

**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 August 26, 2009 at the Education Service Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Sandra Searls at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

John Creighton, Director District E
Rick Hammans, Director District A
Rod Schmidt, Director District F
Sandra Searls, Director District B
Bob Smith, Director District C
Dori Van Lone, Director District D

Board Members Absent (Excused):

Mike Schiers, Director District G (arrived at 6:48 p.m.)

St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:

David Burnison, Executive Director of Human Resources
Don Haddad, Superintendent
Mark Pillmore, Budget Director
Rick Ring, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services
Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer

Guests:

Allen Taggart, Attorney

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dori Van Lone moved to convene to Executive Session to discuss SVVEA contract negotiations, to develop strategies for such negotiations, and to instruct the Board's negotiators regarding such negotiations, pursuant to CRS, Section 24-6-402 (4)(e) and

pursuant to CRS, Section 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal counsel from Mr. Allen Taggart regarding the negotiations. Bob Smith seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, absent; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes].

Executive Session began at 5:03 p.m.

The following were present in Executive Session: John Creighton; Rick Hammans; Rod Schmidt; Sandra Searls; Bob Smith; Dori Van Lone; and David Burnison, Executive Director of Human Resources; Don Haddad, Superintendent; Mark Pillmore, Budget Director; Rick Ring, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer; and Allen Taggart, Attorney.

Executive Session adjourned at 6:26 p.m., and the Board resumed to the financial review meeting at 6:32 p.m.

The Regular meeting continued at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (2.0)

A motion was made by Rick Hammans to approve that John Creighton abstain from voting on the approval of the August 12, 2009 minutes as he was absent from that meeting. Dori Van Lone seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes].

Rick Hammans moved to approve the minutes with minor corrections for the August 12, 2009 Regular meeting. Bob Smith seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, abstained; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes].

Dori Van Lone moved to approve the August 19, 2009 Study Session minutes. John Creighton seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes].

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (3.0)

The agenda was adopted as presented.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD (4.0) & BOARD COMMUNICATIONS/COMMENTS (11.0)

Belinda Strickland, District Liaison, introduced Anne Wellman, Tri-Town Lions Club President. Ms. Wellman presented a check for \$500 to the District to be used for the purchase and repair of eye glasses and vision screening for St. Vrain students living in the Tri-Town area. Ms. Wellman introduced representatives from the Firestone/Frederick/Dacono Lions Club that were instrumental in the process of awarding St. Vrain Valley School District this money.

Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Bill Meier, United Power's Lead District Representative. Mr. Meier presented the District with a check for \$8,914. The check represents a capital credit refund from excess revenues that United Power earned on the sale of energy. The District has 18 electric meters in the District. As a non-profit cooperative, United Power gives back those profits to the consumer/owner in proportion to the volume of sales.

Board Communications

John Creighton –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Accountability/Accreditation Committee which began the process of evaluating one of three charter applications that are expected to be turned in this fall. Thanks to all committee members who will read through the 500 pages of material to make sure that it met the standards of the District.
- Attended the Spangler Elementary PLC team meeting.

Rick Hammans –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Visited Longmont Estates and Lyons Elementary.
- Appointed to the State Governmental Data Advisory Board. This is one of four committees working on Race to the Top and is preparing the Race to the Top grant.

Mike Schiers –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended flag-raising event at Carbon Valley Academy.
- Visited schools in the Tri-Town area.

Rod Schmidt –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Mead High School's Grand Opening.
- Visited Skyline-STEM & VPA program has great enrollment.

Sandra Searls –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Finance and Audit Committee meeting.
- Met with Bondi & Company regarding the audit.
- Commended Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, for the work she is doing in terms of looking at District systems to ensure procedures are being followed.

Bob Smith –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended school open houses.

Dori Van Lone –

Meetings Attended/Comments:

- Attended Finance and Audit Committee meeting.
- Visited Erie schools-all schools very full but running smoothly (Erie High softball team is looking good).

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5.0)

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (6.0)

Student Applause/Staff Applause

Don Haddad, Superintendent, shared the following information:

Recognitions

- Tina Garcia-Maldonado, Social Studies teacher at Longs Peak Middle School won a 9News Teacher Who Cares Award for collaborating with an Army unit in Iraq to set up an orphanage with toys and donations last spring. Live video feed to air in September of her students talking to soldiers in Iraq.
- Kathleen Andres of Spangler Elementary was awarded the Sprint Character Education Grant for the 09-10 school year in the amount of \$3,965 to fund the character education program at Spangler.
- Bob Rue, PE teacher at Columbine Elementary, who was instrumental in expanding the Safe Routes to School Program.
- Jill Donley and her professional development team. The new Teacher Orientation was an outstanding success. There are 191 new teachers in the District this year.
- Jeanne Sparling-The Best Should Teach Award by CU School of Education Graduate Teacher Program.
- Visited all schools first week of school. Thanks to all staff for a great start.

