

**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 27, 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.

Board President Joie Siegrist and Dr. Haddad congratulated Board member Dr. Richard Martyr who was elected President of the Boards of Education Self-Funded Trust Board of Directors and President-Elect of the Colorado Association of School Boards. They noted how fortunate these organizations were to have Dr. Martyr's service. Dr. Martyr expressed his own appreciation for the opportunities the District has offered him through recognition of the District's excellent leadership and the model it provides those outside of St. Vrain Valley Schools' boundaries throughout Colorado and nationally.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Ahrens, Secretary, Director District D (participated remotely via Webex)
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):

None

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

Ryan Ball, Principal of Eagle Crest Elementary School (Webex)
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent
Bryan Krause, Area Assistant Superintendent (Webex)
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Dr. Ann Reed, Executive Director of Assessment (Webex)
Scott Toillion, Director of Planning (Webex)
Matt Tredennick, Coordinating Architect (Webex)
Tony Whiteley, Executive Director of Budget & Finance (Webex)
Bryan Zwisler, Construction Manager

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. Board President Joie Siegrist confirmed that there were no members of the public who wished to speak to the Board this evening.

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.

Carbon Valley Academy Executive Director Janet Wyatt participated in the meeting via Webex for Action Item 8.1 Adoption of Resolution for Approval/Denial of Charter Application Renewal for Carbon Valley Academy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5.0)

- Visited Erie feeder system schools – full schools and everyone is doing well. Commended the work of the teachers and students.
- Encouraged everyone to read a January 26, 2021 article from *Colorado Public Radio* regarding the District's Early Childhood Education and Pathways to Teach (P-TEACH) programs.
- Grateful to Governor Polis and the Colorado Education Initiative for the \$2.8 million grant that gives the District the opportunity to work with and support five small school districts in Colorado with the challenges they have with the lack of resources.
- Summer programming includes a K-5 and middle school Project Launch in Literacy and Math through the month of June in-person or online. The District will provide transportation and meals. eRecovery will be offered at no cost for high school students. Traditional summer programming like Robotics and regular summer school will also be provided. The intention is ultimately to extend the school year to a permanent extension that will be available to students but not required.
- Announced that there were a good number of Boettcher Foundation and Daniels Scholarship finalist and winners in the District this year.

- District has been notified that the third P-TECH program was formally approved – many high-powered corporate sponsors are providing their expertise and the District has more mentorship/internships than any P-TECH program in the United States.
- Next week is National School Counseling Week – will be recognizing our incredible counselors and will continue our counseling outreach five days a week to all grade levels.
- Announced two first-place finishes of St. Vrain Robotics teams at the World Robotics Tournament – five students beat out 270 teams from all over the world.
- Announced that Longmont High School student Lauren Roberts won an All-American award in Speech and Debate – she is the 9th student in Longmont High School history to win that prestigious achievement.
- District was granted half of a full plot at Kenosha Farm Community Garden in Erie – grateful to our community partners.
- Encouraged everyone to read the article in the *Longmont Times-Call* on the District's graduation rates.
- Notified by the College Board that Skyline High School was recognized for a diversity award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science – congratulations to teacher Sean Beal for that incredible honor.
- Encouraged everyone to watch a video that features Niwot High School (NHS) Campus Supervisor La'Mar West talking about the students at NHS.
- District Finance team announced the District's Moody's bond issuance rating was increased to AA1 – will save taxpayers on interest rates when refinancing bonds. Only four other school districts in the state with that high rating.
- Met with health departments and there is a slow decline in COVID cases – if those trends continue he will revisit having some fan base at athletic events and to have as many students in-person as we can. Students can come in on Fridays and use the library if those trends continue. Objective is to get all our students back in person as quickly and safely as possible, based on county and state public health agency recommendations.
- Good start to vaccinations – educators are split into two categories above and below the 1b line with 70-year old's and health care professionals above the line (630 District employees), and front-line educators below the line. In partnership with county health departments, Dr. Kapushion is working with providers on the logistics of vaccinating the remaining 4,400 employees who choose to be vaccinated in order of job classification and when the Governor's office can release more vaccines. Dr. Haddad's hope is that we can get as many K-12 staff vaccinated as possible by Spring Break in order to move back to in-person learning five days a week while still providing the option of online learning.
- Attendance rates in the schools are still very high – continue to move forward.
- Vaccines from Pfizer are coming in sooner than planned – the Biden administration purchased 200 million more vaccines. Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca are in the final phases of FDA approval. Last weekend there was a mass testing site in Denver for vaccines and that went well – very excited and hopeful with this information.

