

**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 June 24, 2020 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. A financial work session was held at 5:30 p.m. 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:

Lulu Buck, Coordinator of Education Equity & Community Engagement (via Webex)
Kahle Charles, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum & Instruction (via Webex)
Olga Cordero, Director of Student Services, Equity and Engagement
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Todd Fukai, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources (via Webex)
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent
Patrick Kilcullen, Coordinator of Priority Programs
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations (via Webex)
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs & Academic Support (via Webex)
Tony Whiteley, Executive Director of Budget & Finance

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

Action Item 8.4 Approval of Requests to Grant Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest for FY 2021 was moved to Consent Item 7.7.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

There could be no public participation at the Board Meeting due to COVID-19 regulations by Colorado Governor Jared Polis. The public had an opportunity to leave messages on a dedicated link on the District website that would be read by a Board member during the Board Meeting. There were no messages from the public for this meeting.

VISITORS (4.0)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no visitors and no physical public participation. The terms of the current executive order by Colorado Governor Jared Polis require no meetings greater than 10 people, a personal six-foot distance from other people, and anyone leaving their home must wear a mask. Board members complied with these requirements to conduct this Board Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE (5.0)

- Negotiated Agreement went well and thanked Steve Villarreal's team, the District team, and the teachers and staff for their great work.
- Attended celebration for Longmont High School Principal Rick Olsen retirement – thanked Rick for his years of service to the District and wished him well in retirement.
- Graduation for the high schools is still planned on July 25, 2020 – may have to do graduation in two groups at schools that have bigger graduation numbers.
- Continues to follow the COVID-19 requirements of the Governor and local health departments. Dr. Haddad noted that all families and staff are striving for a normal start to school in the fall.
- Thanked Kerri McDermid and Aaron Ford for creating and launching the new District website in August – phenomenally impressive and will be a great asset to the community.
- Attended the virtual ceremony for the first graduating class of P-TECH – so proud to offer students a free Associate's Degree.
- Virtually spoke with Up-A-Creek Robotics coaches and they are excited to resume competition.
- Dr. Kapushion provided a handout to Board members inviting them to visit the Mobile Lab to read with students.

REPORTS (6.0)

District Financial Statements – May 2020 (6.1)

Greg Fieth reported that Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) 22-45-102(1)(b)(I-IV) requires the Board of Education to review the financial condition of the school district at

least quarterly during the year. In addition to first and second quarter reports, the District has elected to present monthly financial statements during the remainder of the year.

At the work session prior to this Board meeting, Greg reviewed the Balance Sheet, the Actual-to-Actuals, Expenses, Bond Redemption Fund, a comparison of this year to last year of the Community Schools and Nutrition Services funds, and the process of refunding student activity fees. Even with the lack of property tax revenue information and the large amount of activity fee reimbursements he reported no concerns.

COVID-19 Update (6.2)

Dr. Haddad updated the Board on the ways that COVID-19 has affected the District:

- Noted that the administrative Task Force has a strong plan for every scenario for beginning school in the fall. The initial plan is to bring all Pre-Kindergarten to sixth grade and 9th grade students back full-time in the fall. All other grades would come back with a hybrid plan of a split schedule for 7th and 8th and 9th through 12th grade students. The plan may change depending upon restrictions from the Governor and the local health departments.
- Recent highlights on COVID show that it is not transmitted as easily to children, less people are being hospitalized, and that Dr. Anthony Fauci is predicting a vaccine soon.
- Will be sending out an email to all parents and staff on the ever-changing plans for back-to-school in the fall. The email will provide separate links for parents to choose which link most impacts their family.
- Student transportation will consist of one student per seat wearing masks, and parents will be encouraged to provide transportation.
- Students who attend Innovation Academy and Career Development Center classes will follow their high school hybrid model and will still be provided transportation from their high schools.
- Fall sports and after-school activities will begin with guidance from the Colorado High School Activities Association, the Governor and the local health departments.
- Guidelines for music programs will be determined by the Governor and local health departments also and may be held virtually.
- Full-time remote learning will be provided using Florida Virtual School using curriculum the District has created called St. Vrain LaunchEd Virtual Academy which will be taught using District teachers through Schoology.
- Administration will be working closely with families of Special Education and English Language Learners. These students could attend full-time in-school or online according to their specific needs.
- District will provide evening and Saturday classes so no students fall behind.