Finance

- Roll Over-Thanks to Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, for making that happen months before it has ever happened before.
- Student Count – Will keep everyone updated.

Student Achievement

- Arts/Focus – Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, was on a phone conference to talk about the importance of the Arts in school. Thanked teachers working on Arts/Focus programs.
- Drop-out Prevention—Partnering with retired Superintendent Dr. Monte Moses from Cherry Creek School District. Invited St. Vrain Valley School District to participate in a drop-out prevention program through the Colorado Department of Education. Other participating districts are Poudre Valley, Mapleton, Adams 12, Thompson, and Aurora developing mentoring and working with parents.
- Partnering with Race to the Top Committee through the Colorado Department of Education. Four areas of focus: assessment, data, curriculum and instruction. Don Haddad, Superintendent, serving on the committee for low-performing schools.
- Closing the Achievement Gap (CTAG). Continuing state grant from last year. St. Vrain, Eagle County, Yuma, Roaring Fork, Greeley, and Summit School Districts all received the first round of data revealing that the initial work is yielding positive results.

Communications

- Infinite Campus-will allow parents in to check student data soon.
- Hoping to stream this Board meeting August 27, 2009.
- Next week Don Haddad will be sending the first monthly email of all major issues and topics.
- Teacher Advisory Council meeting once a month with one teacher from every school.
- Outreach to communities—Principals to make parant calls announcing Superintendent and Board feeder meetings.
- Finalizing a survey for employee groups, parents and students to be administered after the winter break.

REPORTS (7.0)

Financial Report – June 2009 (7.1)

At the worksession prior to this Board meeting, information related to the June 2009 Monthly Financial Statements was provided to the Board.

Terry Schueler, Chief Financial Officer, was present to give a brief report:

- Numbers presented will not be finalized until the end of the audit in November. At this point, out of the budgeted revenue of \$184,723,274 the District is at 98.8% of receiving that. Expenditures are at 95.1%. This shows that the District has out-performed the budget by approximately \$6 million.

- Building funds were reviewed from the 2002 and the 2008 bond elections. Expenditures included soil testing, engineering studies, and hiring architectures for design work.
- Nutrition Services fund is an enterprise fund, i.e., they are expected to raise enough revenue to cover all of their expenditures, including salary and benefits.
 - Operating deficit of \$69,000 but they have a fund balance, including the operating deficit, of \$1.5 million.
 - Lunch prices will rise next year.
 - Loss of revenue on two snow days was \$170,000.
 - Nutrition Services budget is approximately \$7 million a year.
- Mark Pillmore, Budget Director, was complimented for his budget projections. Out of a budget of salaries of \$106,800,000 and benefits of over \$24 million, Mark was within .6% of budget to actual.

CSAP Update (7.2)

Overall, the news is positive for St. Vrain Valley School District in both CSAP and ACT. In particular, an area for celebration is the positive progress towards Closing the Achievement Gap. There are some areas for improvement, but the upward trend of scores over the past few years, and the District's lead on the state in the vast majority of scores reflects a commitment to achievement by the students and staff of the St. Vrain Valley School District.

Tori Teague, Executive Director of Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction, was present to give a brief report:

- Last spring 49,528 CSAP tests were given-3,000 more than the year before
- Comparisons to 2008:
 - 21 of 29 tests stayed the same or increased. Of the four tests that did decrease, some decreased only 1 – 2%.
 - Second year in a row high school had a very strong improvement. Increases or stayed the same in 5 out of 7 tests. Writing scores showed the most increases or stayed the same in 7 out of 9 tests. Science improved in two of the grades and one stayed the same (Science is only tested at three grade levels).
 - In seventh grade Math there was a decrease in 2007-2008. This year, there was the highest increase with seven percentage points.
 - Compared to the state, the District is at or above in every content area, in every grade level, except for fourth grade Writing (trail by 1%).
 - Ninth grade Math-lead the state by 12 percentage points.
 - 10th grade Science-lead by nine percentage points.
 - High school scores all together are higher than state by 7.75% (attributed to IB and AP courses).
 - In the Unsatisfactory category-better than the state in every area and every grade level.
- Closing the Achievement Gap (CTAG):
 - Hispanic achievement-increased or stayed the same in 20 out of 24 tests.

