

**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 April 8, 2020 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:**

Jim Berthold, Member, Director District C  
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

**Board Members Absent (Excused):**

John Ahrens, Secretary, Director District D

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

Kahle Charles, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction (by phone)  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

Agenda was accepted as presented.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)**

Board President Joie Siegrist read three comments from the public in the order that they were emailed to the Board since there could not be public participation at the Board Meeting due to COVID-19 regulations by Colorado Governor Jared Polis.

Theresa Mudgette, 303 Sheley Court, Longmont – would like to see school closed for the remainder of the school year.

Rose Pierro, 1440 Moonlight Drive, Longmont – was concerned that students are sitting outside of schools to gain internet access for their assignments.

Sara (no last name provided), 8250 North 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Longmont – would like to see schools closed and online learning continue to the end of the school year.

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no visitors and no physical public participation. Colorado Governor Jared Polis required no meetings greater than 10 people, that they create a personal six-foot distance from other people, and that anyone leaving their home must wear a mask to protect themselves from infection. Board members complied with these requirements to conduct this Board Meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE (5.0)**

- Addressed the questions from the public that were read by Board President Joie Siegrist. Dr. Haddad will continue to follow direction from Colorado Governor Jared Polis and the Boulder County Public Health Department for closure of schools. Governor Polis will likely announce plans for the rest of the school year by April 30.
- Addressed questions from Board member Dr. Richard Martyr regarding:
  - District cash flow and investments – Dr. Haddad made comparisons of District revenue levels, fund balance, expenditures, and outperformance between this time last year and this year. Governor Polis extended, without penalty, the payment of property taxes. Dr. Haddad reported that this would not affect the District financial obligations for the future.
  - Project Launch is cancelled for this year and the money that would have been used for that will cover the After-School Literacy Program and cover the cost of the additional iPads that were needed – those additional iPads will also be used to bring the one-on-one into the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall.
  - Hiring – Hired a Principal for Burlington Elementary School, an Assistant Principal/Athletic Director for Frederick High School, and in final stages of interviews for Longmont High School, Northridge Elementary School, an Executive Director for Human Resources, and additional custodial staff and bus drivers.
  - Senior Celebrations – Have talked about pushing back the in-person graduations to some time in the summer but no final date yet in lieu of an official decision made about possibly closing schools until the end of the school year. Working on the possibility that graduations could be streamed live and people could participate virtually. Principals are working on ways to do virtual choir concerts, National Honor Society awards night, Senior Night, and Proms, with a possibility that there could be a reunion for seniors during the Holiday Break of 2020. Longmont Daily Times-Call will continue the tradition of publishing all seniors' pictures. Jostens can still accommodate the District with graduation caps and gowns and to provide inserts to announcements with any last-minute date/time changes. Once

- Governor Polis has announced plans for the rest of the school year, Dr. Haddad will send a letter to parents regarding graduation plans.
- Negotiations – Dr. Haddad has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with teacher evaluations – evaluations have been paused which allows the District to use whichever performance rating teachers had at the end of the third quarter. That would enable the teachers to use their three consecutive years in order to move toward non-probationary status. The District continues to pay its employees and provide benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Any decision on an increase in salary for employees has been delayed, but would be retroactive once discussions continue.
  - Dr. Haddad is hopeful that school can start in the fall but large gatherings typical of the beginning of the school year will be postponed. He anticipates a drop in Per Pupil Revenue losing families because of loss of jobs, loss of revenue from oil and gas, drop in student enrollment, and a drop in assessed valuations for the new school year.
  - Announced that Brian Lamer will be seeking a recommendation from the Board for a suitable location for a District swimming pool. At this point, a feasibility study conducted shows that Silver Creek High School would be the best location with Erie High School and Frederick High School tied for a suitable second choice of locations. The pool would be paid for by using \$6,500,000 interest earned from the 2016 bond capital construction fund and \$1,500,000 from the fund balance, and would include an 8-lane pool with a diving well and bleachers. Upon Board approval, construction could start in October 2020. This competitive pool could be self-sustaining with revenue collected by hosting swim meets, concessions, water safety lessons, scuba diving certification, community swim lessons, and summer family swimming. The District would also save money by not paying rent on the pools in the community that high school swim teams currently use.
  - Dr. Jackie Kapushion updated the Board on the status of online learning:
    - There are 150 staff volunteers running the two Community Resource Centers at the Learning Services Center and Frederick High School which will now be left open for longer periods of time.
    - Continue to distribute lunches at 11 different school sites.
    - Distributed 1,500 iPads and printed curriculum (also translated in Spanish) in a week.
    - On April 13, 2020, all of our teachers beyond core content teachers will start adding content in the electives and the specials areas – just distributed learning support plans to all teachers in the core content showing them exactly what standards should look like for the remainder of the semester through May, if necessary. They have also been provided with links to all of the best resources to teach those standards to help teachers finish strong and help students be prepared for the next grade level in the fall.
    - Reaching out to families of students that aren't engaging and/or not turning in their assignments to find out why and provide support to eliminate the barriers.
    - Dr. Kapushion was thankful for the system that was already in place that made things much easier to support students in emergencies.

