

**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 March 8, 2017 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 Robert J. Smith at 7:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:**

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D (arrived 7:12 p.m.)  
Dr. Richard Martyr, Director District E  
Paula Peairs, Treasurer, Director District F  
Joie Siegrist, Vice President, Director District A  
Amory Siscoe, Assistant Secretary, Director District G  
Robert J. Smith, President, Director District C

**Board Members Absent (Excused):**

Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B

**St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:**

Carrie Adams, Silver Creek Leadership Academy Director  
Rachel Ayers, Principal of Mead High School  
Betsy Ball, Principal of Mead Elementary  
Josh Barnett, Principal of Mead Middle School  
Rob Berry, Executive Director of Athletics, Activities and Fine Arts  
Kelly Christiansen, Niwot High Counselor & Boys' Cross Country Coach  
Deniece Cook, Principal of Career Development Center/Olde Columbine High School  
Stacy Davis, Director of Security and Emergency Management  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Erick Finnestead, Principal of Silver Creek High School  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations  
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs and Academic Support  
Brandon Lohr, Lyons M/S Wrestling Coach  
Chase McBride, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Niwot High School

Jason McGuire, Lyons M/S Athletic Director/Assistant Principal  
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent  
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Dina Perfetti-Deany, Area Assistant Superintendent  
Patty Quinones, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation  
Terry Schueler, Financial Services Advisor  
Brandon Shaffer, Ex Dir of Govt & Legal Affairs/Community Outreach/P-TECH  
Scott Toillion, Planning Director  
Jamie Vigil, Silver Creek High Social Studies Teacher

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

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

None

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

Jackie Kapushion introduced Silver Creek High School Principal Erick Finnestead, and Erick updated the Board members on the events happening at Silver Creek. He introduced Silver Creek Leadership Academy instructors Carrie Adams and Jamie Vigil who were recognized by the Education First World Tour Organization. Carrie showed a video of a previous tour to give the audience an idea of what their global leadership program is about. This year, they will be traveling to Lima, Peru, to present three workshops at the Student Leaders Summit. Education First Colorado Partnership Manager Jenni Williams was present to answer questions from the Board and provide handouts on the opportunity for students in the District to participate in the future. Board members congratulated Carrie and Jamie for being selected to represent Silver Creek and the District.

Jim Bechtold, Retired District Dispatcher-did not address the Board.

Trip Merklein, President of the St. Vrain Valley Education Association-did not address the Board.

Andrea Smith, Assistant Principal of Niwot High School-did not address the Board.

### **BOARD RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD & BOARD COMMUNICATIONS/COMMENTS (5.0)**

#### **Board Reports**

John Ahrens –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Congratulations to Tommy Stager-love seeing students being recognized for their accomplishments. It is a tribute to our teachers, staff and programs.

- Attended CASB Winter Legislative Conference in Denver-SVVSD is still being recognized by legislators around the state for our outstanding teachers, our students, programs and the impactful connections with our businesses and parents.
- Announced his involvement to bring surfing to Colorado schools and St. Vrain through virtual reality technology with the Oceans First organization.

Dr. Richard Martyr –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Acknowledged Brandon Shaffer's work with the Student Senate-at the last meeting, Brandon brought in a current lobbyist and a state legislative newspaper reporter which was an interesting opportunity for students.
- Recognized Olde Columbine High School for their Governance program which praises the accomplishments of individual students.
- Commended Dr. Haddad for promoting community relationships, i.e., the Carbon Valley Chamber of Commerce Member Appreciation Dinner-important to spend time with community leaders.
- Attended El Comite Fundraising Dinner-each of our legislative representatives were there, along with local city and county police departments and community leadership to express support for our Hispanic and immigrant community and the challenges we collectively face.
- Attended Doing Democracy Day-appreciated tremendous job Silver Creek staff did to make this event relevant for students from every SVVSD high school. They explored the feasibility of a voting student to our Board of Education. Encouraged principals to thank their teachers that participated and encouraged all students to participate in years to come.

Paula Peairs –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended the Alpine Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade IB Expo-so impressed with the 10-year olds that gave the PowerPoint presentations.
- Attended El Comite Fundraising Dinner-glad to show support given the current political environment.
- Attended the Dyslexia Simulation event-the parent group has created a fantastic event and she learned so much.
- Attended teacher conferences-thanks to all of our teachers for their efforts, their late hours, and for the parents for providing the meals.
- Appreciates her involvement in community events which gives her so much pride for how efficiently the school system is operating.

