

**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 23, 2019 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 Joie Siegrist at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:**

John Ahrens, Secretary, Director District D  
Chico Garcia, Member, Director District G  
Dr. Richard Martyr, Member, Director District E  
Paula Peairs, Vice President, Director District F  
Karen Ragland, Treasurer & Assistant Secretary, Director District B  
Joie Siegrist, President, Director District A  
Robert J. Smith, Member, Director District C

**Board Members Absent:**

None

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

Carrie Adams, Silver Creek High School Leadership Academy  
Dr. Damon Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Matt Buchler, Principal of Erie High School  
Justin Carpenter, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Erie High School  
Kahle Charles, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction  
Deniece Cook, Principal of Career Development Center/Olde Columbine High School  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Erick Finnestead, Principal of Silver Creek High School  
Chris Frank, Assistant Principal of Altona Middle School  
Jane Frederick, Comptroller  
Stacy Gahagen, Director of Security and Emergency Management  
Nelle Gallegos, Blue Mountain Elementary Dean of Students  
Traci Haley, Principal of Longmont Estates Elementary  
Sandy Heiser, Principal of Longs Peak Middle School  
Jarrett Henson, Assistant Principal of Longs Peak Middle School

Stephen Hoel, Principal of Blue Mountain Elementary  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent  
Jeremy LaCrosse, Principal of Altona Middle School  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Chase McBride, Executive Director of Athletics, Activities, Fine Arts, PE & Health  
Mark Mills, Area Assistant Superintendent  
Dina Perfetti-Deany, Area Assistant Superintendent  
Pete Scheck, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Longmont High School  
Brandon Shaffer, Exec Dir of Legal/Govt Affairs, Community Outreach & P-Tech  
Jessicca Shaffer, Longmont Estates Elementary Instructional Program Consultant  
Neil Shupe, CDC Advanced Manufacturing Academy Instructor  
Joshua VanAuken, Longs Peak Middle School Teacher

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

Agenda was accepted as presented.

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

None

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

Board President Joie Siegrist welcomed Silver Creek High School Student Advisory Council member Olivia Boettcher who attended the Board meeting as a liaison representing the High School Student Advisory Council. Olivia shared the academic and athletic programs she is involved with at Silver Creek. She was encouraged to ask questions and participate in the meeting.

Mark Mills introduced Sandy Heiser from Longs Peak Middle School. She introduced Jarrett Henson and Joshua VanAuken, who went on to describe the Longs Peak Bike Shop Program. Joshua introduced Longs Peak students Demetrio Solis and Eduardo Garza Solis who participate in the Program. Their parents were recognized for supporting them. Board members thanked them for their leadership and devotion to the Program.

Chase McBride introduced Justin Carpenter and Pete Scheck. Chase shared with the Board how they started the Unified Bowling Program and praised them for their leadership. Justin and Pete introduced the Unified Bowling students present: Erie High School student Garrett Vogt; and Longmont High School students Jayce Stevens and Mathew Bendzel. There are currently eight schools and 120 students participating in Unified Bowling. Justin and Pete honored parents for their support. Board members thanked Justin and Pete for their leadership. Dr. Kapushion honored Justin and Pete with Superintendent's Excellence in Education awards.

Jim Berthold, Retired District Bus Dispatcher – did not address the Board.

Paul Niedermuller, CPA, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP – attending to answer questions for Report Item 5.4 2019 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Tammy Palombo, Business Manager/Executive Assistant, Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley – present to support Report Item 5.3 2018-2019 Scholarship Recipients. Steve Villarreal, President, St. Vrain Valley Education Association – did not address the Board.

## **REPORTS (5.0)**

### **Advanced Manufacturing Academy (5.1)**

Dina Perfetti-Deany introduced Career Development Center/Olde Columbine High School Principal Deniece Cook. Denice thanked Mark Mills, Neil Shupe, and CDC Assistant Principal Buck Webber for their support with start-up of the Advanced Manufacturing Academy (AMA). Neil shared a video of information/predictions on the future of manufacturing careers and how the new AMA Program at the Career Development Center will support and prepare students for those future careers. He commended Front Range Community College for their partnership in the Program. Neil introduced Sylvia Robinson, the Human Resources Program Manager for Tolmar Inc. who is eager to partner with the AMA Program at CDC. She thanked the Board and administration for having the vision to begin this new, vital Program and for providing the talent pipeline for companies like Tolmar. Neil introduced Longmont High student Priscilla Vargas who was awarded an apprenticeship to Lexmark, and Priscilla shared her apprenticeship experience and how it has changed her thoughts about future careers. Niwot High student Luke Martinez was awarded an apprenticeship to Research Electro-Optics Inc., and he shared how it has changed his career path. Neil introduced Luke's mother, a Ball Aerospace Engineer, who told the audience how Luke's experience in the AMA Program at CDC has positively impacted their family and Luke's future. Neil introduced Frederick High student Neil Gomez who won an apprenticeship with Tobia Inc., and Neil shared how grateful he was for the opportunity. Family members present were recognized for their support. Board members appreciated all staff involved for the work they've done to provide these opportunities for students.

