

**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 May 27, 2020 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. A financial work session was held at 5:30 p.m. The Regular Meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Joie Siegrist at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

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):

John Ahrens, Secretary, Director District D

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations (via Webex)
Mark Mills, Area Assistant Superintendent (via Webex)
Brandon Shaffer, Executive Director of Legal/Governmental Affairs, Community Outreach & P-TECH (via Webex)
Tony Whiteley, Executive Director of Budget & Finance (via Webex)

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)

Agenda was accepted as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)

There could be no public participation at the Board Meeting due to COVID-19 regulations by Colorado Governor Jared Polis. The public had an opportunity to leave messages on a dedicated link on the District website that would be read by a Board member during the Board Meeting. There were no messages from the public for this meeting.

VISITORS (4.0)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no visitors and no physical public participation. The terms of the current executive order by Colorado Governor Jared Polis require no meetings greater than 10 people, that they create a personal six-foot distance from other people, and that anyone leaving their home must wear a mask. Board members complied with these requirements to conduct this Board Meeting.

Jason Hopfer, owner of JLH Consulting & Public Affairs, LLC, attended via Webex as a guest of Brandon Shaffer for Discussion Item 9.1 Legislative Proposal to Repeal Gallagher Amendment.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE (5.0)

- Continues to follow the COVID-19 executive orders of the state and local health departments. Dr. Haddad noted the downward trend of people currently hospitalized with COVID-19.
- Thanked everyone involved in closing out the school year. Shared a publication with the Board that will be sent to community members and the District's corporate partners to thank them for their support, and announced that he will continue to email parents weekly. The emails will have links that parents can go to related to their student(s). In the last week of June, his email will detail plans for opening schools in the fall, according to the most current COVID-19 information from the state and local health departments. In following the governing authorities, schools could open normally with social distancing, with a blended system of online and in-person, or remote learning only.
- Reminded the Board that the District has had a COVID-19 Task Force since April that has been meeting to address challenges to all District departments since the closure of all schools, and will continue to monitor procedures to open schools in the fall following state and local health department requirements.
- Dr. Haddad and St. Vrain Education Association President, Steve Villarreal, have agreed to delay negotiations until more information on state funding is available.
- Operations & Maintenance is moving forward on all the construction projects – thank you to Brian Lamer and his team.
- Thanks to the outstanding work of our District Technology Services Department.
- Updated the Board on the condition of District finances – in a very strong position and grateful for the way the Finance Department handles the budget.
- Dr. Kapushion gave the Board members an update on the accomplishments of the first District graduates of the P-TECH Program.

- Will share P-TECH demographics information with the Board – for some P-TECH graduates, this is the first family member to graduate from high school and the first to go to college, beginning that college career with an Associate's Degree.
- Appreciates that the District had the resources to create these robust programs and keep them sustainable to deliver on the promise to the students when they were freshman. The District plans to spend \$27 million of its \$131 million reserves to continue programs like P-TECH.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the way administration has solved the incredibly complex challenges that they have faced so far during this pandemic.

REPORTS (6.0)

District Financial Statements – April 2020 (6.1)

Greg Fieth reported that Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) 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 stated that Finance will continue to monitor the property tax situation and the financial condition of Community Schools and Nutrition Services.

3rd Quarter Gifts to Schools FY20 (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 2019-2020 school year totaling \$291,576.78. Third quarter was hit hard because schools and businesses closed down in mid-March. In comparison, for the 2018-2019 school year, third quarter gifts totaled \$328,419.10. Greg highlighted three of the current donations.

Introduction of Superintendent's Proposed FY21 Budget – All Funds (6.3)

Via Webex, Tony Whiteley provided the Board of Education with an extensive report on the Introduction of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget – All Funds for Fiscal Year 2021. The Public Hearing of the FY21 Budget will take place on June 10, 2020, and the final budget adoption is scheduled for June 24, 2020. This timing complies with all the rules and regulations of the State of Colorado. Due to the pandemic, the budget included current estimates, as the District waits for the state legislature to approve the state budget which includes K-12 funding.

