

**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 October 28, 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:**

Joe Brown, Niwot High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Kelly Christensen, Niwot High School Boys' & Girls' Cross Country Head Coach  
Chad Eisentrager, Mead High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer  
Jane Frederick, District Comptroller  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent  
Miikka Keronen, Niwot High School Boys' Tennis Head Coach  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations (via Webex)  
Dr. Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs & Academic Support (via Webex)  
Chase McBride, Executive Director of Athletics, Activities, Fine Arts, PE & Health  
Kerri McDermid, Chief Communications and Global Impact Officer  
Eric Rauschkolb, Principal of Niwot High School  
Darin Reese, Mead High School Basketball Head Coach

Brandon Shaffer, Executive Director of Legal/Governmental Affairs, Community Outreach, and P-TECH (via Webex)

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

Due to the large number of students that were being recognized, Report Item 6.1 was moved ahead the Superintendent Report.

### **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. Board President Joie Siegrist confirmed that there were no members of the public that wished to speak to the Board this evening.

### **VISITORS (4.0)**

See Report Items 6.1 and 6.2.

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

- Updated Board members on most recent COVID information from the District dashboard that is updated every Friday. Cumulative totals of staff and student positive cases are 1,236 for a 3.4% positivity rate. Information from the county health departments is shared with District nurses. Encouraged everyone to watch Boulder County Public Health Department (BCPH) Executive Director Jeff Zayach's presentation that explains the metrics that BCPH uses to make decisions on which individuals should be quarantined. There is a concern that COVID rates are increasing across the state and in Boulder County. Administration will monitor that data as we move forward. Dr. Haddad read a recent letter he received from Jeff Zayach expressing concerns about increasing positivity and hospitalization rates going into the fall months with typically large family gatherings and flu cases. Mr. Zayach wrote that BCPH resources are being stretched thin as cases rise, so he has asked for more support from District staff for contact tracing and quarantine monitoring. Additional nurses have been hired for that support. Dr. Haddad also noted that Colorado Governor Jared Polis commented that schools are the safest place to be, and that fatality rates are dropping because of a better understanding of the virus. The District maintains its top priorities of the requirement to wear masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing, hand washing, upgraded HVAC systems, extra custodial and nursing help, and temperature checks in an effort to reduce COVID cases. He reiterated that final decisions on learning models and quarantines are always made on recommendation by state health experts. At this moment, all of Boulder County is under the Safer at Home, Level 3. In the event that the District has to switch back to online learning only, he will share information and alert families as quickly as possible.
- Recognized the challenges of the teachers who also have children of their own at home online and is very grateful for their hard work continuing to provide some form

of normalcy for the students and for their own families. Substitutes are depleted too, so this adds human elements that also do not show up on the dashboard.

- Dashboard numbers change so frequently that school principals have the approval to share quarantine and COVID-case information with parents, if they should ask.
- Board members and Dr. Haddad thanked the public for their patience in this highly stressful and unpredictable time and appreciated the public feedback they have received. Board members shared their confidence in the leadership team and its track record of success.
- Announced that the Leadership St. Vrain program has been postponed because of COVID, but that it may start up again later in the year. An offshoot of that program, a parent update advisory committee, will start in December in relation to solving COVID issues.
- Met with LaunchED staff virtually to talk about their struggles and the improvements made in regard to those struggles.
- Safety Meetings with BCPH will begin again soon as well as school-level meetings with principals and two to four teachers at each school to talk about future plans.
- Future snow days will include additional online learning opportunities for students, and families will receive details on that extra learning opportunity soon.
- Board members requested that quarantine levels be added to the dashboard and/or have principals add quarantine information to their weekly reports to the parents.

Dr. Kapushion shared a PowerPoint presentation on the new academic support opportunities that the District is providing students K-12 in all schools in the District, beginning Monday, November 2.

- There are two objectives to that support: 1) providing supplemental individual and small group support to students who are struggling with new course content, failing to turn in their weekly assignments or just in need of more direct, explicit support; and, 2) the need to ensure that every student reaches grade-level success and are supported socially and emotionally.
- Both hybrid groups can access this support, and this is in addition to support provided every Friday, by appointment or based on a recommendation by a teacher.
- Structure of this support is based on the size of the school and the number of students needing assistance.
- Certified staff will be paid \$30/hour extra to provide the instruction.
- Students will have the ability to access four to 12 hours of support per week, and financial resources are provided by the CARES Act, the Read Act, and the General Fund.
- Any student who reaches out can access additional support; students/parents should contact their school principal to request assistance.
- Monitoring student growth using PALS and iReady data and Infinite Campus to track assignment completion and credit completion for high school students, and will run “F” reports to contact parents to get those students extra support using eCredit recovery.
- Early information indicating encouraging results of preschool initiatives – a significant decrease in students entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade below grade level.

