



EAST OTERO SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1
301 RATON AVENUE
LA JUNTA, COLORADO 81050

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
August 28, 2023

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba. Director Backes was absent.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **AUDIENCE**

Tammy Ridennoure, representative of the Otero County Preservation Group, informed the Board that the Preservation Group is working on an Otero County children's history book that they are intending to release to area 3rd grade students in the fall of 2025. The Group is reaching out to area secondary art students to create the book cover with the winner receiving a cash prize. The Group has received a \$77,000 grant and the books will be free to the students.

D.C. DiPrince commented on the Extra Duty Salary Schedule. He thanked the Board for the increase in salaries and wondered how this will be implemented. He said the increase will speak well for the district.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. NEW BUSINESS

C. ADDITION - Approve the Extra Duty Salary Schedule

5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

A. Personnel Approval

- Orlando Estrada-Ruiz - New Hire as Secondary Science Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
- Todd Werner - New Hire as Math Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
- Angela Robbins - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2023-2024 school year
- Austin Robbins - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2023-2024 school year

B. Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2023-2024 School Year

C. Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2023-2024

D. Approve Extra Duty Assignments for 2023-2024 School Year

E. Approve Revised Policy GBGD on Second/Final Reading

F. Approve Revised Policies JKA, JK, LBD, JKD/JKE, AC, GBAA, JBB, IC/ICA, IHBIB, BC and CBF on First/Revised Reading

G. Approve Revised Regulations LBD-R, KDB-R, JKD-JKE-R and BC-R on First/Revised/Final Reading

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT** - Heather Huckaby, Business Manager, shared with the Board the auditor, Ronny Farmer, came to the office last week and informed her of the changes that need to occur before he returns in October for the audit. Superintendent Lovato recommended tabling the report to the September meeting in order for he and Ms. Huckaby to close out the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Director Derbigny asked Ms. Huckaby if she has the necessary support. Ms. Huckaby stated she has a contact at the Colorado Department of Education that is a great resource for her. Superintendent Lovato shared the ESSER II grant ends at the end of September. He informed the Board there will be several expenditure requests in the September meeting and that there is still a large amount of money to be spent. The touchless fixtures continue to be installed throughout the district and flooring will be installed when possible. Superintendent Lovato said he is working on revisions on the Title programs. Director Leyba asked Ms. Huckaby what changes the auditor suggested be made. Ms. Huckaby explained mostly journal entries need to occur in the payroll, and grants accounts. She shared the food service account journal entries have been completed.

TABLED UNTIL SEPTEMBER

7. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Special Meeting on July 20, 2023 and Regular Meeting on July 31, 2023 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

8. PRESENTATIONS

Tiger Trades Academy:

Ken McNerney, Tiger Trades Academy (TTA) Principal, gave the Board an update. He said there are currently 117 students at TTA, with two more enrolling this week. 24 are hybrid students (half online courses and half on campus courses) and three that are strictly at home online students. There are some new staff to TTA and all staff have a lot of great ideas for this year. Mr. McNerney said the returning students have been helping new students become acclimated to the school and routine. He said there will be a 4-H program beginning as well as a food handling class this year. Students will receive a certificate for that class. Mr. McNerney said TTA is growing and doing a lot of good.

Director Derbigny asked if there is a maximum number of students that can attend TTA. Mr. McNerney said with the number of staff he has, 120 students can be managed. She asked who will be teaching the food service class and Mr. McNerney said a staff member from the 4-H extension office. Mr. McNerney said he is looking into possibly getting a food truck up and running. Director Leyba asked if there are any TTA students who are enrolled in or are interested in enrolling in concurrent classes. Mr. McNerney said there are currently two students enrolled in welding class and a student interested in enrolling in an English class. Director Ayala said she is always floored with the innovative things that happen at TTA. She thinks the food certificates will be a good thing. Director Ayala praised Mr. McNerney and his staff for doing such a good job. She asked Mr. McNerney if the fencing around the basketball court has been put up and if there are any cars parking or driving through the area by the gym where students walk. Mr. McNerney said the fence is up and the gate is being worked on. The only cars that are in the area by the gym is food service to load and unload food deliveries. Director Derbigny asked if the gym has been repaired and Superintendent Lovato said it is being worked on.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Lovato announced the bus barn has been approved as a state inspection site for school transportation vehicles. The school transportation department with the Colorado Department of Education was here for an on-site inspection in June. As far as the construction project, the restrooms have not yet been completed. Ms. Smith has made contact to get the curbs removed on Lacey Avenue to allow bus access from Lacey Avenue into the bus barn.