- Gap between white and Hispanic students decreased on 13 tests. In some of those, achievement rose in both groups.
- High school improved their achievement.
- School celebrations:
 - Silver Creek High School-no decrease in any of their tests.
 - Burlington Elementary/Fall River Elementary/Mead Middle-all improved on eight tests and decreased in only two tests.
 - 15 schools that showed an increase in over half their tests.
 - 16 schools that had outstanding achievement of 85% or more Proficient or Advanced on at least one test.
 - 18 schools had 0% Unsatisfactory on at least one test.
- Report on Colorado Growth Model (percentile of student growth)
 - State median is 50-any district that has higher than 50 is outpacing the state.
 - St. Vrain is above the state median in all three content areas-Reading, Writing and Math.
 - At or above the state percentile in 15 out of 21 grade-level tests. Strongest growth areas are Reading in 4th and 7th grades, Math in 7th and 8th grades, and Writing in 7th and 8th grades.
 - Concerns-4th grade Math. Already have increased professional development opportunities in that area.
- ACT-upward trend for last five years. Reading highest area with score of 20.5; Math with greatest gain and scores are at or above the state in every area. Writing needs to continue to improve.
- Elementary Math-adding professional development.

Tori Teague will compare St. Vrain's data to Poudre and Cherry Creek School Districts and report back to the Board.

CONSENT ITEMS (8.0)

John Creighton moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items 8.1 through 8.4. Rod Schmidt seconded.

1. Approval: Staff Terminations/Leaves
2. Approval: Staff Appointments
3. Approval: Architect Selection – Lyons Elementary Renovation Project
4. Approval: Architect Selection – Lyons Middle/Senior High Addition and Renovation Project

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes].

ACTION ITEMS (9.0)

Infinite Campus Contract Renewal (9.1)

Rick Hammans moved to approve the payment of the Annual Peopleware Agreement for the period of August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010 to Computer Information Concepts for the licensing of Infinite Campus software in the amount of \$211,158. Dori Van Lone seconded.

On June 25, 2008, the Board of Education approved the initial purchase, installation and maintenance of Infinite Campus – Student Information System. Annual fees for Infinite Campus are adjusted each year, based on the most recent official student enrollment counts.

Due to the fact that the amount due is over \$100,000, the administration is requesting approval from the Board for payment of the current invoice.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes].

Approval of School Bus Purchase (9.2)

John Creighton moved that the Board of Education approve the purchase of two (2) 2009-10 (54) passenger Type C Wheelchair International School Buses, and three (3) 2009-10 (77) passenger Type C School Buses from McCandless International Trucks of Colorado. The total cost of these buses with camera surveillance systems and two-way radios is \$467,349.70. The funds for this purchase are included on the 2010 Capital Reserve Project List approved by the Board of Education in the spring of fiscal year 2009. Dori Van Lone seconded.

In late July 2009, the Department of Transportation sent a request for bids (ITB#2010-001) to various dealers, to seek competitive pricing on five Type C School Buses. The decision not to consider existing RFP's with cooperative language from other District bids was because the other bids did not meet our required specifications. Distributor is McCandless International Trucks of Colorado.

Randy McKie, Director of Transportation, reported that the addition of these buses was due to growth. The District's current fleet of buses is averaging over ten years old. New EPA standards are driving up the price of the buses. The District right now has 115 buses and, with the purchase of these new buses, the intent is to retire one after the new buses are purchased. Because of growth, the District can't afford to put more than that out of service.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Approval of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) for Longmont High Addition and Renovation Project (9.3)

Rod Schmidt moved that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enter into contract negotiations with Adolfson & Peterson Construction for Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) services for the Longmont High School Addition and Renovation project, with a project budget not-to-exceed \$4.8 million. Further, that the Board of Education authorizes Rick Ring, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, to sign all related documents. Dori Van Lone seconded.

The CMGC review committee received and reviewed responses to RFQ 2008-007 "Construction Manager/General Contractor for Remodels/Additions." Ten of these CMGC's were short listed as the most qualified to provide services for 2008 Bond projects.

Adolfson & Peterson Construction, Golden Triangle Construction, GE Johnson Construction Company, Dohn Construction, and FCI Constructors were interviewed specifically for the Longmont High School project. The review committee selected Adolfson & Peterson Construction as the most qualified for the project.

