

**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 December 9, 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:**

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:**

Kahle Charles, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction (Webex)  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
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 (Webex)  
Kerin McClure, Principal of Timberline PK-8 (Webex)  
Dr. Ann Reed, Executive Director of Assessment (Webex)  
Scott Toillion, Director of Planning (Webex)  
Tony Whiteley, Executive Director of Budget & Finance (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. No one from the public signed up to speak.

### **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)**

- Dr. Haddad welcomed the public watching via livestream and looks forward to the time when students/public can attend Board meetings.
- Virtually attended Capstone celebrations at Silver Creek High School – very inspiring and thanked Carrie Adams for her work with the students.
- Key benchmark dates related to COVID: 1) Meets with upwards of 60 teachers on the Teacher Advisory Council on December 10 for updates and feedback. 2) December 14 meets with the safety team which includes Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) leadership, Board members, St. Vrain Valley Education Association leadership and Student Services nurses and leadership and will share recommendations resulting from the meeting on December 10. 3) December 15 meets with approximately 92 parents on the Parent Update Advisory Committee. 4) December 15 meets with St. Vrain Valley Education Association President Steve Villarreal and Association Representatives from each of the schools to share information with school leadership. 5) December 21 sending out information to teachers, staff and parents on BCPH recommendations for school reopening in January.
- Will continue to use the highest level of HVAC systems, using double the custodial staff, mandate masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer.
- Hired three additional nurses and one epidemiologist who will work closely with BCPH epidemiologist and increase the District's ability to contact trace. Will continue to update the COVID dashboard on positive cases every day and quarantine information every Friday – thanked Kerri McDermid for keeping the dashboard updated.
- New guidelines from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) allows for targeted quarantining which does not reduce safety in any way. Will begin a process of using seating charts along with the usual safety precautions. Included in the letter sent to parents/staff on December 21 will be a graphic of the CDPHE COVID dial with the new purple designation, an explanation of differences between general and targeted quarantine, and links to recent COVID research.
- Will open up COVID testing to students in January free of charge. Last update on positivity rate from the District testing center was 1.4%.

- Graduation rates for the eight traditional high schools have risen to 90.3%, the highest level ever for the District. The Hispanic graduation rate improved from 83.2% to 86.3%. Dropout rate improved from 4% to 0.8%. Current attendance rate is 93%.
- District has received more than \$12 million in grants, including \$450,000 recently awarded to fund the new Cybersecurity P-TECH Program for the next three years.
- Winners of the Thanksgiving myOn reading challenge were 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mead Elementary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Hygiene Elementary, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Rocky Mountain Elementary School. Dr. Haddad presented award checks to each school.
- Hiring process has begun for a Principal for Central Elementary as Jim Hecocks is retiring. With Ryan Ball becoming Principal of the new Elementary #28, the District is now in the process of hiring a Principal for Eagle Crest Elementary.
- Construction continues on the new auditorium for Lyons M/S High and Elementary #28 – thanked Brian Lamer and his team for all their great work on the buildings.
- Dr. Haddad and Greg Fieth shared that the District Purchasing Department has received awards from Rocky Mountain Group Purchasing Alliance (RMGPA). At their Winter Conference, they announced that SVVSD Purchasing Manager Tim Wellman was named Purchasing Manager of the Year and the entire District Purchasing team was recognized as Purchasing Team of the Year.
- Acknowledged sacrifices of students, parents, teachers, staff, and thanked the business community for their support during this difficult time. The District will be offering evening and summer instructional support to students. Urged students and staff to continue to be resilient.
- Colorado High School Activities Association is pushing back Season B because of rising COVID cases.
- Dr. Haddad will be sending out a letter to parents of secondary students sharing names/email addresses of counselors with their alphabet assignments for students. Counselors will be available for appointments with students Monday through Friday for academic and/or mental health/emotional support.

## **REPORTS (6.0)**

### **Enrollment Trends Report (6.1)**

Scott Toillion reported that school districts across the state saw significant enrollment declines due to the impacts of the global pandemic. Several districts saw losses of between 1,500 and 4,000 students, with percentage declines as high as 10%. The St. Vrain Valley School District was not an exception to this trend though seeing less impact than other Front Range districts. Enrollment went from 31,736 in 2019/20 to 30,630 in 2020/21 (counts for traditional neighborhood/charter schools and alternative programs with the funded pre-school special education enrollment). The overall official CDE count, including all pre-school students and other District programs is 31,312.

Districts across the state found the greatest declines at the elementary level, specifically in pre-school and kindergarten. St. Vrain had 580 fewer preschoolers and 231 fewer kindergartners than last year. Based on information on homeschool enrollment, there was a doubling of students opting for private home school education this fall (618 total).

In addition, over 3,300 students chose a fully online option through the District's LaunchEd program.