The HVAC project is still in progress. The account has not been paid in full until the project has been completed to satisfaction. Superintendent Lovato was on the phone with TRANE and the end result was an expedited shipping for the part for the Intermediate School gym air conditioning.

Registration went smooth and the preliminary enrollment count as of today is at 1358 students. This is around ten more students than last year. Superintendent Lovato feels when the numbers even out, the number will be flat.

The district will be renting out a bus and providing a driver for the upcoming Rural Philanthropy Days. The event will be on September 12. This event will take philanthropists around the farm grounds.

The Junior/Senior High School roof is in terrible condition. Superintendent Lovato has been in contact with a roofer that works on all types of roofs. The estimate given was \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for repair. Superintendent Lovato said something the district should consider would be a new building versus continual repair. Superintendent Lovato estimates \$50,000,000-\$60,000,000 for a new school.

There were some bussing hiccups the first week of school. A concerned parent contacted a local news station who called Superintendent Lovato. He was able to take care of the concern for the parent.

Director Leyba asked about the status of the tutoring program. Superintendent Lovato said tutoring is fully planned in all buildings. He shared the Jr/Sr High School is currently seeking teachers to fill the tutoring openings. Superintendent Lovato informed the Board when the company came to install the posts for the new scoreboard they hit bedrock at 5-6 feet and needed to dig to a 15-foot depth. There will now be a footer above ground versus underground. He doesn't know if this will be a delay and is awaiting word but is hoping the scoreboard will be ready for homecoming.

Director Leyba asked if any student who wants a locker can have a locker. She said it was reported to her that a student asked for a locker and was denied. Director Ayala shared there are some smaller students that struggle to carry a lot of weight around during the day. She feels it is important to utilize the lockers and also feels it is important for 6th grade students to use lockers at the Intermediate School in order to become familiar with using a combination lock in preparation for the Jr/Sr High transition. Superintendent Lovato said he will check into this and thought this issue had been resolved last year. Director Derbigny clarified that the lockers were not used during the pandemic and

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Superintendent Lovato said that is correct. Also, students can use a locker if they would like, but are not required to do so.

Director Derbigny asked if the Literacy Project is tutoring. Superintendent Lovato said he is meeting with the Director this week and will express his concerns with her. He said there is no contract with the Literacy Project as of now.

Director Ayala said a concern was brought to her regarding employee PERA not being paid since April. Superintendent Lovato said that is not accurate, and while there have been some issues with individual accounts, those have been addressed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Out-of-State FFA National Trip Request (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the Purchase of an Electric Scissor Lift (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,916.29 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Extra Duty Salary Schedule (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Select Board CASB Voting Delegate **DIRECTOR DERBIGNY WILL SERVE AS CASB LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/VOTING DELEGATE**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Derbigny asked about the FFA National Trip and not having a second adult going. She would rather see preventive measures taken. Superintendent Lovato said if another sponsor attends the district will take care of the expenses. She stated she would rather see it taken care of.
- ✓ Director Ayala said things are off and running. "Go Teachers!"
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said from the building level stand point, this year has been one of the smoothest starts. He said the principals have done a really good job at frontloading information.
- ✓ Director Leyba said she attended the student-teacher family engagement on Friday at the Junior/Senior High School. She said some had a really good time during the Sources of Strength presentation. The presenter said public health uses scare tactics and Director Leyba clarified that is not the case. The videos for Standard Response Protocol were very good. The Sheriff's Department and State Patrol presentations were good as well. The Jr/Sr High School did a good job on taking recommendations from the S-CAP committees on making that event happen.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said SRP drills are happening district-wide as well as the mandatory fire drills. He said the district will be in the process of revising the strategic priorities through S-CAP and asked people to be thinking of what the next priorities should be. He welcomes stakeholder feedback.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DEE LEYBA, President **ANGELA AYALA, Vice President**
DARLENE DERBIGNY, Secretary/Treasurer **KIDRON BACKES, Director**
KRISTIN BICKEL, Director