



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
August 27, 2020

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **NO ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA; APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA** - **APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Crystal Provost - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at La Junta Primary School for the 2020-2021 school year
 - B. **Approve Extra Duty Assignments for 2020-2021 School Year**
 - C. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2020-2021 School Year**
 - D. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for 2020-2021 School Year**

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Lovato said he was grateful for online registration this year. He said registration will be evaluated and people seemed to like having registration at the separate buildings. This will be considered for next year. Enrollment as of today is at 1428 students, which is around the same enrollment number as last year.

There are 20-25% per grade of 6-12 grade students taking online classes, which is around 20-30 kids per grade level. The biggest class is the 10th grade at 41 kids enrolled in online classes. The volume is double from what was anticipated with online classes. Superintendent Lovato thanked the parents and students for their patience. Mr. McNerney and his team have been working hard getting passwords and log ins squared away. Superintendent Lovato said he is looking at adding two help lines. One help line will be for Odysseyware and the other will be for Google Classroom. He said Tiger Trades Academy, the Junior/Senior High School and Central Office fielded many calls to help with passwords. He is hoping things will be better on Monday. Superintendent Lovato wanted to let parents know they weren't being ignored, there was just a high volume of calls.

The elementary schools are functioning well. The things that were prepared for went well. There was a struggle with food distribution, which has been remedied.

Regarding drop off and pick up of students, Superintendent Lovato said he expected more congestion during drop off, but it seems pick up is having issues. Pick up at the Primary School has been very cumbersome and Superintendent Lovato is looking at ways to make that more efficient.

Progress is being made on the bus barn construction. The old track curb has been removed, along with dirt and grass. Back fill will be put in next week. Superintendent Lovato said there are a couple of general contractors interested in bidding for the interior work. This should be settled in the next few weeks.

The desk dividers that were purchased came in late. Shipping has been an issue. They have been installed at the Primary level, with the exception of Kindergarten due to the odd shaped tables. Superintendent Lovato said staff is working on finding a way to install those.

Superintendent Lovato said he is hoping our district will be able to continue in a positive direction. He said the news he has received is that Otero County has flattened out. He stated there have been a symptom or two pop up, but no confirmed cases yet. He said he is learning from other districts who have the same issues and problems. He has been collaborating with other superintendents.

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Director Leyba asked Superintendent Lovato about the bus barn and thinking our staff would handle the interior work. She is wondering if that is no longer the case due to the extra duties with COVID. Superintendent Lovato said that there are areas that will need inspections and the maintenance staff is spread pretty thin right now.

Superintendent Lovato shared that new windows have been installed in the entry way at the Junior/Senior High School to keep traffic out of the office. There are seven other windows in the Junior/Senior High School which will be replaced with windows that open in order to increase ventilation. He also stated the drinking fountains will be replaced with the water bottle fill stations, as well as card readers being installed on the outside doors.

Director Ayala asked what the numbers are like at Tiger Trades Academy (TTA). Superintendent Lovato said there are 204 students enrolled at TTA. She asked how many staff members are at TTA and Superintendent Lovato said there is not enough and he is looking at hiring more paraprofessionals. Also, additional support may be offered by high school teachers due to smaller class sizes there. Teaching positions are still open and Superintendent Lovato explained there is an alternative licensure program offered through BOCES for those who have a 4-year degree and encouraged anyone interested to contact him. Students have until the end of this week to decide if they want to change from online to in person learning or the opposite, and once the numbers are finalized, Superintendent Lovato said he will have more direction on what is needed. Director Ayala asked if a student who is enrolled in the online program considered a TTA student. Superintendent Lovato explained TTA has two different programs. One is a full time on campus, where core classes are completed online and elective classes are face to face. This is what normal TTA is. The online program (fully online for grades 6-12) runs through TTA and these students are fully online at home and don't report to the building. Staff monitors these students twice a day to make sure they are logging in and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, phone calls are made to homes to check in. He said this has been challenging due to the volume of students. Director Ayala asked if anything has been put out to the public to see how they felt the first week went. Superintendent Lovato said he is looking at sending a survey out after Labor Day. He also shared the next opportunity for students to change from online to in person or vice-versa will be in October. Director Ayala asked if notification will be sent out and Superintendent Lovato said they would be.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Physical Education Waiver for 12th Grade Students (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve School Resource Officer Renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Revised Policies ADC, GBC, GCE/GCF0, GDE/GDF, JF, JFBB, and LBD on First/Revised Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Revised Regulation GBGAC-R On First/Revised/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Leyba said she shadowed Superintendent Lovato on the first day of school during drop off time. She said things seemed to go pretty smoothly. Her son told her school was great, but he didn't like having lunch in the classroom. Director Leyba said she wants to say good job to everyone as it was complicated and intense. She said the public health order changes have been a nightmare and everybody did a good job and gave a shout out and thanks to staff.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato reviewed the COVID related expenses. Director Derbigny inquired about the Can do Cursive expense. Superintendent Lovato said this is listed as it is an online interactive program. Director Derbigny also asked about the stainless steel cleaner and Superintendent Lovato explained some cleaners are safe for some surfaces and not others.
- ✓ Director Ayala stated her comment is coming from the online side of things since that is the option she chose for her children. She said from the very first day, she wants to thank the teachers for putting in the extra effort and it definitely shows. The day to day adaptability of the teachers is amazing and she really appreciates the effort being put forth to accommodate all of the kids. She said the teachers are impressive. She said she realizes it is not easy but she is constantly amazed on the turn around and the way things are getting posted. She said she won't be able to sing praises enough. Director Ayala said the teachers have put their own fears aside and you would never know they have their own reservations. She wants to thank them for putting their best foot forward to teach the kids.

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- ✓ Director Backes reminded those who is or will be viewing the Board meetings on Facebook, a survey will go out the middle of September. She also encourages people who have things that are not working well to contact the administration or Superintendent Lovato as they are open to hearing feedback. She said if things are working well, that feedback is welcome too. She thanked everyone and even with the tough times there are a lot of great things happening in the community and a lot of things are being overcome. She is excited to see the online numbers and participation and that is available for our students.
- ✓ Director Derbigny asked what we still is needed to be bought for COVID. Superintendent Lovato said it is ongoing and when things come up we find a way. Sometimes its things for buses or classrooms. He said right now we are functioning well but still figuring out what are the hot zones are, for example, the windows at the high school for ventilation.

He also shared that due to the volume of students in the high school, if it is manageable students could possibly eat lunch in the commons. He said as things develop we will be able to adapt. He said mask wearing is being followed very well in the buildings.

Superintendent Lovato said he has given Primary staff permission to not have their masks on while they are outside during the student pick up if there is no one in proximity since it is so hot. He did ask them to have their masks ready if needed.

He said he was asked about kids going to recess and shared that staff is trying to keep students spaced and students do not have to wear their masks outdoors. Superintendent Lovato said staff is working on that and trying to maintain as much as possible.

8. ADJOURNMENT – **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:36 p.m.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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