Board members appreciated the tremendous level of complexity administration has prepared for as they work to make the start of school a smooth transition in whatever model it will look like by August.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Jim Berthold moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.7. Karen Ragland seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Fuel Purchase
2. Approval: Approval of Change Order 2 for Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Altona Middle School Renovation Project
3. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Dean of Students for Thunder Valley K-8
4. Approval: Approval of Waiver from Liability Requirements for Frederick High School Education Foundation
5. Approval: Approval of Waiver from Liability Requirements for Longmont High School Education Foundation
6. Approval: Approval of Waiver from Liability Requirements for Skyline High School Education Foundation
7. Approval: Approval of Requests to Grant Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest for FY 2021 (moved from Action Items via vote from Board members)

Board members thanked Greg Fieth and his Finance team for creating a list of the conflict of interest waivers in the District, and appreciated that each of these situations were made transparently.

Board members congratulated Grant Elwood on his new position of Dean of Students for Thunder Valley K-8 and look forward to meeting him in the future.

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)

Approval of Waiver for Board Policy DB – Annual Budget (8.1)

Chico Garcia moved that the Board of Education approve a waiver of the Risk Management/Cap Reserve allocation portion of Board Policy DB – Annual Budget due to the FY21 per-pupil budget reduction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paula Peairs seconded.

Tony Whiteley reported that Board Policy DB – Annual Budget includes the “Capital reserve and risk management” section that states, “The budget shall annually include a per pupil dollar amount to be allocated, at the discretion of the Board of Education, to the capital reserve and risk management funds. The initial dollar amount shall be \$313 per

pupil and shall be increased or decreased each year by the rate of inflation or the same percentage that the statewide per pupil funding is increased or decreased.”

Due to the Total Program K-12 funding reductions in fiscal year 2020-21 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has temporarily deferred approximately \$4M in capital projects for the upcoming year. These projects are funded through the Risk Management/ Capital Reserve allocation per Board Policy DB. Administration asked for a one-time waiver from the Board of Education for this purpose. Dr. Haddad assured Board members that any capital projects that were on the current list will be completed.

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 Vendors Providing Purchased Services Over \$100,000 for FY 2021 (8.2)

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve the presented vendors who are anticipated to provide purchased services over \$100,000 during Fiscal Year 2021. Jim Berthold seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that this 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/DJA – Purchasing/Purchasing Authority. This is specifically to address vendors who provide goods that are not competitively bid, competitive bids that are extended into a new fiscal year, or FY21 newly awarded contracts.

Greg reported that Dr. Haddad could utilize the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency to allow him to come to the Board with more immediate requests throughout the current health crisis, if needed.

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 Vendors Providing Purchased Goods Over \$100,000 for FY 2021 (8.3)

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve the vendors presented who are anticipated to provide purchased goods over \$100,000 during Fiscal Year 2021. Chico Garcia seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that this 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/DJA – Purchasing/Purchasing Authority. This is specifically to address vendors who provide goods that are not

competitively bid, competitive bids that are extended into a new fiscal year, or FY21 newly awarded contracts.

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 Requests to Grant Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest for FY 2021 (8.4)

This Action Item was moved to Consent Item 7.7 and approved.

