



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

**Board of Education Meeting
September 25, 2023**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - **Malionna Wilkins - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year**
 4. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
 - A. **Report handed out**
 8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - C. **Quotes added 9-25-23**
 - D. **Approve the Purchase of a New Furnace for the Central Administrative Office**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF POLICY LBD**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - D.C. DiPrince - New Hire as Junior High Knowledge Bowl Sponsor at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Desirae Goheen - New Hire as the Drama Director at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Kristin Golding-Langston - New Hire as the Junior High TAC (Tiger Academic Center) at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Shawna Frankmore - New Hire as the High School TAC (Tiger Academic Center) at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Tim Clem - New Hire as the Color Guard Sponsor at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - James Lopez - New Hire as a Core Teacher and Middle School Class Sponsor at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Mark Martinez - New Hire as Assistant Softball Coach for the 2023-2024 season
 - Austin Ballard - New Hire as Assistant High School Volleyball Coach for the 2023-2024 season
 - Cinthia Zubia Dozal - New Hire as an Activity Bus Driver for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Francisco Viescas - New Hire as Industrial Arts/Trades Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Tracey Salzbrenner - New Hire as Assistant Drama Director for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Joseph Zemba - New Hire as Website Coordinator for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Malionna Wilkins - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - B. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2023-2024**
 - C. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2023-2024 School Year**
 - D. **Approve Winter Extra Duty Assignments for 2023-2024 School Year**
 - E. **Approve Revised Policies JKA, JK, JKD/JKE, AC, GBAA, JBB, IC/ICA, IHBIB, BC and CBF on Second/Final Reading**
5. **FINANCIAL REPORT** - Superintendent Lovato shared a quarterly financial report with the Board. He said there are still some things being worked on. He stated the report includes all the salaries from ADP, however, they may not be entered into the correct category. Adjustments are still being made. Each fund is listed in the report but the preschool transfer did not take place, which is Fund 19 and shows zero revenue. Superintendent Lovato said many of the grant-based positions which aren't funded by the grant have been moved into the general fund, which will

eliminate the need for transfers. The district doesn't receive enough grant monies to cover the special education and CTE programs. Title and ESSER funds are now in Fund 22 and that fund should always carry a zero balance. Superintendent Lovato said the auditor will be coming in two weeks.

Director Ayala moved to approve the quarterly financial report as presented. Director Bickel seconded the motion.

Director Ayala asked what other objects under expenditures means on the report. Superintendent Lovato listed the budget lines and said budget line 800 is a line used when the expense doesn't fit into any other budget line. Superintendent Lovato said the BEST grant that was received for the HVAC project is typically in Fund 41 but the auditor has requested these monies be in Fund 10. Director Leyba asked Superintendent Lovato to touch briefly on the Universal Preschool Program (UPK) and if it has had an impact on the district's financials. Superintendent Lovato said for this year, at worst, the district will receive exactly the same funding that was received last year. He said the only preschool funding that will come directly to the district is funding for three year olds special education students. He also elaborated that the district has surplus funds that will be used to fund full day preschool for as many La Junta kids as possible. Director Leyba asked how the school funding formula will impact the district. Superintendent Lovato said there are many factors the state uses to calculate funding, however, La Junta is considered a rural district and not a small rural district. Small rural districts receive more funding per student. Director Backes noticed the general fund for fiscal year 21-22 and 22-23 show the same figures. Superintendent Lovato apologized and explained it was a typo. Director Ayala asked about the bond redemption fund. Superintendent Lovato explained the number she is seeing is the annual bond payment. Director Ayala asked if the Business Office is caught up and Superintendent Lovato said things are close, however, it is now a matter of keeping up with the day to day business while continuing to fix things. She asked how payroll is going and Superintendent Lovato said the last two months have shown improvements. There is still some catch up, but staff should be receiving their payroll worksheets very soon.

APPROVED FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED

6. MINUTES – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 28, 2023 and Special Meeting on September 5, 2023

APPROVED AS PRINTED

7. PRESENTATIONS

Junior/Senior High School:

Jennifer Foxhoven, La Junta Junior/Senior High School Principal, informed the Board this week is Homecoming. She said the spirit in the building is refreshing. Mrs. Foxhoven asked if the Board received the email to participate in the parade. Director Ayala shared she and Director Derbigny will be participating. Director Leyba asked if Tiger Trades Academy students were asked to participate. Mrs. Foxhoven said TTA is doing their own events this year. They are creating two floats for the parade. Mrs. Foxhoven said class floats are the only ones that will be judged and TTA students can walk with their class float if they choose.

Mrs. Foxhoven said the Tiger Academic Center (TAC) is going strong after school and snacks are provided for the students. There is a program for high school as well as junior high students. Conversations are being held with teachers and students regarding their academics. Students are taking ownership.

There is a new drama director, Desiree Goheen, and the Wacky Horror Cyber Show will be held on October 19, 20 and 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The FBLA group is holding a coat drive. Mrs. Foxhoven asked for any unused coats to be donated.

Mrs. Foxhoven said low participation in state testing affected the Junior/Senior High Schools assessment scores.

Director Ayala asked about locker usage. Mrs. Foxhoven said 25 7th grade students asked for a locker. After the students tried the combination locks, only 15 ended up keeping a locker.