Joie Siegrist –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Appreciation and gratitude for everyone involved in the creation of the Silver Creek Chinese New Year celebration, the Carbon Valley Chamber Member Appreciation Dinner (congratulations to the Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley on their Community Impact Award), the Longmont Chamber of Commerce Unity in the Community event, and the Hygiene Elementary Reading Across America event.

- Attended all the School Safety/Bond Community Meetings to date-all going very well and look forward to attending the last meeting on March 9, 2017. Thanks so much to the staff that put those events together.
- Toured Rocky Mountain Elementary-thanked Principal Jill Fuller for a fantastic experience.
- Looking forward to attending the VEX Robotics Showcase-thank you to Patty Quinones for her work on that event.

Amory Siscoe –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended the Coal Ridge Middle School Safety/Bond Community Meeting-Coal Ridge staff, Jackie Kapushion and Brian Lamer did a fantastic job.
- Attended Coal Ridge Middle School Parent Night-Liza Nybo gave a wonderful presentation on the many attributes of Coal Ridge, and to Ms. Mitchell on the elementary-to-middle school boot camp information.
- Looking forward to the official groundbreaking events for the new Erie PK-8 and the new Frederick Elementary at 4:00 p.m. on March 20 and 22, 2017 respectively.
- Attended the Carbon Valley Chamber of Commerce Member Appreciation Dinner-great experience to enjoy time with community members.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Recognized staff for the wonderful events that they continue to create.
- Reminded everyone of the District's Mission Statement: "To educate each student in a safe learning environment so that they may develop to their highest potential and become contributing citizens." Thanked the staff for supporting each and every one of our students on a daily basis.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Presented a Superintendent's Excellence in Education Award to Niwot High student Margaux Randolph who was nominated by Niwot Elementary Principal Nancy Pitz for going above and beyond to help a Niwot Elementary autistic student.
- Announced that Niwot High Instructor Ken Benson was chosen as Colorado Economics Teacher of the Year by the State of Colorado.
- Attended Doing Democracy Day-thank you to Kent Willmann and Justelle Grandsaert for their work in creating an event where students can be involved in civic engagement.
- Announced that Longs Peak Middle School was named one of Colorado Schools to Watch, and that this is the fourth SVVSD middle school to be named as such. St. Vrain has more "Schools to Watch" than any other school district in the state. Dr. Diane Lauer explained to the Board how much is involved for a school to have this honor, and Dr. Haddad thanked her for her involvement in the organization.
- Announced that he is still conducting School Safety/Bond Community meetings with the last one on March 9, 2017 at Erie Middle School at 6:30 p.m. and that follow-up

meetings with community members have already begun. Dr. Haddad thanked Brian Lamer and his team for the swiftness of the new build/renovation construction.

- Dr. Haddad gave the Board members a hiring update-amazed at the talent striving to come to the District from all over the U.S.
- Announced that the robotics program continues to explode in St. Vrain-Patty Quinones gave everyone an update on the increase in interest in robotics, and invited everyone to the VEX Robotics Showcase on March 9, 2017 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and provided that this is a fundraiser for the students that would like to attend world competition.

## **REPORTS (6.0)**

### **Mead High School Student Advisory Council Feeder Report (6.1)**

Jackie Kapushion recognized the Mead feeder administration Josh Barnett, Principal of Mead Middle School; and Betsy Ball, Principal of Mead Elementary that were in attendance and introduced Mead High Principal Rachel Ayers. Rachel recognized the three students that attend the Career Development Center Film Studies program that were instrumental in creating the video they presented. She thanked Jackie Kapushion for her leadership and mentorship, and appreciated her relationship with Betsy Ball and Josh Barnett. Mead Student Advisory Council students Adriana Escorza and Derrick Allen were in attendance. Students Sierra Bell, Jorge Lopez, and Colten Dudley were unable to attend the Board Meeting. Adriana and Derrick presented a video featuring the Mead feeder system schools.