- Thank you to everyone for the outpouring of support at such a high level – highlight for him was receiving #greatFULL postcards from students thanking him and his administration team for supporting them.

REPORTS (6.0)

Elementary 28 Project Update (6.1)

Brian Lamer and his construction team reported that construction of the 70,000 square foot elementary school broke ground in June of 2020. Residing on approximately 10 acres, construction is progressing towards completion of the exterior envelope that includes window glazing, brickwork and roofing components. Interior construction is in the drywall stage and entails priming and painting of finished drywalled building elements. Utility services such as mechanical and electrical elements continue above ceiling spaces. As we move into spring and warmer weather, site work is expected to be completed in May. With furniture arriving in June, the building will be ready for teachers and staff in July, and most importantly, for students in August of 2021.

On September 11, 2019, the Board of Education identified the site for the elementary school funded in the 2016 Bond based on current and future growth and location of students. The search for the optimal site, based on a wide variety of factors including current and future housing development, the need for capacity by area, and the availability of land with minimal constraints, led to the selection of a 10-acre parcel in the Erie Highlands Subdivision (Erie Highlands Filing #11, Block 5, Lot 1).

This location set up an ideal attendance boundary line using Erie Parkway as the dividing line that meets multiple criteria:

- Relieves the over capacity of an existing school (Soaring Heights);
- Provides adequate enrollment at the new school;
- Provides adequate capacity at both schools that will allow for open enrollment and student choice;
- Reduces busing and transportation costs into Soaring Heights and increases efficiency;
- Maximizes walk-in potential for the entire Erie Highlands subdivision;
- Eliminates an arterial street crossing (Erie Parkway) for elementary students. Middle school populations south of Erie Parkway will continue to be bused into Soaring Heights.

A leadership team, made up of 6 certified teachers (5 in-district and 1 out of state) is actively helping with the opening of Elementary 28. The team meets bi-weekly to plan and set the vision and mission, core values and goals for the school. Presently, 50% of the staff will be interviewed with potential offers in hand by late March. The remaining staffing requirements will be posted along with the school district's regular postings at the beginning of May.

Elementary students in the Elementary 28 boundary can open enroll into any St. Vrain school with the understanding that bus transportation for open enrolled students from the Elementary 28 attendance area will not be available at this time.

Bryan Krause proudly introduced Ryan Ball as the new Principal of Elementary 28, and reminded everyone that there is a dedicated District webpage for Elementary 28 where the public can send their comments and concerns. Ryan updated the Board on the activities happening behind the scenes in the process of opening the school, and encouraged everyone to visit the biography section on the webpage that introduces newly hired staff.

The Board will approve the school name, colors, mascot and boundaries at their February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the commitment on everyone's part to building Elementary 28 to benefit generations of students. They welcomed Ryan Ball as the new Principal after 17 years at Eagle Crest, and are excited for the Erie community to get a new school despite a pandemic.

District Financial Statements – 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2021 (6.2)

At the work session prior to this Board meeting, Greg Fieth provided the Board of Education with the financial report for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2021. Colorado Revised Statute 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.