Even though there were no foreign exchange students this year (typically 40+ per year) the District still drew in over 1,600 students from outside the District boundaries. Preliminary information shows fewer students leaving to attend other districts in 2020 than in 2019.

The 2020/2021 October Report additionally detailed the impact on projections, including a revised projection in the spring after schools went online, which was based on participation levels. The report highlighted enrollment at a school-by-school level, birth numbers, free/reduced lunch counts, ethnic breakdowns, English language learners, private school/home school enrollment, the impacts of choice, building permit activity by community and build-out of the District.

Board members expressed their appreciation to Scott for his revamped, detailed report.

### **Finalized October Count Report (6.2)**

Greg Fieth recognized Amber Muir, school registrars, and attendance clerks for their diligence collecting attendance information during COVID. He introduced Tony Whiteley who presented a report that showed the District finalized the FY21 October count and disseminated pertinent information regarding the 2020 Pupil Count, Funded Pupil Count vs. Enrollment, and values for each grade level comparison of last year to this year, along with funding implications.

Board members recognized the exceptional work and additional time and effort put forth to track attendance by Amber Muir and her staff and the Finance Department during the ongoing public health pandemic.

### **Review of School Priority Improvement Unified Improvement Plan (6.3)**

Dr. Ann Reed reported that, per 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, 2020.

Rocky Mountain Elementary School Principal James Garcia and Timberline PK-8 Principal Kerin McClure thanked their staff that helped students and staff transition to remote learning. They both presented the paths they took to achieve improvement and their plans to reach their future improvement goals.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the reports from James and Kerin and for their leadership.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financials FY 2021 (6.4)**

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, information related to the financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2020 were provided to the Board in compliance with all aspects of Colorado Revised Statute and can be found on the District website.

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

Jim Berthold moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.10. Karen Ragland seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the November 11, 2020 Regular Meeting and November 18, 2020 Special Meeting
4. Approval: Approval of Amendment (GMP) to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Pool Addition Project at Silver Creek High School
5. Approval: Approval of Fee Adjustment 1 to the Architect Agreement for Everly-Montgomery Field House Renovation Project
6. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Chiller Replacement Project at Longmont Estates Elementary School
7. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Chiller Replacement Project at Northridge Elementary School
8. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Chiller Replacement Project at Timberline PK-8
9. Approval: Approval of Selection & Contract Award for Classroom Furniture for Frederick High School – Bond Project
10. Approval: Approval of Selection & Contract Award for School Furniture for Elementary #28 – Bond Project

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 Certification of 2020 Existing Mill Levies (8.1)**

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education certify the 2020 mill levies to the Counties of Boulder, Weld, Larimer and the City and County of Broomfield as attached, and further authorize the appropriate Board member to sign the Certification documents. Jim Berthold seconded.

Tony Whiteley reported that Colorado Statute requires school districts to annually certify mill levies for the above-named funds to the respective county commissioners by December 15th of each year.

Beginning in the 2020 property tax year, per HB20-1418, the District is required to certify its General mill levy at 27.000 mills with a corresponding credit of 2.005 mills, resulting in a net General mill levy of 24.995 mills, which is the same as in previous years.

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].

**Approval of FY21 Transmittal Form for Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds (8.2)**

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve the FY21 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Transmittal Form and Application. Chico Garcia seconded

Greg Fieth reported that under the ESSER Fund, established as part of the Education Stabilization Fund in the CARES Act, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) will award subgrants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to address the impact that the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

As part of the application process, the Board of Education is required to certify that St. Vrain understands and will comply with all applicable rules and regulations associated with the 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].

**Approval of Safe Schools Reopening Grant for St. Vrain Community Montessori School (8.3)**

Jim Berthold moved that the Board of Education approve Safe Schools Reopening Grant for St. Vrain Community Montessori School. John Ahrens seconded.

Greg Fieth reported that, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) introduced a

one-time grant funding opportunity for school districts, charter schools, and BOCES that are struggling to return to in-person learning and need additional resources to safely reopen when possible.

St. Vrain Community Montessori School (SVCMS) does not have a cafeteria or gymnasium. As a result, physically distancing students for lessons, eating, and physical activity have been a challenge. SVCMS plans to use these grant funds to purchase two large, commercial-event tents to conduct outdoor classes with students. The tents increase the number of students that can safely be served with social-distancing parameters in place and also allows students to have a place to eat and to do certain work in inclement weather.

The St. Vrain Valley School District has financial oversight of the grant if awarded SVCMS, and the Board of Education is required to approve the submission of the form to CDE. The Board of Education also certifies that the District understands and will comply with the rules and regulations associated with the federal 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].

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

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT (10.0)**

Board President Joie Siegrist announced that a tentative Special Meeting has been called for Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m., and John Ahrens 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 January 13, 2021.