Mrs. Foxhoven shared the Junior/Senior High School held a parent engagement morning. The parents completed rotations with law enforcement/SRP/Sources of Strengths. She said the presentations were great and she would like law enforcement to do other trainings for parents, students and staff. There will be another parent engagement with data pickup on October 6. There will also be an S-CAP meeting at that time. The NWEA data needs to be explained without rush. NWEA testing finishes tomorrow and data will be thoroughly looked at. Director Leyba asked if teachers have more confidence in explaining test results. Mrs. Foxhoven said she feels probably 50-50. Staff will be trained on how to read and share the results.

Director Ayala said she attends all of the home volleyball games and appreciates the dress up days. She asked that

special attention be paid more to any dress up themes. She always wants visiting schools to receive a welcome to our school.

A HOLD! drill was completed today. The is through the SRP (Standard Response Protocol) program and kids were held in the classroom. Mrs. Foxhoven said it went over very well. Director Leyba asked about kids that are coming from the gym if the drill happened at that time. Mrs. Foxhoven said this is if something is happening in the building and those students would be held outside or in the office.

Hallie Romero, district social worker and Sarah Lopez, student advocate have been working on attendance. Ms. Romero is working on attendance reports. Ms. Lopez has been very helpful.

The regional retention and recruitment specialist for our region was at the CASE conference. She made two suggestions for new teachers and those have been implemented.

Director Backes asked what the eligibility is looking like. Mrs. Foxhoven said she hasn't done the data on that yet. She did say 7th grade is close to the same as last year, but 8th grade is higher than last year. She also said high school is running about the same as last year.

Director Leyba asked if the Hold! drill was done with the new app (Emergent 3) the district purchased. Mrs. Foxhoven said the Junior/Senior High School hasn't trained on the app yet. She told Director Leyba a drill will be practiced with the app. Director Leyba asked if Mr. Romero could give the Board a presentation on the program.

Director Derbigny asked if everyone is eligible. Mrs. Foxhoven explained a peak means there is an increase in ineligible students. She said Mr. Grasmick has been a great addition. If a student who was ineligible last week, but no new grades have been entered this week, he will clear the students himself. Mrs. Foxhoven said checks are being used to let students know where they stand with their grades.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Intermediate School is on year four of Turnaround Status. Superintendent Lovato said the ramifications of that are is the state takes a more aggressive role. A Colorado Department of Education (CDE) representative met with the administrative team two weeks ago and the Intermediate last week. Two consecutive years of improvement have to happen to get off the accountability clock. If the school doesn't get off the clock, an improvement plan will have to be presented to CDE. CDE will come to the Intermediate School this spring and review how things are being done in the building. Superintendent Lovato said, in his opinion, the rating system is flawed as it compares percentiles on academic achievement and not student growth. He said participation rates are low which caused the Junior/Senior High School to be on Priority Improvement. With two buildings being on improvement status, the district is now on improvement. He said he doesn't want anyone to think the teachers and students aren't doing well because that isn't true. He feels the buildings are on the right track, but just need some time. The S-CAP strategic priorities need to mirror what is in the Unified Improvement Plans (UIP).

The HVAC project is closed with the exception of a few control items. By and large it is working okay. Mr. Miell and Mr. Romero went to control training last week.

The new scoreboard was delayed due to hitting bedrock at five feet. The engineers came up with a different footer. This was a delay and the company will be installing the scoreboard the second week of October. The cure time for the concrete footer could be 2-4 weeks and hopefully it will be able to be used for a playoff game.

Superintendent Lovato shared there are 1,337 students currently enrolled, which is 11 less than last year. Kindergarten recovered in their numbers. There were only 73 students enrolled at the beginning of the year.

Superintendent Lovato said it is difficult for teachers to get state test results in August for students they haven't had yet.

He shared he is looking at cultural awareness for staff.

Emergency drills are beginning. They were held within the first week and half of school. The notification system will be shared, but the details of the program won't be shared in order to have some confidentiality on safety. Director Leyba clarified she wasn't suggesting secrets be given away, but would like the same presentation that was given to parents shared with the Board.

BOARD WRAP UP – September 25, 2023

Page | 4

Director Leyba would like a work session with building administration to complete a staff audit. She would also like to know what the superintendent succession plan will be. Superintendent Lovato said he is planning a work session in October. Director Ayala asked when the superintendent search will begin. Superintendent Lovato said it will be in January.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the Purchase of Restroom Supplies and Bottle Fillers (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,944.07 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Children's Literacy Center Tutoring Program (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,800.00 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Purchase of District Flooring (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,583.05 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve the Purchase of a New Furnace for the Central Administrative Office (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,606.58 AS PRESENTED**

10. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Leyba said the regional CASB (Colorado Association of School Boards) legislative review was held recently in Las Animas. One of the things that CASB is trying to do is to have Region 3 gather and review the resolution book before the October Legislative Conference. Director Leyba said participation and voting can now be done remotely and she said hopefully this will increase rural participation. Director Leyba also share she was just at the CASB Board of Directors meeting and CASB voted on a resolution to support Proposition HH. Director Leyba said she didn't have enough information to vote yes on this. She finished by saying Go Tigers!
- ✓ Director Derbigny is glad the teachers will receive the key to unlock the NWEA data so they can share with parents.
- ✓ Director Ayala said Go Tigers!

11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:53 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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