Greg highlighted the dashboard executive summary showing the status of each fund including the unknowns from June to now with one-time funding of COVID relief funds. He proudly shared the impact of the change in Moody's credit rating for the District to a bond issuance classification of AA1.

2nd Quarter 2021 Public Gifts to Schools (6.3)

Greg Fieth provided the Board of Education with a list of public gifts given to the St. Vrain Valley School District for the second quarter of the 2020-2021 school year totaling \$78,348.20. The total of all the gifts given to the District for the 2020-2021 school year is \$231,369.56. Greg highlighted a few of the donations individually.

During the course of the year, the District receives many cash and gift donations for its programs. These gifts are accepted by the principal, the superintendent or the Board of Education according to Board Policy KCD, Public Gifts to Schools. The attached listing delineates these gifts. For the 2019-2020 school year, second quarter gifts totaled \$223,526.35.

Board members requested that thank you letters for donations make it clear donors receive nothing in return for gifts given to the District except a tax credit, and that sponsorships, for which sponsors do receive value in return, are accounted for separately through Operations. They noted that donations from the community were down because people were hit hard economically by COVID but were still very gracious in their support.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Karen Ragland moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.3. Jim Berthold seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Change Order 5 to the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Spark! Discovery Preschool Renovation Project
2. Approval: Approval of Fee Adjustment 2 to the Consultant Contract for Elementary 28
3. Approval: Approval of Contract for Time and Attendance Software System

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].

ACTION ITEMS (8.0)

Adoption of Resolution for Approval/Denial of Charter Application Renewal for Carbon Valley Academy (8.1)

Chico Garcia moved that the Board of Education adopt a Resolution to authorize the Carbon Valley Academy Renewal Term of two years, which extends through June 30, 2023. Paula Peairs seconded.

Dr. Ann Reed reported that, on December 1, 2020, Carbon Valley Academy submitted a Charter renewal application to the District. In order to comply with Board policy, the Board must act on the application prior to February 1, 2021.

Due to declining enrollment and weakening finances exacerbated by the pandemic, the staff recommendation is for two years versus a five-year renewal authorization. This will allow the District Accountability Committee and Board to assess Carbon Valley Academy's progress after this difficult time.

Board members were concerned about the number of Board policy waivers. Dr. Reed will research the history on providing the charters with waivers in their applications. Dr. Haddad reminded everyone of the financial support that the District has provided all of the charters even through low enrollment and the pandemic. Carbon Valley Academy Executive Director Janet Wyatt thanked District administration for their support and

assured them that her leadership team is committed to bolstering student enrollment and they had addressed any past or future conflict of interest issues.

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].

Adoption of Superintendent's Amended Budget, All Funds, for the Fiscal Year 2021 (8.2)

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education adopt the Amended Fiscal Year 2021, Superintendent's Budget. Paula Peairs seconded.

Tony Whiteley reported that Colorado Revised Statute 22-44-110(5) allows the Board of Education to review and change the budget with respect to both revenues and expenditures, at any time prior to January 31 of the fiscal year for which the budget was adopted.

The FY 2021 Superintendent's Proposed Budget was introduced at the May 27, 2020 Board Meeting, including questions and discussion. On June 2, 2020, the Proposed Budget was made available to the public on the District's website. A public hearing was held for the proposed budget at the June 10, 2020 Board Meeting. On June 24, 2020, the Board adopted the FY 2021 Superintendent's Budget.

Board members thanked Tony and the entire Finance team for their comprehensive report, for acting quickly to predict and mitigate the financial impact COVID would have on District finances, and for working with other districts to investigate current and future financial risks. They were thankful that the District had the financial resources to keep staff employed and construction projects going through the pandemic, and appreciated the role of the Finance and Audit Committee and the professional experience of its community volunteers.

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)

None

ADJOURNMENT (10.0)

Board President Joie Siegrist announced the next Regular Meeting will be held in the ESC Board Room on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m., and Chico Garcia 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 February 10, 2021.