

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 12, 2018
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution in Support of Amendment 73

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education adopt a Resolution in support of Amendment 73.

BACKGROUND

Amendment 73 builds on the successes of Colorado's public schools by expanding students' educational opportunities to prepare them for success in college, career and life; preparing a qualified workforce for decades to come; and ensuring that Colorado's economic prosperity is shared with every community in every corner of our state.

Our administration team believes that all Colorado children have a right to an outstanding education and opportunities similar to those that have been afforded to students in the St. Vrain Valley Schools. Amendment 73 will help do this by providing additional funding for all students and addressing the most pressing needs of Colorado's public schools.

Administration is in full support of the Amendment 73 outcomes and recommends adoption.

Amendment 73 Resolution

Whereas, St. Vrain Valley Schools is the seventh largest school district in Colorado with fifty-seven schools, over thirty-three thousand students, and more than five thousand employees;

Whereas, St. Vrain Valley Schools serves thirteen different municipalities and towns across an expansive four hundred and eleven square miles;

Whereas, since the 2008-09 school year, student enrollment in St. Vrain Valley Schools has increased by approximately 6,500 students, and enrollment continues to grow by hundreds of new students each year;

Whereas, the residents of eastern Boulder, Broomfield, Erie, Dacono, Frederick, Firestone, Hygiene, Longmont, Lyons, Mead, Niwot, Peaceful Valley, and Raymond have demonstrated tremendous support for public education by passing mill levy overrides in 2008 and 2012 increasing annual operational revenue for St. Vrain Valley Schools by over \$40 million;

Whereas, St. Vrain Valley Schools' constituent communities also generously passed bond initiatives in 2008 and 2016 raising approximately \$449.3 million for school construction, renovation, and life safety projects;

Whereas, the increased funding has, among other things, enabled St. Vrain Valley Schools to make the following advancements:

- Build six new schools, including a high school, a K-8 school, three elementary schools, and an "Innovation Center";
- Complete 122 renovation and life safety projects across the district, ensuring each school is safe and secure with cutting edge technology and appropriate capacity;
- Expand options for high quality preschool and full-day kindergarten in every elementary school in the district;
- Provide a wireless internet environment at each school to compliment district-wide intelligent classrooms with projectors, laptop carts, enhanced audio systems, document cameras and other foundational educational technology;
- Implement a "one-to-one" program where each high school and middle school student has an iPad, with supplemental Chromebooks if needed to expand classroom learning and leverage 21st century skills, as well as provide classroom sets of iPads in each elementary school;
- Increase availability of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Concurrent Enrollment, and Pathways in Technology Early College High School opportunities for all students;
- Assign school resource officers to every high school and middle school throughout the district;
- Increase pay and professional development opportunities for teachers, counselors, para-professionals, and other staff; and

- Hire numerous new teachers, counselors, specialists and other staff across the district;

Whereas, these investments have helped narrow the achievement gap and resulted in significant, measurable improvements in outcomes for St. Vrain Valley students as evidenced by the following:

- Between 2008-09 and 2017-18, four-year graduation rates across all student demographics markedly increased;
- During the same time period, dropout rates decreased for all student categories;
- St. Vrain Valley Schools experienced a sharp decline in suspensions and expulsions;
- Test scores improved across state standardized tests, the American College Test (ACT), and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT);
- Students successfully completed Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Concurrent Enrollment courses at much higher rates;
- Co-curricular offerings increased earning statewide and national recognition for athletic, arts, STEM and academic accomplishments; and
- St. Vrain Valley Schools demonstrated excellence and advancement on Colorado Department of Education performance frameworks consistently outperforming state averages;

Whereas, the achievements listed above were made possible in large part by the incredible support, engagement, and encouragement of residents, community leaders, business owners, and philanthropic organizations residing and operating within St. Vrain Valley Schools' boundaries;

Whereas, parental involvement and support in St. Vrain Valley Schools has been a key ingredient to the success and advancement of PK-12 educational opportunities within the district;

Whereas, St. Vrain Valley Schools are fortunate to attract and employ highly qualified teachers and staff who apply hard work, dedication, and professional expertise to teaching and empowering students;

Whereas, St. Vrain Valley Schools has distinguished itself as a leader in financial management of public funds for the past decade by receiving consecutive Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from both the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials International;

Whereas, during the 2018 general election, Colorado voters will consider Amendment 73 which, if passed, will significantly increase statewide funding for K-12 public schools;

Whereas, if passed, St. Vrain Valley Schools will direct additional state funding from Amendment 73 toward investing in such areas as outstanding teachers and staff, bolstering safety and security, monitoring student and staff well-being, sustaining cutting-edge technology, designing

curriculum, instruction and assessment tools aligned with state standards, expanding instructional focus schools, and targeting investment to advance student achievement and success.

Whereas, St. Vrain Valley Schools believes that public education is a cornerstone of our society because it creates a foundation from which to develop human potential and create opportunities for future generations;

Whereas, St. Vrain Valley Schools believes that all Colorado children have a constitutional right to an outstanding education and opportunities similar to those that have been afforded to students in the St. Vrain Valley Schools; and

Whereas, the passage of Amendment 73 will increase resources and educational opportunities across all Colorado school districts;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the St. Vrain Valley Schools' Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools formally endorses Amendment 73 to continue supporting high quality public education for all Colorado students; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be delivered to U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner, U.S. Representatives Jared Polis and Ken Buck, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado State Senators Matt Jones, Kevin Lundberg, John Cooke, Steve Fenberg, and Vicki Marble, and Colorado State Representatives K.C. Becker, Jonathan Singer, Edie Hooton, Matt Gray, Lori Saine, and Mike Foote, the Members of the Colorado Board of Education, the Boulder, Broomfield, Weld, and Larimer County Commissioners, the Mayors, City Council people and Town Trustees for the towns and municipalities of Boulder, Broomfield, Erie, Dacono, Frederick, Firestone, Hygiene, Longmont, Lyons, Mead, Niwot, Peaceful Valley, and Raymond, the Executive Director of the Colorado Association of School Boards, and the Executive Director of the Colorado Association of School Executives.

Dated: September 12, 2018

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J

Robert J. Smith, Board President

Amory Siscoe, Board Secretary