Board members appreciated the great video and were interested to hear about the Mead High Collegiate Crossings program, which is a 2-year grant program in its first year to help students with their college admissions process. Board members thanked Rachel for the quality of education at Mead High and their incredible engagement with the community. Board members invited Mead High School Student Advisory Board Liaison Derrick Allen to ask questions of the Board/administrators at any time, and thanked him for representing the Mead High student body.

Advisory student Adriana Escorza appreciated Rachel for advocating for a student panel of multicultural students to talk to teachers and to find solutions to the diversity issues they are facing. Dr. Haddad invited Adriana to a Latino Chamber of Commerce event that he will be attending.

### **Winter Athletics/Activities Report (6.2)**

Niwot High Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Chase McBride honored Niwot High State Wrestling Champion Tommy Stager and told the audience about Tommy's myriad accomplishments and future plans. Tommy and his family spoke to the Board and thanked the staff and coaches of Niwot High for his successes. Board members congratulated Tommy and wished him well at the Air Force Academy in the Fall.

Chase then honored Niwot High Counselor and Boys' Cross Country Coach Kelly Christiansen for being recognized as the 2016-2017 Colorado Boys' Cross Country Coach of the Year award winner and the Sason Sharify Award, both voted on by his peers and both only given to one coach in the state. Dr. Haddad presented Kelly with a Superintendent's Excellence in Education award.

Chase congratulated Silver Creek High School Principal Erick Finnestead for being an advocate of unified sports in the District.

Lyons M/S Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Jason McGuire introduced Lyons' State Wrestling Champion Keegan Bean, his Lyons Wrestling Coach Brandon Lohr, and his parents. Keegan was most proud to be setting an example for the younger wrestlers and students of Lyons. Jason reported on the recent successes of Lyons M/S.

Rob Berry reported on the broader highlights of the winter athletics and music awards for the District. Dr. Haddad announced that Rob was awarded the Outstanding Athletic Administrator for the State of Colorado by his peers. Board members expressed their appreciation for everything that Rob does for the District. Ella Padilla congratulated Rob for his award-she reported that he was a great mentor to her when she started with the District and that he truly deserves that award.

### **District Enrollment Projections 2017-2021 (6.3)**

The Planning Department and the Long Range Facility Planning Committee (LRFPC) have evaluated a wide variety of indicators and developed enrollment projections for 2017-2021. The basis for determining these projections is a cohort-survival statistical model developed by the Planning Department that analyzes the student progression ratios and migration on a grade-by-grade basis. As part of this analysis, the following are also evaluated: Monthly enrollment counts; the number of lots with final plat approval; the number of building permits issued and anticipated by the local municipalities; birth data; private, charter and home school enrollment; open enrollment in and out the District; the real estate market; changes in student yield; potential educational/programmatic changes; economic forecasts developed by other entities; and impacts from new schools and attendance boundary changes.

The following tables identify a number of the factors reviewed by the Planning Department and LRFPC, which impact enrollment in the St. Vrain Valley School District. While last year's growth was a little lower than in past years, there are signs of stronger growth ahead given the number of new housing permits, current and anticipated job growth in the St. Vrain Valley area, increase in developments under review in communities across the District and increases in migration predicted by the Colorado State Demographer for the State of Colorado. In addition, the new school construction in the years to come in SVVSD will allow for more capacity for students both from within the District and from outside the District boundaries. Growth increases have always accompanied construction of new facilities. Construction of the new K-8 in Erie by the Boulder Valley School District could moderate some of the Erie growth in the next few

years, however strong growth is expected in this area based on projects under construction and review in Erie.

Based on this review, an estimate of 512 additional students is expected for the 2017 school year, with a total enrollment of 31,613 in 2017 (not including pre-school students). By 2021, District enrollment is expected to grow by an average of almost 750 students per year to reach 34,834 students.

Board members greatly appreciated Scott for his terrific work. Dr. Haddad would like to have a formal discussion with the Board regarding mill levy override support based on different enrollment levels for each traditional or charter school.

