

**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 28, 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:**

John Ahrens, Secretary, Director District D  
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:**

Matt Buchler, Principal of Erie High School  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Todd Fukai, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent for Priority Programs and Academic Support  
Kerri McDermid, Chief Communications & Global Impact Officer  
Brandon Shaffer, Executive Director of Legal/Governmental Affairs, Community Outreach, and P-TECH  
Tony Whiteley, Executive Director of Budget & Finance

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

None

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

None

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

Todd Fukai honored 25-year employees who were able to attend the Board Meeting: Penni Andersen, Lynn Barr, Michaela Cavanaugh, Dan Cribby, Christine Kocjancic, Jodi Marsolek, Violet McHugh, Kirsten McNeill, Sara Pike, Brooke Silva, Ty Tatham, and Veronica Vigil. Todd announced the names of the employees that reached their 25 years of service that were unable to come to the Board Meeting: Melissa Chambers, Candice Cloud, Wanda Foxhoven, Susan Hartman, Magalis Higgins, Andrea Mackey, Jennifer Pickett, Sandra Quezada, Lauren Rider, Tim Sanford, Margaret Voorhees-Hannon and Pete Wysong. Board members and Dr. Haddad shared personal experiences with each of the employees and expressed their appreciation for the employees' service to the District and the lasting impact they have had on generations of students and family's lives.

Todd Fukai introduced Chad Cooper as the new Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Erie High School. Chad thanked Bryan Krause, Chase McBride, and Matt Buchler for this opportunity. He is excited to carry on the Erie traditions and considers it a privilege to work for the St. Vrain Valley School District. Matt Buchler appreciated Chad's work with the Erie football team, and the bond he has with the students to make them all-around better citizens. Board members and Dr. Haddad welcomed Chad and congratulated him on his new position.

Steve Villarreal, President of the St. Vrain Valley Education Association – did not address the Board.

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

- Announced that SAT and PSAT testing in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades has concluded, with a make-up test day in the future. Thanked Kahle Charles, Dr. Ann Reed, students, parents and staff for the smooth testing process.
- Updated the Board members on the status of athletic teams eligible for championship competition this spring.
- Attended Leadership Longmont meeting that he has been involved with for 13 years.
- Updated the Board members on the current hiring status.
- Sent a letter to high school students' parents, encouraging students to stay vigilant with mask wearing and socially distancing for a strong and healthy end to the school year. Assured parents that he continues to monitor the state and local health department COVID levels.

### **REPORTS (6.0)**

#### **District Financial Statements – March FY 2021 (6.1)**

Greg Fieth reported that 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.

At the work session prior to this Board meeting, Greg reported information related to the March 2021 monthly financial statements in compliance with all aspects of Colorado Revised Statutes. Nutrition Services and Community Schools were noted as departments that were heavily impacted by COVID.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Gifts to Schools – 2020-2021 School Year (6.2)**

Greg Fieth provided the Board of Education with a list of public gifts given to the St. Vrain Valley School District for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year totaling \$389,574.45. He highlighted a few of the larger contributions, and confirmed that none of the charitable donors received benefits from the District in return for their donation.

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. For comparison, for the 2019-2020 school year, third quarter gifts totaled \$363,089.33.

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

Jim Berthold moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.11. John Ahrens seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Assistant Principal/Athletic Director for Erie High School
2. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Repeal of Board Policy FA – Facilities Development Goals/Priority Objectives; and Adoption of Revisions to Board Policy FB – Facilities Planning
3. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policy KB – Parent Engagement in Education
4. Approval: Approval of Easement Agreement with Town of Erie for Red Hawk Elementary School
5. Approval: Approval of Contract for District Transport of Natural Gas
6. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Architect Services for Central Elementary School Renovation Project
7. Approval: Approval of Change Order 1 to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Mountain View Elementary School Renovation Project
8. Approval: Approval of Change Order 1 to CMGC Contract for Erie Elementary Renovation Project

9. Approval: Approval of Change Order 1 to CMGC Contract for Centennial Elementary School Renovation Project
10. Approval: Approval of Change Order 7 to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Spark! Discovery Preschool Renovation Project
11. Approval: Approval of Purchase of Logitech Digital iPad Pencils

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)**

#### **Approval of School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) Contract (8.1)**

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve the contract with the Colorado Department of Education to support funding for the School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP). Jim Berthold seconded.

Dr. Diane Lauer reported that SWAP consists of a partnership between the St. Vrain Valley Schools, the Colorado Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. This program supports the development of job seeking skills, work skills, and employment for students with disabilities ages 15 through 21.

St. Vrain Valley Schools has participated in SWAP for the past 21 years, and has one of the highest closure rates for students seeking, securing, and maintaining employment for students with disabilities in the state. A program coordinator and three specialists are supported through this grant funding. The program is supported and implemented entirely through grant funds.

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 Resolution to Redeem & Discharge 2010A Bonds (8.2)**

Chico Garcia moved that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution to Redeem and Discharge the District's 2010A General Obligation Bonds. Karen Ragland seconded.

Tony Whiteley reported that, on May of 2010, St. Vrain Valley Schools issued Tax-Exempt General Obligation Bonds (Series 2010A) in the amount of \$8,590,000 as part of the 2008 voter-approved bond authorization. The bonds were issued at an interest rate of 5.25% and had an original payment schedule of 15 years, with the final payment date scheduled for December 15, 2025. Over this time, the total interest paid would have been approximately \$6.58M.

On December 15, 2020, the 2010A Bonds became subject to call and redemption, at a price equal to the outstanding principal amount plus accrued interest, without penalty or premium for early redemption. No principal payments have been made to-date; the outstanding principal balance remains at \$8.59M.

Currently, St. Vrain has sufficient resources available in its Bond Redemption Fund to be able to fund the early redemption of these bonds, and administration has determined it is advantageous and favorable to St. Vrain and its taxpayers to fully pay, redeem, defease, and discharge the principal of the 2010A Bonds early, on June 1, 2021.

This action will reduce the longevity of the outstanding debt by approximately 4½ years, reducing the total interest paid to \$4.99M, a savings of \$1.59M.

Board members and Dr. Haddad expressed their appreciation to Greg, Tony and the Finance team for guiding the District through the complicated financial pandemic procedures while still recognizing an opportunity to redeem these bonds early and save taxpayers \$1.59M.

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)**

#### **Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Update from CASB President-Elect, Dr. Richard Martyr (9.1)**

Board member Dr. Richard Martyr, President-Elect of CASB, described the work of the 22-member CASB Board of Directors, representing 12 regions across Colorado. The CASB organization was established in 1940 to support 178 Colorado school districts. It has a staff of 13, an annual operating budget of \$2.1 million, and is headed by Executive Director Cheri Wrench. Colorado's public education system consists of 883,000 PK-12 students in 1,900 public schools. CASB's support programs for Colorado school districts include professional development for Board members, Board policy services, Board candidate recruitment and training, and legislative advocacy at the state and federal level.

Dr. Martyr recognized leadership by prior Boards for laying the foundation of success that school districts across Colorado enjoy today. He expressed his appreciation, especially, to former St. Vrain Valley Board members and to Dr. Haddad for their accomplishments in making St. Vrain a recognized leader in academics and technology throughout Colorado and across the nation.

Board members and Dr. Haddad commended Dr. Martyr for his leadership, service and contributions to the CASB organization and recognized the challenges that CASB faces to advance its role as a representative in support of all school districts in Colorado.

**ADJOURNMENT (10.0)**

Board President Joie Siegrist announced the next Regular Meeting will be held in the ESC Board Room on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

John Ahrens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., and 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 May 12, 2021.