

**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 January 13, 2021 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 Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction (Webex)  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer (Webex)  
Todd Fukai, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources (Webex)  
James Garcia, Principal of Rocky Mountain Elementary School (Webex)  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Kerin McClure, Principal of Timberline PK-8 (Webex)  
Richard Peebles, Executive Director of Security & Safety  
Dr. Ann Reed, Executive Director of Assessment (Webex)  
Brandon Shaffer, Executive Director of Govt/Legal Affairs, Community Affairs, & P-TECH (Webex)

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

None

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

The public had an opportunity to leave messages on a dedicated email address that would then provide an opportunity for the first 10 people to read their comments in person at the Board Meeting. Dan Maloit was the only speaker from the general public.

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

In compliance with the current terms of the executive order by Colorado Governor Jared Polis mandating no large gatherings, a personal six-foot distance from other people, and anyone leaving their home must wear a mask, there were no other visitors.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)**

- Thanked teachers, students, parents, and classified staff for all their hard work and perseverance. Looking forward to the high school students beginning the hybrid model on January 19. Hoping for fully in-person learning as soon as possible in compliance with recommendations from Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE).
- Started the process of vaccinations for 70-year-old employees right now at Safeway, BCPH, and working to secure a couple of other locations for vaccinations. With support from BCPH and CDPHE, hoping all other employees will be scheduled for vaccinations the end of February and first week of March. The goal is to have all employees return to full five days a week in-person once they have received both doses of vaccine.
- Attended Parent Update Meeting virtually with approximately 100 people – lots of positive feedback. Meets with Teacher Advisory Council (60 teachers) on January 14, along with St. Vrain Valley Education Association representatives.
- Colorado High School Activities Association has given approval to begin Wrestling with some special accommodations. Other sports in Season B will be Basketball, Girls' Swimming, Cheer and Dance.
- Counseling support will continue – 287 students K-12 have taken advantage of academic and social/emotional support Monday through Friday, and crisis support is also available at any time through administration.
- Reported positive graduation results – 90.3% for traditional high schools; 86.7% for all schools combined; 83% for Hispanics; and, dropout rate at 0.8%. Grateful to parents and staff for supporting them in this strong, competitive environment.
- Announced that the District has invited to participate in the World Education Summit on March 22, 2021 – 100,000 will be participating virtually.
- Looking forward to the extensive achievement report highlighting data and strategies with Dr. Kapushion and her team at the January 20 Study Session.
- Hiring process is going well with many outstanding candidates for Principal at Eagle Crest Elementary, Central Elementary, and Area Assistant Superintendent.

- Announced several extended learning opportunities – currently being offered after school, next month on Saturdays, and finalizing plans for Project Launch in Literacy and Math. There will be learning opportunities for K-12 throughout the summer.
- The District's P-TECH program has been assigned 110 internships out of 800 across U.S., the most in the entire country – 138 IBM mentors will be working with our students.
- Brief update on District COVID cases – 29 students and 8 staff members have currently tested positive for the virus. Quarantines: 88 students, 21 teaching staff, 16 building employees, and 5 central office employees. Boulder County's cumulative two-week incidence rate is 354 per 100,000, 4 over into the red category – need a rate of 350 to come back down into the yellow category. Weld County's cumulative incidence rate is 548.2. Boulder County's 2-week testing positivity rate is 4.9 which is the green category, and Weld County's 2-week positivity rate is 9.5 which is the yellow category. Boulder County has had 11 days of declining hospitalizations and Weld County has had 10 days of declining hospitalizations, which puts both counties in the yellow category.
- Enjoyed elementary and middle school visits – positive, high energy level and so many amazing parents, students, and team members working together. Everyone is following safety protocols to help keep schools open.
- Provided an update on the District's financial status – received \$16.6 million from Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), \$2.5 million from Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds and should be receiving approximately \$9.5 million in stimulus funds. Together with the District's strong reserve and the interest earned on it there were no staff layoffs as we enter into negotiations – hope to recognize employees' hard work with a strong compensation and benefits package for the next contract. Building projects have been able to stay on track, and the District has received \$13 million in grants to support its programs.
- Thanked the community for their support and for the sacrifices people have made – a demonstration of what can happen when an entire community comes together to bolster students.
- Discussed the #greatFULL program – created to pause and recognize teachers or anyone you are grateful for in these hard times and encourage us not to take anything or anyone for granted.

