



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
December 14, 2020

1. WORK SESSION – UNIFIED IMPROVEMENT PLAN HEARING

The Board met in work session to review the Primary and Intermediate Schools Unified Improvement Plans. No questions or comments were submitted by the public. Superintendent Lovato reviewed the goals that both the Primary and Intermediate Schools have identified working with Generation Network. The formal plans are due to the Colorado Department of Education in January.

2. ROLL CALL via ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fund Balance attached 12-10-20

8. NEW BUSINESS

H. Approve Scholastic Purchase

5. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

A. Personnel Approval

- Patti Rodgers - Retirement as Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School effective December 31, 2020
- Sophia Salazar - Resignation as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective November 19, 2020

B. Approve District Advisory Charge for the 2020-2021 School Year

6. MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 9, 2020. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, said the month-to-date expenses compared to the month-to-date income shows \$112,642 in the red. She explained the district is still receiving Title funds. Food service is still doing good as \$15,000 in revenue was received in October and \$4,000 in revenue was received in November. Mrs. Reisch said everything is getting situated and is looking good. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lovato told the Board the permits for the bus barn were obtained from the City of La Junta last week. With these in place, things should be moving quickly with weather permitting.

Regarding the start of the second semester, Superintendent Lovato informed the Board he and superintendents around the state met with the Governor today. He explained the Governor favors face-to-face instruction and is supporting the move back to that. Data from the fall has supported schools not being Covid spread zones, however, the concern is for staff. Superintendent Lovato said things will be put in place to help staff feel more comfortable for returning to face-to-face instruction. Covid testing will be offered to those staff members who would like that option, as well as more personal protective equipment (PPE). The newest guidance released states if an N95 mask or better is used along with eye protection, quarantine won't have to be implemented if contact with a positive case happens. Superintendent Lovato told the Board there are still Covid funds to be spent. He did share there is no rush at the high school level to return to face-to-face instruction as it seems the older kids are more at risk and that is where we have had our higher numbers of positive cases. Superintendent Lovato did state that Governor Polis said in the meeting that he would not have shut down schools in March if he had it to do over again as schools are found to be pretty safe. Superintendent Lovato said he will wait for the Governor's report that will help with the decision process before making any final decisions on how the district will begin the second semester.

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The calendar committee has not met this year yet. Superintendent Lovato explained he isn't sure how this year will end, i.e., increased hours or school on Friday. He explained typically the first draft of the calendar is completed by the first week in November, however, this year he said staff is trying to finish this semester and then will regroup in January.

Superintendent Lovato informed the Board he has been in contact with COVIDCheck Colorado, which is a company that provides Covid testing. He said the Rocky Ford School District is utilizing this company. Superintendent Lovato said any staff member, even if they are asymptomatic, can get tested. If the test is just a precautionary test, no quarantine will be required. The district will be willing to pay for the staff tests.

Superintendent Lovato took a moment to express his concern to all who are affected by Covid in our community.

Director Leyba asked Superintendent Lovato if he is going to apply for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Superintendent Lovato said he is. Director Leyba clarified the due date is the end of December to apply and also asked when next year's calendar is due to the state. Superintendent Lovato explained the calendar isn't due until late spring. Director Leyba inquired if the plan is still to have the Junior/Senior High School students begin the second semester remotely. Superintendent Lovato said yes, he would like to have some buffer time for the older students.

Director Derbigny asked if the partitions will be utilized when students return in January. Superintendent Lovato explained the partitions are still up and in place at the elementary schools and the Junior/Senior High School doesn't use them, but does social distance. Director Derbigny asked if the same routines will be in place, i.e., temperature taking, etc. Superintendent Lovato said they would.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policies GDD, IKF, IKF-2, JEB and JLCDB on First/Revised Reading. (Lovato) **APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
- b. Adopt Policy GBI on First/Revised Reading (Lovato) **ADOPTED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Resolution to Certify Mill Levy as presented. Total mill levy has been certified at 24.476 (Lovato) **2020 MILL LEVY APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Revised Policies GBGH, GCCAB and GDCB on First/Revised Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve One-Time Staff Retention Bonus (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED WITH DIRECTOR BICKEL ABSTAINING ON THE VOTE**
- d. Approve Partnership with Hazel Health (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve EOSD Portion of HVAC Replacement at Columbian School-CDS in the amount of \$156,485.50 (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$156,485.50 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve Purchase of Air Purifiers (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,887.00 AS PRESENTED**
- g. Approve Purchase of Physics in a Box - Mechanics Curriculum (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 AS PRESENTED**
- h. Approve Scholastic Purchase (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,292.00 AS PRESENTED**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Ayala acknowledged the profound contributions and loss of Pedro Madrid. She said it was always a great day to be a Tiger with Pedro. He was a teacher, a substitute teacher, helped with football and the whistle blower. Director Ayala sends a prayer to the family of Pedro and to everyone affected in the valley. Director Ayala also thanked the parents for their hard work and it has not gone unnoticed. She said to keep up the good work and for everyone to stay healthy.
- ✓ Director Derbigny stated, "Hear, hear".
- ✓ Director Backes also agreed with Director Ayala's comments. She said thank you to everybody for their hard work and this too shall pass and we will get through it and remember the work that was done together. Director Backes stated that with each agenda item brought forth before the Board, she is very happy that the Board can support all the work that is going into finding unique ways to provide support to our kiddos. She said so much effort has been put into this and said thank you for that.

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- ✓ Director Leyba said she lives close to the hospital and hears the Flight for Life helicopter frequently. She extends her heartfelt appreciation to the local health care workers, AVRMC staff and Care Connect, air ambulance. She said it has been pretty busy and she knows they are all exhausted but are all appreciated as well.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato wanted to remind parents and the community that Southeast Health Group and Ryon Medical staff offer telehealth counseling services to help work through this time for whatever may be needed. He shared it is very humbling to think of where we are now compared to this spring when he told staff to prepare to be out of school one week. Superintendent Lovato said to hug the family that is in your house and to reach out to those who are not.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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