First Reading, Discussion, Board Policies KBE – Relations with Parent Organizations and KBE-R – Organizational Options for Parent Organizations (POs) (8.5)

Jim Berthold moved that the Board of Education approve proposed revisions to Board Policies KBE – Relations with Parent Organizations and KBE-R – Organizational Options for Parent Organizations (POs) with one reading. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that, due to changes caused by proclamations from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), the District eliminated Option 1 as a selection for POs. Currently, no POs have selected Option 1; therefore, no schools are impacted. In an effort to reduce confusion regarding renaming the Option 2 and Option 3 selections, they have been renamed as Option A and Option B, respectively.

Board members voted to approved the proposed changes without a second reading.

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].

Adoption of Superintendent’s Budget, All Funds, for FY 2021 (8.6)

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's Budget – All Funds, for Fiscal Year 2021, by the Appropriation Resolution presented. Chico Garcia seconded.

Tony Whiteley reported that the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget was introduced to the Board of Education on May 27, 2020. On June 10, 2020, he presented a brief overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, answered questions from Board members, and then the Board conducted a Public Hearing. This timing complies with all the rules and regulations of the State of Colorado.

Tony reported on the revisions that were made to the FY21 budget since the negotiated agreement had been completed recently. Once the funding information has been

received from legislation, he will come back to the Board for approval of an amended budget in January 2021.

Board members appreciated the Finance team for their work on the FY21 budget with so many uncertainties in property tax and per pupil funding in order to continue to fund the current programs of the District. Greg Fieth stated that, historically, the District is funded 55% by the state and 45% from local support.

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 the 2020-2021 Negotiated Agreement with the St. Vrain Valley Education Association (8.7)

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve the changes to the Negotiated Agreement between the St. Vrain Valley Education Association (SVVEA) and the St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, as outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), effective July 1, 2020, which will go into effect upon ratification of the SVVEA membership. The Board should also delegate authority to Board President Siegrist to approve said MOA upon ratification by SVVEA. Jim Berthold seconded.

Todd Fukai reported via Webex that negotiation teams for the District and for SVVEA met in the spring and into the summer for discussions regarding proposed language changes in the existing Agreement, including compensation matters. The discussions resulted in a number of tentative agreements. He highlighted the most important changes.

Due to the late approval of school budgeting by the Colorado Legislature, a tentative agreement was reached on June 18, 2020. Todd acknowledged St. Vrain Valley Education Association President Steve Villarreal for his collaboration and support of the teachers to complete this MOA.

Board members appreciated that this MOA could be completed in such a short time during a health crisis to give our teachers a sense of the District's commitment to hire, train and retain the best teachers.

Board member Chico Garcia recused himself from voting on the negotiated agreement due to the fact that his wife is a teacher for the St. Vrain Valley School District.

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

Extended Board Meeting

At 8:30 p.m., Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board extend the meeting by 15 minutes, and Jim Berthold 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].

DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)

Equity/Nondiscrimination/Safety (9.1)

Olga Cordero, Patrick Kilcullen were present and Dr. Diane Lauer, Kahle Charles and Lulu Buck participated via Webex to discuss at length current and future priorities and strategies for equity in education, curriculum choices, nondiscrimination and the safety of our students, teachers and staff.

Board members and Dr. Haddad reinforced the commitment of the District that has been in place for decades to make the safety and well-being of its students and staff their utmost priority. Based on conversations with community members throughout the District, Dr. Haddad confirmed his belief that School Resource Officers are an important part of why the majority of students and staff do feel safe in their schools and Board members concurred. He also shared progressively improved graduation rates from 2009 to 2019.

Board members appreciated the work of all staff members to make every student feel inclusive. They noted that the priority of the District has never changed but, given current events, brought the needed conversation back to the surface. Board members appreciated the update from staff and were confident they are fully committed to make the changes needed to take the District to the next level of diversity and inclusivity.

Olga Cordero invited all Board members to a Community Focus Meeting at the Learning Services Center on Thursday, July 16, 2020, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT (10.0)

Board President Joie Siegrist announced there will be a Special Board Meeting held in the Board Room on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 and July 22, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., and Jim Berthold 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 & 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 August 12, 2020.