

**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 13, 2019 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The 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 & Asst 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:**

Catrina Astrada, Principal of Thunder Valley K-8  
Dr. Damon Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Kahle Charles, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Sean Corey, Principal of Legacy Elementary  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Russell Fox, Assistant Principal of Frederick High School  
Paige Gordon, Principal of Spark! Discovery Preschool  
Dr. Shirley Jirik, Principal of Centennial Elementary  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs and Academic Support  
Jill Lliteras, Principal of Prairie Ridge Elementary  
Kerri McDermid, Chief Communications & Global Impact Officer  
Liza Nybo, Principal of Coal Ridge Middle School  
Brandon Shaffer, Exec Dir of Legal/Govt Affairs, Community Outreach & P-TECH

Brian Young, Principal of Frederick High School

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)**

None

**VISITORS (4.0)**

Joie welcomed Frederick High School Student Advisory Council member Lauren Leitner and encouraged her to participate in the meeting.

Jim Berthold, Retired District Bus Dispatcher – sworn in officially as a Board member during the course of this Board Meeting.

Lauren Leitner, Frederick High School Student Advisory Council Board Liaison.

Paula Mehle, Town of Firestone Director of Economic Development & Firestone Urban Renewal Authority – in attendance to support Greg Fieth in Action Item 8.5 Approval of Firestone Urban Renewal Authority Intergovernmental Agreement-Bighorn Urban Renewal TIF Area.

Caitlin Quander, Attorney for Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck – in attendance to support Greg Fieth in Action Item 8.5 Approval of Firestone Urban Renewal Authority Intergovernmental Agreement-Bighorn Urban Renewal TIF Area.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)**

- Dr. Haddad and Patty Quinones accepted the 2019 APEX award for the Project of the Year from the Colorado Technology Association for the District's Innovation Center Project.
- Thanked Kim Wiggins for being the catalyst for mobilizing efforts to register students interested in taking AP exams.
- Announced Kahle Charles and Ann Reed are working on a new Algebra I Summer Focus Program that will have Algebra I Master Teachers working with new Math teachers to work with students transitioning into 9<sup>th</sup> grade to strengthen their Algebra skills.
- Announced that construction on Mead Elementary School is on schedule.
- Announced the District is hiring a Fine Arts Coordinator to work with the Executive Director of Athletics, Activities and Fine Arts, and encouraged everyone to attend one of several school fall theatre productions.
- Announced that the District's Unified Bowling team took second place in the state, and provided an update on athletics and state playoff information.
- Attended the Innovation Center Open House where 400 families were given a tour and administration could explore the students' interests in courses to take at the Innovation Center in the new school year.

- Announced the Mobile Lab will be giving a robotics presentation at the Longmont Village at the Peaks Mall on Saturday, November 16, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Mobile Lab will also be at the Colorado Association of School Boards Annual Conference on Friday, December 6, 2019.
- Thanked Bob Smith for being a wonderful leadership role model always demonstrating by example what it means to be a leader in a public education system.

## **REPORTS (6.0)**

### **Frederick High School Advisory Council Feeder Report (6.1)**

Dr. Jackie Kapushion recognized all Frederick feeder leaders in attendance, thanked them for their leadership and commitment to students, and introduced Frederick High School Principal Brian Young. Brian thanked the wonderful staff of St. Vrain Valley that he works with, and thanked the Board and administration for their support. Brian, on behalf of the Frederick feeder system administrators, thanked Bob Smith for his Board of Education service. He introduced Frederick High School Student Advisory students Brayden Berringer, Wyatt Schroth, Serena Galvan, and Lauren Leitner. The students thanked Ben Kalb, Violet Christensen, and Lindsay LaPorte for creating the thin link code [tinyurl.com/frederickboe](http://tinyurl.com/frederickboe) that they showcased during their presentation. Student Advisory Council member Michael Clementson was unable to attend. Frederick feeder administrators in attendance were: Dr. Shirley Jirik, Centennial Elementary; Catrina Astrada, Thunder Valley K-8; Paige Gordon, Spark! Discovery Preschool; Liza Nybo, Coal Ridge Middle School; Dr. Sean Corey, Legacy Elementary; Dr. Russell Fox, Frederick High School; and Jill Lliteras, Prairie Ridge Elementary. Board members thanked the students and staff for their wonderful presentation. Brian Young announced that the Frederick High School football team would be hosting Thomas Jefferson High School for their first playoff game on Friday, November 15, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