Board members thanked Tony and the Finance team for the FY21 budget creation with so many unknowns regarding property taxes, possible student enrollment fluctuations, and the \$16.4 million federal relief money at this time.

Finance & Audit Committee Update (6.4)

Greg Fieth reported that the primary function of the Finance and Audit Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities to the public (parents and taxpayers). This Committee reviews financial information provided by the District, reviews the District's financial systems and associated internal controls, reviews the projected and amended budget, and reviews the District's auditing, accounting, and financial reporting processes.

Board members asked Greg to convey their appreciation to the Finance & Audit Committee members for their dedication to the District and the important role they play in the District's financial goals.

COVID-19 Update (6.5)

Dr. Haddad updated the Board on the ways that COVID-19 has affected the District during his Superintendent's Report.

CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)

Jim Berthold moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.8. Paula Peairs seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for New Playground Equipment at Eagle Crest Elementary School
2. Approval: Approval of Amendment to the Design-Build Contract for the Field Lighting Project at Niwot High School
3. Approval: Approval of Amendment to the Design-Build Contract for the Field Lighting Project at Silver Creek High School
4. Approval: Approval of Amendment to the Design-Build Contract for the Field Lighting Project at Skyline High School
5. Approval: Approval of Change Order 1 to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for the Erie Middle School Bond Project
6. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policies AC-R – Reporting Discrimination/District Response to Discrimination Complaints and AC-E-1 – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity (Sample Notice)
7. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policies JKD/JKE – Suspension/Expulsion of Students (and Other Disciplinary Procedures); JKD/JKE-R – Suspension/Expulsion of Students (Hearing Procedures); and JKD/JKE-E – Grounds for Suspension/Expulsion
8. Approval: Approval of 2020/2021 Administrative Employment Contracts

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, absent; 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 Contracts for Teachers/Non-Renewal Notices for 2020/2021 Academic Year (8.1)

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve teacher contracts for all probationary and non-probationary teachers currently employed by the St. Vrain Valley Schools with the exception of Jennifer Luscombe, Counselor at Student Services. Dr. Richard Martyr seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, absent; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)

Legislative Proposal to Repeal Gallagher Amendment (9.1)

Brandon Shaffer and Jason Hopfer provided the Board of Education with an update on a concurrent resolution to be considered by the General Assembly referring a measure to the ballot in November repealing the Gallagher Amendment.

Information about the Gallagher Amendment was provided with a comprehensive description of the history and intent of the amendment. They also explained its interaction with TABOR and the resulting unintended impact it has on statewide funding for K-12 education.

Due to the Gallagher Amendment, the state is once again looking at reducing residential assessment rates, which will impact local property tax collections. The current estimate is that the rate will fall from 7.15% to 5.88%. This will result in an approximate \$13.4 million reduction in general fund property tax collections in our District.

The legislative proposal being considered would refer a measure to voters in November, 2020, to repeal the Gallagher Amendment, thereby maintaining the residential assessment rate at 7.15% and eliminating automatic residential assessment rate reductions in the future.

Board members were supportive of the stability in property taxes that this repeal would bring. Board members and Dr. Haddad were comfortable with Brandon and Jason representing the District to lobby for the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment on the District's behalf.

District Economic Stimulus Funds (9.2)

Dr. Haddad and Greg Fieth described the requirements from the state on the uses of COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Funds that the District applied for and received. They

noted that money usage guidelines were broad but guaranteed the money will be used effectively to slow down the loss of student learning.

ADJOURNMENT (10.0)

Board President Joie Siegrist thanked District Technology Services employees for facilitating the ability for remote participation in the Board Meeting via Webex. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held in the Board Room on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members expressed their appreciation to administration, teachers and staff for their hard work keeping the District moving forward during the pandemic.

Jim Berthold moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m., and Chico Garcia seconded. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation: [John Ahrens, absent; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, yes; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, yes; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ragland, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on June 10, 2020.