- Dr. Haddad announced that the District's Teacher of the Year is Janette Rivera Gonzales, a first grade teacher at Northridge Elementary School. She, herself is a former student of Lyons and started with the District as a paraprofessional and has worked at Northridge since 2008. She receives a \$4,000 check from Stapp Toyota, and the Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley will honor her at the Gala in the fall.
- Dr. Haddad read an email to the Board members from a District teacher that thanked everyone for the difficult decisions they have had to make to take care of the staff and students during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a teacher, she felt valued and prepared for online learning and wanted to thank all the leaders of the District for their guidance and support that set up all teachers for success. She wanted to convey how proud she was to work for a District that cared so much about their staff and students.

### **REPORTS (6.0)**

None

### **CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)**

Jim Berthold moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.14. Karen Ragland seconded.

Board President Joie Siegrist noted that it was not possible to introduce new Burlington Elementary Principal Jennifer Webster at this evening's meeting, but that she would be invited to a future Board Meeting to be introduced. She also announced that she had been notified that there were technical difficulties with Longmont Public Media that prevented the broadcasting of the Board Meeting.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the March 11, 2020 Regular Meeting and the March 18, 2020 Special Meeting
4. Approval: Second Reading, Adoption, Board Policy JLCD – Administering Medications to Students
5. Approval: Approval of Change Order 3 to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Mead Middle School Addition & Renovation Project
6. Approval: Approval of Change Order 6 to CMGC Contract for Silver Creek High School Addition & Renovation Project
7. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Elementary #28
8. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Spark! Discovery Preschool Renovation Project
9. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Vance Brand Auditorium Renovation Project
10. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Coal Ridge Middle School Bond Project

11. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Trail Ridge Middle School Bond Project
12. Approval: Approval of Fee Adjustment 2 to Lyons Middle/Senior High Auditorium Addition Project
13. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policy KDE – Emergency Management (Safety, Readiness and Incident Management Planning)
14. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal for Burlington Elementary School

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

### **ACTION ITEMS (8.0)**

#### **Adoption of Resolution to Proclaim Teacher/Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2020 (8.1)**

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education adopt proclamations in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week and Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2020. Chico Garcia seconded.

Dr. Haddad reported that, each year, proclaiming these dates as Teacher Appreciation Week and Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week helps to promote public awareness of the importance of the role of teachers in public schools. As much as any group of employees, the teaching staff is a valued and integral part of providing quality instruction for the students of the St. Vrain Valley School District. Especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers have had to switch to online learning for their students. Dr. Haddad thanked all the teachers for the swift turnaround time to get trained and online to continue learning for all students.

Dr. Richard Martyr read the teacher appreciation resolution and Paula Peairs read the substitute teacher resolution.

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

#### **Approval of Adoption of Elementary Social Students Materials (8.2)**

Chico Garcia moved that the Board of Education approve the adoption and purchase of **McGraw Hill IMPACT** for grades K-3 and 5 and **Gibbs-Smith Colorado Story** for 4th grade and approve a purchase contract to **McGraw Hill** and **Gibbs-Smith** for these digital licenses and class sets of books not to exceed \$1,180,954.64 in FY2020, based on the estimated student enrollment for 2020-2021. \$87,732.00 has also been budgeted for staff

training for initial professional development to cover the estimated cost of teacher extra duty pay. Karen Ragland seconded.

Kahle Charles called into the Board Meeting to report that, during the fall of 2018, an adoption committee made up of elementary social studies teachers and Learning Service personnel from across the District was formed to evaluate elementary social studies programs, pilot the selected program(s), and recommend a program(s) for adoption by the St. Vrain Valley Board of Education. The committee reviewed the new 2020 Colorado Academic Standards and current effective teaching practices in social studies. Utilizing these resources, the committee developed an evaluation form for elementary social studies programs.

Materials that provided diversity in approaches and philosophy were solicited from seven publishers for initial review and consideration. Because 4th grade standards focus on Colorado, two programs were reviewed for this grade. Publisher presentations were conducted for three of the candidate programs for K-3 and 5 and two for grade 4, and a final selection was made for the pilot. Thirty-four teachers volunteered to pilot for the 2019-2020 school year, representing the elementary schools that will implement **McGraw Hill IMPACT** in grades K-3 and 5 and **Gibbs-Smith Colorado Story** in 4th grade.