## **CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)**

Karen Ragland moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.9. John Ahrens seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the October 9, 2019 Regular Meeting, the October 16, 2019 Study Session, and the October 23, 2019 Regular Meeting
4. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policy DEA – Funds from Local Tax Sources
5. Approval: Approval of Delayed School Openings
6. Approval: Approval of Change Order 2 to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for the Burlington Elementary School RTU Replacement Project

7. Approval: Approval of Change Order 1 to the CMGC Contract for the East Bus Facility Modular Project
8. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for the School Security Disbursement Grant Project
9. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Sanborn Elementary School Lighting Upgrade Project

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 (8.0)**

#### **Adoption of Resolution Proclaiming American Education Week, November 18-22, 2019 (8.1)**

Bob Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution proclaiming November 18-22, 2019 as American Education Week. Chico Garcia seconded.

Board member John Ahrens read the resolution.

Board members reminded everyone that public education is the backbone of this country. They recognized the commitment of every staff member for making this a great District, and how incredibly proud and inspired they are by all staff members at every level.

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].

#### **Acceptance of the 2019 FY Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (8.2)**

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education accept the 2019 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, as presented. Paula Peairs seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that the 2019 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was audited by the certified public accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA). At the work session prior to the October 23, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, Paul Niedermuller from CLA reviewed the 2019 CAFR with the Board in detail and was available for questions. The CAFR was issued final on October 29, 2019 and there were no significant changes from the preliminary draft submitted on October 23, 2019.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the detailed report and encouraged the community to read and understand it. They asked Greg to convey their appreciation to Jane Frederick, Shelly Murphy, and Jennifer Orvis for their work on the CAFR. Greg announced that the final CAFR would be available on the website by Thursday, November 14, 2019.

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].

**Acceptance of District's Charter Schools' 2019 FY Assurances for Financial Accreditation (8.3)**

Chico Garcia moved that the Board of Education accept the individual District charter schools' Assurances for Financial Accreditation for the year ended June 30, 2019, as presented. John Ahrens seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that this form is required pursuant to C.R.S. 22-11-206(4). The Colorado Department of Education must determine annually 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 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.

Greg answered questions from Board members regarding the building Twin Peaks Charter Academy is housed in (mortgaged), and how there are no concerns with Twin Peaks' financial status. He reiterated the reasons the District chooses to keep charter school financial information separate from the District so that the public can see how the charter schools are doing financially on their own.

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].

**Approval of District's 2019 FY Assurances for Financial Accreditation (8.4)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve the District's Assurances for Financial Accreditation for the year ended June 30, 2019, as presented. Paula Peairs seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that this form is required pursuant to C.R.S. 22-11-206(4). The Colorado Department of Education must determine annually 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.

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].

**Approval of Firestone Urban Renewal Authority Intergovernmental Agreement-Bighorn Urban Renewal TIF Area (8.5)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Firestone Urban Renewal Authority (FURA) and the St. Vrain Valley School District. This IGA ensures the 2008 and 2012 mill levy overrides, bond redemption mills, and all future local school election revenue will be returned to the District from the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in the area referred to as the Bighorn Urban Renewal area. Karen Ragland seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that District staff worked with the Town of Firestone and legal counsel to develop the IGA to ensure that the District voters' expectations are met with regard to bond and mill levy override ballot approval. The District has several Urban Renewal Authority IGA's with other cities within the District boundaries, and this IGA is as protective as the others.

Paula Mehle, Town of Firestone Director of Economic Development & Firestone Urban Renewal Authority; and Caitlin Quander, Attorney for Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck were in attendance to answer questions from the Board. Paula clarified that this Bighorn URA is Firestone's fourth IGA collaboration with the District – 1<sup>st</sup> the southern portion of Firestone in 2010; 2<sup>nd</sup> the northern portion in 2013; and 3<sup>rd</sup> was central Firestone in 2015. Caitlin expressed her appreciation for the District Finance team always coming to Urban Renewal Authority meetings prepared. Board members thanked Paula and Caitlin for their expertise in the creation of these IGAs.

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].

**Bob Smith**

Board members and administration each thanked Bob for his 12 years of service and told him what his leadership, dedication, and mentorship meant to each of them.

