

**MINUTES
ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING**

OPENING OF MEETING

The Board of Education of the St. Vrain Valley School District met for a Special Meeting on December 14, 2015 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The Special Meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Robert J. Smith at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Ahrens, Member, Director District D
Debbie Lammers, Secretary, Director District B
Dr. Richard Martyr, Member, 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):

None

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Theresa Jennings, Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Jackie Kapushion, Area 1 Assistant Superintendent
Heather Keith, Risk Management Claims Specialist
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Kerri McDermid, Webmaster/Online Communications Coordinator
Mark Mills, Area 2 Assistant Superintendent
Ella Padilla, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction
Tony Whiteley, Executive Director of Budget

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

Penny Hodges-present to speak on Report Item 5.2 CMAS: PARCC English Language Arts and Math Achievement Data.

VISITORS (4.0)

Dr. Don Haddad awarded an Excellence in Education award to Kerri McDermid who was given the award for operating the Communications Department singlehandedly when two co-workers were out on long-term leaves of absences. Don really appreciated Kerri's amazing quality work product during challenging times. Co-worker Theresa Jennings was also there to say thanks to Kerri for keeping the department running smoothly while she was on leave.

Trip Merklein-President of St. Vrain Valley Education Association.

Lee Berg-Executive Director of Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley.

REPORTS (5.0)

Northern Colorado (NOCO) Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Pool (5.1)

Heather Keith reported that workers' compensation insurance is a state-regulated insurance system that ensures medical bills and some lost wages are paid for employees injured on the job or who have work-related illnesses. In 1985, St Vrain Valley Schools (RE-1J), Windsor School District (RE-4) and Park Schools (RE-3) entered into an agreement to pool our liabilities for workers' compensation benefits.

November 3, 2015 NOCO board meeting highlights:

Financial Performance and Assets – The Pool continues to have strong financial performance with \$3,219,236 in assets. Our net income for the year ending June 30, 2015 was \$240,481 compared to \$27,254 for the prior year.

Audit – Feldhake & Associates, P.C. presented the June 30, 2015 audit of the financial statements and issued a clean, unqualified opinion.

Investments – RBC Global Asset Management presented a report on our investments. They continue to invest in quality securities with slightly higher yields than treasuries. The portfolio has slightly outperformed the Bank of America 1-10 Year Treasury Index which has a benchmark of 2.12 percent. The yield on our portfolio was 2.17 percent.

Surplus – The Pool has more than adequate surplus based upon actuarial assessments. During the November NOCO board meeting, the board decided to approach the Colorado Department of Insurance and request a reduction in surplus. If

approved, a portion of surplus funds would be returned to partner districts. This would likely come in the form of a deduction of annual premiums. St Vrain would receive \$314,550 of the surplus.

Board President Bob Smith felt that the Pool is being well managed, but also felt that the Claire Davis Act (SB15-213) may change the make-up of the Pool.

CMAS: PARCC English Language Arts and Math Achievement Data (5.2)

Tori Teague reported that, during the spring of 2015, students in grades three through eleven took the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math for the first time. These assessments were developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Grade twelve students enrolled in Algebra 2 also took the PARCC math assessment. PARCC assessments in the future will be given annually during the month of April, and results will be available early in the summer each year.

These scores set a new baseline for measuring student achievement and are the first tests to be aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Math. The Colorado Academic Standards are more rigorous than previous standards and are designed to help all students graduate college and be career ready. This data cannot be compared to past scores on TCAP as the assessments measure different concepts and skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking. Scores are expected to improve in the future as students and teachers gain experience with the new standards and become better prepared to meet the more challenging content.

Dr. Don Haddad cautioned the Board/audience that the PARCC numbers can be deceiving because of poor participation rates. The Board had a lengthy conversation on the value of the PARCC tests as compared to the worth of the ACT, SAT or PSAT.

CONSENT ITEMS (6.0)

None

ACTION ITEMS (7.0)

Approval of Certification of Existing Mill Levies (7.1)

Paula Peairs moved that the Board of Education approve the certification of existing mill levies as presented by Greg Fieth and Tony Whiteley. John Ahrens seconded.

Tony Whiteley reported on the final certification of valuation of existing mill levies for Boulder, Weld, Larimer, and the City and County of Broomfield. Colorado Statute requires school districts to annually certify mill levies to the respective county commissioners by December 15 of each year, although the information does not go out to the districts until December 10. Tony appreciated the Board's flexibility in moving the

date of the meeting to accommodate the deadline that information needed to be back to the state.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS (8.0)

Five-Year Budget Projections (8.1)

Tony Whiteley updated the Board and the audience on the five-year budget projections worksheet. Tony discussed with the Board the different scenarios that would change the information in the worksheet from year-to-year.

Graduation Requirements (8.2)

Connie Syferd and Tori Teague updated the Board on the new laws for graduation requirements. They discussed with the Board the three components to the new requirements which are ICAP, Coursework and Credits, and College and Career Readiness. The new requirements will affect this year's 7th graders who will graduate in 2021. There was much discussion on whether to keep the Practical Arts separate from the Fine Arts and whether to put Computer Science in a classification by itself. Each of the Board members weighed in on what their thoughts were about those decisions. Board Policy IKF-Graduation Requirements will be revised and have its first reading at the January 13, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT (9.0)

Joie Siegrist moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lammers, Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Secretary to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on January 13, 2016.