The individual contract documents will be available in the Operations & Maintenance Office for public perusal.

Rick Ring, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, explained that this proposal authorizes the District to enter into the CMGC process with the contractor as the negotiated contract because the scope isn't defined until the project is started. It allows the District to avoid bringing back multiple change orders to the Board, and prevents the project from being delayed. Bidders are prequalified in the selection process by project managers, the District's Purchasing Department, and some building principals. Bidders had to meet stringent qualifications as well as background checks.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Approval of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) for Niwot High Addition and Renovation Project (9.4)

Bob Smith moved that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enter into contract negotiations with Golden Triangle Construction, Inc. for Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) services for the Niwot High School Addition and Renovation project, with a project budget not-to-exceed \$6.5 million. Further, that the Board of Education authorizes Rick Ring, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, to sign all related documents. Dori Van Lone seconded.

The CMGC review committee received and reviewed responses to RFQ 2008-007 "Construction Manager/General Contractor for Remodels/Additions." Ten of these CMGC's were short listed as the most qualified to provide services for 2008 Bond projects.

Golden Triangle Construction, FCI Constructors, and Dohn Construction were interviewed specifically for the Niwot High School Addition and Renovation project. The review committee selected Golden Triangle Construction as the most qualified for the project.

This project is funded by the 2008 bond. Allowing Rick Ring to authorize documents allows Rick to work within the parameters of the project budget itself while saving Board time. There is still oversight and a thorough process but eliminates a lot of piece meal work.

The individual contract documents will be available in the Operations & Maintenance Office for public perusal.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes]

Approval of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) for Niwot Elementary Renovation Project (9.5)

Bob Smith moved that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enter into contract negotiations with Golden Triangle Construction Inc. for Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) services for the Niwot Elementary School Renovation project, with a project budget not-to-exceed \$1.84 million. Further, that the Board of Education authorizes Rick Ring, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, to sign all related documents. John Creighton seconded.

The CMGC review committee received and reviewed responses to RFQ 2008-007 "Construction Manager / General Contractor for Remodels/Additions." Ten of these CMGC's were short listed as the most qualified to provide services for 2008 Bond projects.

Golden Triangle Construction, FCI Constructors, and Dohn Construction were interviewed specifically for the Niwot Elementary School project. The review committee selected Golden Triangle Construction as the most qualified for the project.

The individual contract documents will be available in the Operations & Maintenance Office for public perusal.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes]

DISCUSSION ITEMS (10.0)

Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Resolutions (10.1)

Resolution 1

CASB urges the General assembly to keep in place the Capital Reserve and Instructional Materials requirements of School Finance.

Rationale

The temporary suspension of these requirements for the 09-10 and 10-11 fiscal years was an accommodation made for districts to react to a financial crisis, but the conditions that first had the legislature make this requirement are still valid.

The Board had an extensive discussion on local control and collectively decided not to take this Resolution to the Fall Delegate Assembly, but Rick Hammans will share St. Vrain Board of Education viewpoints on this Resolution.

Resolution 2

CASB urges the General Assembly (or State School Board of Education) to create a uniform Charter School application and timelines that will allow school boards and charter applicants to get timely feedback and answers on charter applications.

Rationale

The system as it exists today is all over the board. School boards may ask for clarification on some points of an application and those answers don't come until the night of a final vote. The opposite is also true. A uniform application and more detailed timeline, jointly agreed upon by all parties would help both districts that are dealing with multiple applications or those districts that have infrequent applications.

Rick Hammans will bring forward this Resolution, hoping for a uniform application in alignment with state statute so that if the statute speaks to the fact that it has to have an alternative choice for parents that that would need to be part of the application. If it is not, that would be grounds for denial and that the State Board would support that denial.

Policy Governance Drafts (10.2)

The Board of Education discussed changes to GradPath. The document will be brought back for further discussion at a September study session meeting.

Reminders

Wednesday, September 2	5:30 pm Study Session
Wednesday, September 9	7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 16	5:30 pm Study Session
Wednesday, September 23	6:00 pm Financial Review Session
	7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 30	5:30 pm Study Session

ADJOURNMENT

John Creighton moved to adjourn the meeting. Dori Van Lone seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Creighton, yes; Rick Hammans, yes; Mike Schiers, yes; Rod Schmidt, yes; Sandra Searls, yes; Bob Smith, yes; Dori Van Lone, yes].

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Hammans, Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Secretary to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on September 9, 2009.