Bob told the Board members and staff of the respect and trust he has in each of them to always do the right thing for students and the District and how much they inspired him. He wished everyone the best on moving forward with the groundwork that was laid and to continue to listen to each other and to continue to draw on the collective wisdom of the Board as a whole. He spoke of the monumental changes that have happened in the District since he was appointed to the Board in 2007.

**Approval of New District Directors and Oath of Office for New Board Members (8.6)**

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve the newly elected board members Joie Siegrist, Director District A; Jim Berthold, Director District C; Dr. Richard Martyr, Director District E; and Chico Garcia, Director District G, all for four-year terms, following the cancellation of the November 5, 2019 election. Paula Peairs seconded.

By 4:00 p.m. on August 30, 2019, there were no more candidates than offices to be filled at the election for Board of Directors. The deadline for filing an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate passed with no individuals filing such an affidavit and no ballot issues or questions were submitted to the voters by the District. The election was cancelled by Designated Election Official Greg Fieth on September 3, 2019. Abovementioned candidates were considered elected by acclamation officially on Election Day, November 5, 2019, all for four-year terms. As stated in CRS 22-31-125, each school board member is required to take an oath of office, swearing to faithfully perform the duties of the office as required by law.

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

**Election of Board President (8.7); Election of Board Vice President (8.8); Appointment of Secretary of the Board (8.9); Appointment of Assistant Secretary of the Board (8.10); Appointment of Treasurer of the Board (8.11); Adoption of Resolution for Signature Authorization (8.13)**

Board officer positions were elected/appointed at the Board's Regular Meeting of August 28, 2019, due to Bob Smith stepping down from his Vice President officer position. Paula Peairs moved that all officer positions that were awarded on August 28, 2019 remain in effect. Therefore, Action Items 8.7 through 8.11 and 8.13 were not necessary to vote on. Chico Garcia seconded.

As stated in Board Policy BDA, Board Organizational Meeting, and CRS 22-32-104 within 15 days after the regular biennial election, the Board shall meet in an organizational session at a regular or special meeting for the purpose of selecting officers.

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

### **Appointment of Assistant Treasurer and Secretary to the Board (8.12)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education appoint Greg Fieth for Assistant Treasurer to the Board and Barb Steege for Secretary to the Board. Jim Berthold seconded.

Greg Fieth and Barb Steege accepted those positions. As stated in Board Policy BDA, Board Organizational Meeting, and CRS 22-32-104 within 15 days after the regular biennial election, the Board shall meet in an organizational session at a regular or special meeting for the purpose of selecting officers.

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

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)**

#### **Board Member Signing of Code of Ethics/Confidentiality Affidavit (9.1)**

The newly elected members of the Board of Education signed the District's Code of Ethics and the Executive Session Affidavit.

Board Policy BC, School Board Member Conduct states that, "Public office is a trust created by the confidence that the public places in the integrity of its public officers. To preserve this confidence, it is the desire of the Board to operate under the highest ethical standards." As part of the official swearing in ceremony, each newly elected member signed the District's Code of Ethics as a demonstration of that commitment.

State law requires all Board members to sign a "Confidentiality Affidavit." This Affidavit serves as Board members' public commitment to upholding the confidentiality of Board conversations held during Executive Sessions, including conversations related to personnel, students, security, and attorney-privileged communications, among others.

This Affidavit assures that Board members are aware of, and will comply with, the confidentiality requirements and restrictions applicable to Executive Sessions of the Board, as described in Section 24-6-402 C.R.S. It also assures that Board members will comply with these confidentiality requirements regardless of whether they participate in the Executive Session in person or electronically pursuant to Section 22-32-108(7) C.R.S.



## **ADJOURNMENT**

Lauren Leitner – High School Student Advisory Council Board Liaison

- Board members explained why the Board needed to approve the delayed start of school on October 28, 30, and November 11, 2019.
- Shared with the Board an app called Pocket Points that rewards you for not using your cell phone – feels it would be great for all students while they are in the classroom and teachers can set up an awards program to reward students for not using their phones.
- Thanked the Board for inviting her to participate in the Board Meeting.
- Board members thanked Lauren for her participation in the Board Meeting.

Board President Joie Siegrist reminded everyone that the St. Vrain Mobile Lab will be at the Village at the Peaks Mall in Longmont on Saturday, November 16, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She wished all District athletics well in their upcoming state playoff competitions.

Chico Garcia moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Karen Ragland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, 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 December 11, 2019.