Input was gathered from pilot teachers, students, parents, non-pilot teachers, and the community. After selecting a pilot program, piloting the program for a school year, and gathering input about the selection, the committee recommends **McGraw Hill IMPACT** and **Gibbs-Smith Colorado Story** to the St. Vrain Valley Board of Education for adoption.

A review of the five-candidate elementary social studies programs was held February 25 and 26, 2019 at the Learning Services Center. The event was advertised in the Longmont Daily Times-Call, District Leadership Update, and on our District website. In addition, an email invitation was sent to District elementary teachers and administrators. During this review, responses were collected and were used as data in the pilot program selection. During the 2019-2020 school year, a total of 34 teachers and approximately 900 students participated in a year-long pilot.

Board members thanked Kahle for his report and asked that he pass along their appreciation to Jennine Pettit and all the teachers that worked on the pilot.

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

**First Reading, Adoption, New Board Policy BEAA\* – Electronic Participation in School Board Meetings (8.3)**

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education adopt new Board Policy BEAA\* – Electronic Participation in School Board Meetings with one correction: In the seventh paragraph, “If the request is approved,” should be stricken. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

Paula Peairs reported that this Board policy allows Board members to attend and participate by electronic means in a regular or special Board Meeting only when extenuating circumstances prevent the Board member from physically attending the meeting. A quorum of the Board, including members physically present and members attending electronically, is still required to convene a meeting.

Dr. Richard Martyr suggested that “If the request is approved,” be stricken from paragraph seven, and that a request from a Board member to participate remotely cannot be unreasonably withheld. Board members unanimously agreed.

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

**Approval of Use of CASB Sample Exhibit BEDA-E – Notice of Virtual School Board Meetings (8.4)**

Jim Berthold moved that the Board of Education approve the use of CASB Sample Board Exhibit BEDA-E – Notice of Virtual School Board Meetings in the event a Board meeting must be held entirely or partially in an electronic format. Karen Ragland seconded.

Paula Peairs reported that approving use of this Exhibit is strongly recommended by administration and the Board members to give appropriate public notice of electronic Board meetings and clear direction on how public comment can be accommodated.

It is anticipated that electronic Board meetings will be announced only in case of emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual Board member electronic participation in a Board meeting, as described in Board Policy BEAA, will not require public notice.

This Exhibit will not be filed in the District Board Policy Manual, but will be used as a template only as needed in an emergency as notification of a shift in the normal format of a Board Meeting.

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

**Approval of Closure of All District Schools and Buildings from March 13, 2020 to April 30, 2020 (8.5)**

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve the closure of all District schools and buildings from Friday, March 13, 2020, through Thursday, April 30, 2020 to protect students and staff from contracting the COVID-19 virus. Paula Peairs seconded.

This recommendation is based on Colorado Revised Statute 22-32-109 (II) (A) “closing deemed by the Board to be necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the students”. On the basis of Colorado Governor Jared Polis declaring a State of Emergency for Colorado, it was necessary for the St. Vrain Valley School District to close all District schools and buildings from Friday, March 13, 2020 through Thursday, April 30, 2020, to protect all students and staff from contracting the COVID-19 virus.

Dr. Haddad will continue to make these recommendations according to the Colorado Governor’s Office and the Boulder County Public Health Department. When Dr. Haddad last spoke with Governor Polis, he stated that he would be making an announcement about the remainder of the school year sometime between April 20-24, 2020. Board members wanted to go on record as saying that, even though District schools were closed, learning was still happening.

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

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

Dr. Haddad emphasized that Cisco has provided 10 hot spots around the District for students to use to download curriculum and to assure that every student has access to what the District is providing. He also wanted to be certain to relieve the anxiety that students may develop regarding their grades dropping. He wants to assure them that teachers will be looking at the grades that each student had at the end of the third quarter and asking students for a good-faith effort. He doesn’t want any students to backslide and for them to know that the District’s top priority is for the grades to be non-punitive, flexible and supportive. Students will have access to information on how to improve their grade if they were not satisfied with their third quarter grade.

Board members were extremely impressed with the professionalism of the staff and thanked Dr. Haddad and Dr. Kapushion and their leadership teams that created a seamless transition to online learning. They asked to please pass on their appreciation to the staff, families, community members, and businesses that were involved in the continued success of the students during this unprecedented time of uncertainty. Board members are convinced that, after the lessons learned from the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District would be prepared to handle any other kind of emergency.

### **ADJOURNMENT (10.0)**

Board President Joie Siegrist thanked Tim Ellis for recording the Board Meeting, and reminded everyone that the April 15, 2020 Study Session was cancelled. The next

Regular Board Meeting will be held in the Board Room on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 following the same format as the April 8, 2020 Regular Meeting. Greg Fieth will call in to report on Financials at 5:30 p.m., and the Regular Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m., and Chico Garcia seconded. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation: [John Ahrens, absent; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ragland, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on May 13, 2020.