution proclaiming November 14-18, 2016 as American Education Week. Debbie Lammers seconded.

Dr. Diane Lauer reported that, to make our schools the best they can be requires a commitment from every member of the community, from retired citizens to parents, from business leaders to school board members. The goal of American Education Week is to increase public understanding and appreciation of the nation's schools, to encourage parents and non-parents to visit schools, and to build civic and community pride and support education.

The first observation of American Education Week took place in 1921 and was sponsored by the American Legion and the National Education Association. A year later, the U.S. Office of Education (now the U.S. Department of Education) joined the effort as a sponsor, and the National PTA followed in 1938.

Today, the list of sponsors also includes the following national organizations: National PTA, American Legion, American Association of School Administrators, National School Boards Association, American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselors Association, Council of Chief State School Officers, National School Public Relations Association, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Board member Dr. Richard Martyr 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 District's 2016 Fiscal Year Assurances for Financial Accreditation (8.2)

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve the Assurances for Financial Accreditation for the year ended June 30, 2016, as presented. John Ahrens seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that the presented form is required pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 22-11-206(4). The Colorado Department of Education must annually determine if substantial and good-faith compliance was achieved with relevant provisions of state law and generally accepted accounting principles. Substantial compliance is determined through review of the finance data pipeline submission, audited financial

statements, and responses from management to inquiries related to those reviews. Good-faith compliance is determined, in part, by the assurances provided on the form as certified by those charged with governance.

The District is required to complete a checklist stating compliance with the referenced statute. The checklist must be reviewed and approved by the Chief Financial Officer, Superintendent, and the Board of Education. The checklist is part of the required annual reporting package to the Colorado Department of Education.

Dr. Martyr would like to see the District maintain larger fund balances for the financial challenges in the future.

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 District Charter Schools' 2016 Fiscal Year Assurances for Financial Accreditation (8.3)

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education accept the individual District charter schools' Assurances for Financial Accreditation for the year ended June 30, 2016, as presented. John Ahrens seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that this form is required pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 22-11-206(4). The Colorado Department of Education must annually determine if substantial and good-faith compliance was achieved with relevant provisions of state law and generally accepted accounting principles. Substantial compliance is determined through review of the finance data pipeline submission, audited financial statements, and responses from management to inquiries related to those reviews. Good-faith compliance is determined, in part, by the assurances provided on the form as certified by those charged with governance.

Each District charter school is required to complete a checklist stating compliance with the referenced statute. The checklist must be reviewed and approved by the charter school's financial officer, principal or executive director, and its school board. As the charter authorizer, the District has oversight of each charter. The checklists are provided to the District Board of Education for informational purposes related to the financial performance of each charter school. The checklist is part of the required annual reporting package to the Colorado Department of Education.

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 Vendors Providing Purchased Goods (8.4)

Joie Siegrist moved that the Board of Education approve the vendors that were presented who are anticipated to provide purchased goods over \$100,000 during Fiscal Year 2017. Amory Siscoe seconded.

Greg Fieth reported the updated information is presented in an effort to streamline the District's policy requirement that the Board approve all vendors to whom the District pays over \$100,000 in a single fiscal year, per Board Policy DJ-Purchasing Authorization. In this case, the District's preferred vendor is US Foods. However, US Foods' warehouse and driver employees recently went on strike, and negotiations are underway. Based on the Board meeting calendar and the unknown length of the walk-out, it is imperative that the District approve vendors Food Service of America and Sysco who are capable of delivering goods for the Nutrition Services operations of the District. It is expected that the District will return to using US Foods as the primary vendor once the issue is resolved.

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)

Unofficial Results of November 8, 2016 Coordinated Election (9.1)

Greg Fieth, as the District's Designated Election Official, reported on the unofficial results of the November 8, 2016 election from Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties, and the City and County of Broomfield as of 2:00 p.m. on November 9, 2016. At this time, 48,755 were for the bond and 33,607 were against. This is a historical 59.2% approval of a bond/mill levy measure. The counties have until November 18, 2016 to certify their abstract of votes, and then those results will be shared at the December 14, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Greg also reported on the timeline of selling the bonds and the best time to go to market with those bonds to get the best interest rate. He asked the Board to turn the November 16, 2016 Study Session into a Special Meeting specifically for Board approval of a bond resolution. The most advantageous time to sell bonds was the end of November or first week of December because principal and interest payments for current bonds need to be made on December 15, 2016. The Federal Government is projected to raise interest rates December 14, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT (10.0)

Amory Siscoe moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:22 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 December 14, 2016.