### **Silver Creek High School Student Advisory Council Feeder Report (5.2)**

Dina Perfetti-Deany thanked all the Silver Creek High School feeder administration in attendance and introduced Principal Erick Finnestead. Erick described the current academic and athletic achievements of Silver Creek students and programs. Principal Jeremy LaCrosse presented a short video of highlights from the Silver Creek feeder system schools. Students of all ages from the Silver Creek feeder system assisted the Board members in the Three Little Pigs Design Engineering Challenge activity. Erick then introduced Silver Creek High School Advisory students Sierra Bindseil, Peter Fredo, Adrian Deputat, Olivia Boettcher, and Pierce Bigelow. The students each shared their plans for the future and introduced their parents. Other administrators who were present from the Silver Creek feeder system were Blue Mountain Elementary School Dean of Students Nelle Gallegos, Longmont Estates Elementary School Principal Traci Haley,

Blue Mountain Elementary School Principal Stephen Hoel, Longmont Estates Elementary School Instructional Program Consultant Jessicca Shaffer, Silver Creek Leadership Academy Coordinator Carrie Adams, Altona Middle School Assistant Principal Chris Frank, and Altona Middle School Principal Jeremy LaCrosse. Board members commended the students for their presentation and recognized the building leaders for attending.

### **2018-2019 Scholarship Recipients (5.3)**

Greg Fieth reported on the scholarship recipients for the 2018-2019 school year. Annually, a list of local scholarships is sent to District high schools to be distributed to graduating seniors. The sponsors of these scholarships range from civic organizations and local businesses to families who have set up scholarships in memory of loved ones. These awards are substantial and the generosity of this community is inspiring. Students were awarded a total of \$1,836,610 in local scholarships and awards. In addition, students were awarded a total of \$27,649,347 in scholarships and awards from colleges and universities across the country.

By comparison, the 2017-2018 school year, students were awarded a total of \$1,311,711 in local scholarships and \$24,338,761 in scholarships and awards from colleges and universities.

Greg thanked the work of Tammy Palombo, Business Manager/Executive Assistant of the Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley, Superintendent Executive Assistant Kristie Jonason, and Mead High School Counselor Maura Brady-McMullen along with all high school counselors for their work compiling, distributing, tracking, and recording the scholarship information.

### **2019 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Financial Annual Report (CAFR) (5.4)**

Greg Fieth reported that the draft of the 2019 Fiscal Year CAFR was audited by the certified public accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA). At the work session prior to this meeting, Paul Niedermuller, CPA, from CLA reviewed the 2019 CAFR draft with the Board in detail and responded to questions. Board members thanked Greg, Jane, and Paul for their initial review of the CAFR.

Dr. Jackie Kapushion provided the Superintendent's Report at 8:14 p.m.

- Reported on the projects/programs that each Assistant Superintendent is working on.
- Described the type and number of assessments that are currently being administered to students.
- Discussed the fall athletics and fine arts programs that are being completed.
- Talked about the increasing number of out-of-state visitors touring our District to learn about our successes and our approach to public education.
- Appreciated the investment by teachers, staff, students and parents who are participating in Parent/Teacher Conferences.

### **CONSENT ITEMS (6.0)**

Karen Ragland moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.1 and 6.2. John Ahrens seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Request to Grant Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest-Cordero
2. Approval: Approval of Request to Grant Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest-Halverson-Ramos

Board members thanked the Finance staff for proactively presenting these potential conflict of interest matters forward, thereby ensuring that the District is holding itself to the highest ethical standards.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Chico Garcia, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

### **ACTION ITEMS (7.0)**

None

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (8.0)**

#### **Board Reports (8.1)**

John Ahrens –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Pleasure to serve on the Board of Education; to see what is happening in each of the schools; and to witness the students having so many new opportunities to succeed.

Chico Garcia –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Thanked parents, teachers, students, and administration for their involvement in the October count.
- Congratulated Frederick High School student Jake Chesler for being 10<sup>th</sup> in the state in the Golf championships. Noted that overall, Frederick High's Golf team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the State championships – a first in Frederick High School's history.

Dr. Richard Martyr –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Deferred his report to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Thanked Dr. Kapushion for facilitating the I Have a Dream Foundation Luncheon – it was a joy to see the students who benefited and to be part of that event.

Karen Ragland –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Deferred her report to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Encouraged Board member Dr. Martyr to report on the results of the District's resolutions he presented to the Colorado Association of School Boards 2019 Fall Conference & Delegate Assembly at a future meeting.
- Sent good wishes to Lyons Girls' Softball team that are headed to state tournaments.
- Thanked the Finance team and the new auditors for their excellent work which demonstrates how seriously the Board takes its fiduciary responsibilities, and looks forward to seeing the clean audit of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Incredibly rewarding to see student presentations this evening – a fitting culmination of his 12 years of serving on this Board. These students and their achievements are the true purpose of education and the embodiment of the District's mission statement.

Olivia Boettcher, Board Liaison for the Silver Creek High School Student Advisory Council

- Thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate in the Board Meeting.
- Inspired by school reports and learning about the inner workings of the District.
- Thanked the Board and administration for everything they do for students throughout this District.

### **ADJOURNMENT (9.0)**

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m., and John Ahrens seconded. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation: [John Ahrens, yes; Chico Garcia, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

Respectfully submitted,

John Ahrens, Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on November 13, 2019.