- Grateful for the District's strong financial situation through this health crisis while many other districts are experiencing a financial crisis.

## **REPORTS (6.0)**

### **Season A Athletics/Fine Arts Report (6.1)**

Chase McBride reported on the Season A athletics results and recognized Niwot High School (NHS) Principal Eric Rauschkolb and NHS AP/AD Joe Brown. Joe introduced NHS Head Coach Kelly Christensen and he recognized the NHS Boys' and Girls' Cross Country team that won the 2020 state championship. Kelly also announced that Zane Bergen won the 2020 Boys' Boulder County Cross Country Runner of the Year award, and Mia Prok won the 2020 Girls' Boulder County Cross Country Runner of the Year award. Joe Brown introduced NHS Tennis Head Coach Miikka Keronen and she recognized the students on the tennis team that won the 2020 state championship. This is the first time in NHS history that the tennis team won the state championship. Eric Rauschkolb thanked the Board and Dr. Haddad for their support for student athletes and was so proud of the students for their dedication and reaching the level of excellence they have this year. Chase introduced Mead High School AP/AD Chad Eisentrager who recognized Head Coach Darin Reese and the Mead High School Basketball Team for qualifying for the semi-finals of the 2019 state championships, but were not able to complete competition because of COVID. Both Joe Brown and Chad Eisentrager recognized those students who also won Academic All-State awards.

Board members thanked Chase McBride for his role in keeping athletics and music programs going during this time of unprecedented challenges.

### **2020 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (6.2)**

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP Principal Paul Niedermuller and District Comptroller Jane Frederick attended the work session at 5:30 p.m. to give the Board an in-depth report on the results of the audit of the CAFR. Greg Fieth reported further on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) during the Board Meeting and answered questions from the Board.

Greg reported that the approval of the CAFR was delayed slightly to work through some information received from charter schools. It is projected that the CAFR will receive an unqualified (clean) opinion and be ready for approval in its final form at the November 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Jane Frederick was recognized for her excellent work that contributed to the District receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the District's award-winning Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Jane's leadership has been instrumental in earning this prestigious award for the District each of the past 16 years. Board members thanked Greg and Jane and the auditors for their thorough review of the CAFR.

## **CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)**

Karen Ragland moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1, 7.2 and 7.4. Jim Berthold seconded. Consent Item 7.3 was pulled to discuss the Board policies further.

1. Approval: Approval of Amendment to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for Lyons M/S Auditorium Project
2. Approval: Approval of Fee Adjustment 5 to Architect Agreement for Niwot High School Renovation Project
3. Approval: First Reading, Repeal of Board Policy EEAEG\* – Use of Wireless Communication Devices by School Transportation Vehicle Operators; and adoption of revisions to Board Policies JEB – Entrance Age Requirements and JHB – Truancy
4. Approval: Approval of Closure of Schools – October 26, 2020

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].

Board member Paula Peairs reported on the reasons for the repeal of Board Policy EEAEG\* and for the revisions to Board Policy JEB. Board Policy JHB was pulled completely for more revisions and will be added to the November 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Paula Peairs moved to approve the repeal of Board Policy EEAEG\* and to approve the revisions to Board Policy JEB. Karen Ragland seconded.

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 Contract for The Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families (8.1)**

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education approve the service agreement between the District and Wild Plum Center for the 2020-2021 school year. The District pays for these slots through the Colorado Preschool Program grant funds that are provided through the State of Colorado. John Ahrens seconded.

Dr. Diane Lauer reported via Webex that the District, through its Early Childhood Department and District Advisory Council, enter into this agreement with Wild Plum Center in order to provide preschool services to eligible children that are four years old. The District will pay a monthly tuition rate of \$320.00 per each child placed (not to exceed

90 children). There are currently 81 students enrolled.

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 the next Regular Board Meeting will be held in the Board Room on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 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 November 11, 2020.