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

Joie Siegrist moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.11. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Approval of Minutes for the February 8, 2017 Regular Meeting, the February 15, 2017 Study Session/Joint Meeting with SVVEA, and the February 22, 2017 Regular Meeting
4. Approval: Second Reading, Adoption, Board Policies JICH – Drug and Alcohol Abuse by Students; JLCD – Administering Medications to Students; JLCD-R – Administering Medications to Students; and New Board Exhibit JLCD-E – Written Plan- Administration of Medical Marijuana to Qualified Students
5. Approval: Approval of Irrigation System Agreement with the City of Longmont
6. Approval: Approval of Architect Selection for Erie High Addition
7. Approval: Approval of Contract Increase-Architect Agreement for Innovation Center Project
8. Approval: Approval of Contract Increase-Modular Classrooms Project
9. Approval: Approval of Renewal of Joint Use Agreement with Town of Mead
10. Approval: Approval of Renewal of Joint Use Agreement with Carbon Valley Parks & Recreation District
11. Approval: Approval of Renewal of Lease Agreement with Carbon Valley Parks & Recreation District

Brian Lamer and Greg Fieth have created a new guideline for Consent vs. Action Items. Any item over \$1 million will now be placed in the Action Items. Anything below that amount will remain in the Consent Items.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Debbie Lammers, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

## **ACTION ITEMS (8.0)**

### **Approval of Recommendation to Hire Assistant Principal for Career Development Center/Olde Columbine High School (8.1)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Ms. Tonijo Niccoli as the Assistant Principal for Olde Columbine High School, effective July 1, 2017. Paula Peairs seconded.

Ella Padilla reported that Ms. Niccoli graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She continued her education at the University of Northern Colorado where she completed her Master of Arts in Special Education. She later completed her Education Specialist, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

For the past six years, Ms. Niccoli has served as the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director for H.S. Winograd K-8 School in the Greeley School District. During this time, she secured supplemental funding to provide after school programming for students, led Professional Development for administrators and quadrupled student participation in the middle school athletic program. Prior to that, she served as a Student Recovery Teacher for one year where she instructed and assisted at-risk students in securing credits towards high school graduation and post-secondary endeavors. Ms. Niccoli also served as a Special Education Teacher and Department Chair at Greeley Central High School for five years. Annual salary will be according to schedule.

Ms. Niccoli was unable to attend the Board Meeting, but Deniece Cook shared a letter that Ms. Niccoli provided to thank the Board. Deniece thanked Dina Perfetti-Deany and Mark Mills for their assistance in choosing Ms. Niccoli. Dr. Martyr appreciated the work that Tammy Coleman had done as a teacher and Assistant Principal at Longmont High and Assistant Principal at Career Development Center/Olde Columbine High.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Debbie Lammers, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

### **Approval of Contract Award-Niwot Elementary Site Circulation (8.2)**

Joie Siegrist moved that the Board of Education approve the contract award for the Niwot Elementary Site Circulation Bid #2017-049 to Taylor Kohrs LLC for \$1,058,332, which includes base bid, Alternates No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10% contingency, and further authorize Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, to sign contract documents and initiate scope changes up to the approved amounts in accordance with Board policy. John Ahrens seconded.



Brian Lamer reported that the Site Circulation project will improve the traffic flow for buses, parent drop-off, and parking at Niwot Elementary School. Funding for the project is available in cash-in-lieu (CIL Funds) and the 2016 Bond program.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Debbie Lammers, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

### **Approval of New Lease Agreement with Town of Mead (8.3)**

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve a new Lease Agreement for the baseball and softball fields at Mead Elementary School between the Town of Mead and the District, and further authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign agreement documents. John Ahrens seconded.

Brian Lamer reported that the St. Vrain Valley School District and the Town of Mead desire to create and foster a mutually beneficial relationship, which will benefit the local community. In exchange for exclusive programming and use rights, the Town of Mead will provide mowing, field prep, and general maintenance of the fields for use during the season identified as March 15, 2017 through November 15, 2017.

SVVSD will continue to be responsible for irrigation, raw water costs, and repair to irrigation systems on the fields, when necessary, and this Agreement will expire on December 31, 2017.

Board members wanted the listening audience to know that the short timing of project approvals at tonight's meeting was an affirmation of the trust in Brian Lamer and his team.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Debbie Lammers, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

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

None

### **ADJOURNMENT (10.0)**

Amory Siscoe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m., and Paula Peairs seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Debbie Lammers, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes; Amory Siscoe, yes; Bob Smith, yes].

Respectfully submitted,

Amory Siscoe, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Secretary to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on April 12, 2017.