Todd Fukai introduced ToniJo Niccoli via Webex as the new Principal for Career Development Center/Olde Columbine High School, effective July 1, 2021. She thanked Dr. Haddad, Dr. Kapushion, and Dina Perfetti-Deany for this opportunity to continue to work with her CDC/OCHS team to assure students are future-ready.

Todd introduced Ryan Ball as the new Principal for the new Elementary 28, effective July 1, 2021. Ryan had a prior engagement and was unable to participate in the meeting.

## **REPORTS (6.0)**

### **School Board Recognition (6.1)**

Dr. Haddad honored each Board member with a plaque in their name recognizing their dedication and hard work and the role that they play in creating a quality public education system that is fundamental to a strong democratic society. Dr. Kapushion expressed her appreciation for the Board's support and encouragement, especially through the pandemic. Board members thanked everyone for their kind words and recognition, and felt the best recognition was seeing the students being successful even through the pandemic.

### **Safety & Security Report (6.2)**

Richard Peebles presented the District's annual report on the safety/security strategies used in the last year to ensure an overall safe school environment and highlighted specifics of the report. He expressed his appreciation for the Board's leadership, their dedication, and their support. He thanked Dr. Haddad, Dr. Kapushion, and recognized the Operations Department staff for being a pleasure to work with.

Board members recognized Richard for the quality of his work during his first year with the District through the ongoing public health pandemic, and for his comprehensive and systematic approach to keeping the staff and the students safe.

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

Karen Ragland moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.13 and 7.15. Consent Agenda Item 7.14 was pulled for further discussion. Jim Berthold seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the December 9, 2020 Regular Meeting and the December 16, 2020 Special Meeting
4. Approval: Approval of Designated Posting Locations for Notice of 2021 St. Vrain Valley Board of Education Meetings
5. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Regulation JLIF-R – Use of Safety and Security Technologies
6. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal of Career Development Center/Olde Columbine High School
7. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal of Elementary #28
8. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Clover Basin Data Center Server Room Cooling Upgrade
9. Approval: Approval of Change Order 2 to Contract for School Security Disbursement Grant Project
10. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Districtwide School Security Disbursement Grant Project
11. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Mead Middle School Irrigation Pump Station
12. Approval: Approval of Easement Agreement for the Niwot High School Renovation Project

13. Approval: Approval of Fee Adjustment 3 to Architect Agreement for Pool Addition Project at Silver Creek High School
14. Approval: Approval of Request to Grant Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest-Strah
15. Approval: Approval of Purchase of NetScout Hardware, Software, and 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].

Consent Agenda Item 7.14 Approval of Request to Grant Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest was pulled for further discussion.

Board members pulled this item to be assured by Greg Fieth that the District practices and policies that are currently in place minimize the potential for conflict of interest situations.

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 School Priority Improvement Unified Improvement Plan (8.1)**

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education adopt the School Priority Improvement UIP for both Timberline PK-8 and Rocky Mountain Elementary School. Jim Berthold seconded.

Dr. Ann Reed reported that, as required by the Education Accountability Act of 2009, the Board must adopt UIPs for any schools identified for a Priority Improvement or Turnaround UIP. Both Timberline PK-8 and Rocky Mountain Elementary School are adopting a Priority Improvement UIP this year. The deadline for adoption is January 15, 2021.

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)**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT (10.0)**

Board President Joie Siegrist announced that the January 20, 2021 Study Session will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Longmont High School, and the next Regular Meeting will be January 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the ESC Board Room.

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 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 February 10, 2021.