



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**November 9, 2020**

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

**A. Personnel Approval**

- Kelly Maik – Resignation as 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher effective January 1, 2021

**B. Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for the 2020-2021 School Year**

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, said the fund balance report shows \$177,042 to the good of the expenses over revenue last month. She said the 41 (Capital Project Fund) and 43 (Capital Projects Building Fund) funds are showing a negative balance, but once the journal entries are completed from the auditor that will move some of the money back and everything will be back where it needs to be. Mrs. Reisch informed the Board she started working on that today. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

6. **MINUTES**

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 12, 2020. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Lovato updated the Board on the bus barn construction project. He met with the contractor on Friday and said excavation has begun and setting of the footers will begin next week. The building will go up quickly after that is complete. Superintendent Lovato said the meeting was good and he is happy to be getting that project moving forward. The buses will only be on the basketball courts temporarily and will be moved once the building is up. Superintendent Lovato said he is looking at pursuing grants to upgrade East School entirely. This is more of a long-term project, but looking at the use of East School and the success with Tiger Trades Academy, he feels the district needs to invest in the building.

The audit is complete and the district is in sound financial shape. Superintendent Lovato said we are not in any major deficit spending. October count showed the district down 42 students from last year, which is about 60 less students than was anticipated. He said we will need to save for a rainy day and enrollment will fluctuate differently with the pandemic.

Superintendent Lovato would like to schedule a budget work session in December or January in order to begin planning for capital projects. There are some mandatory items on the list already such as carpet and flooring at the Intermediate, HVAC at the Junior/Senior High and new turf at the stadium as well as some attention to East School. Another item Superintendent Lovato mentioned to the Board is looking at giving full-time staff a one-time retention bonus next month. He said he is estimating a cost of around \$100,000 for this which would come out of the surplus accumulated from last year. Superintendent Lovato said this will be on next month's agenda.

With Covid cases increasing, some districts are switching to remote learning as Otero County is moving to orange on the Covid dial. Superintendent Lovato said we are still allowed to have face-to-face instruction. He shared the student and staff morale has improved since full time face-to-face began. Superintendent Lovato said we may have to move to remote learning at some point, either through our own outbreak or by a public health order. He stated there will no longer be the hybrid option offered as it didn't yield the results staff was looking for. There are plans in the place to make the move to remote and if notification is received that the district makes the change, Superintendent Lovato said there will be one day to plan and hand out technology.

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Director Backes inquired about the special needs students and asked for an update on how they are doing. She asked if we have reached out to the families of those students for support. Superintendent Lovato said the special needs, ELL students, and high needs students even in the hybrid format, were being seen four days per week. He said we have been able to keep up with their needs through BOCES and the service providers there.

Director Derbigny asked if the pandemic funds have been depleted. Superintendent Lovato said they have not. Director Derbigny also asked if the districts who are transitioning to remote learning are surrounding districts. Superintendent Lovato said the districts he has heard are Fowler and possibly Rocky Ford, as well as McClave. The Crowley County junior high students are also out until the first week in December. Director Derbigny inquired to which account the retention bonus would come from. Superintendent Lovato said it would be from a special revenue fund.

Director Ayala asked if the playground equipment that was removed at East School is going to be replaced when improvements are made as there are neighborhood children who use it. Superintendent Lovato said yes. Director Ayala said she understands Superintendent Lovato wanting to stay in face-to-face learning and mentioned staff being in a high risk category and shouldn't have to choose between a paycheck and their health. She told Superintendent Lovato it may need to be reconsidered transitioning to remote learning for staff's safety. Superintendent Lovato said we don't want to put anyone in unnecessary risk and we are trying to make every accommodation to meet the needs of staff and keep them safe.

Director Backes asked if there are things that can be discussed in the budget work session to make the SCAP (Student Centered Accountability Project) suggested improvements. Superintendent Lovato said we are still in the SCAP and are still working at it. He said we will be doing our second round of surveys within the next two weeks and are addressing the implementation of the curriculum. He asked the public, parents and constituents to be on the lookout for the surveys and to please take the time to complete them.

#### **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Approve revised Policies DJB, DJE and GBEB on Second/Final Reading. (Lovato) **APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Certify Total FTE for October Count at 1374 for 2020-2021 (Lovato) **CERTIFIED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Adopt Policy GBI on First/Revised Reading (Lovato) **ADOPTED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Revised Regulations GCE/GCF-R and GDE/GDF-R and Exhibit JLCDB-E on First/Revised/Final Reading. (Lovato) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Revised Policies GDD, IKF, IKF-2, JEB and JLCDB on First/Revised Reading. (Lovato) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve Purchase of Make Up Air Unit Replacement in the amount of \$23,210.55. (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,210.55 AS PRESENTED**

#### **10. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Backes wanted to thank everyone who came to the work session prior to the regular meeting. She is happy to hear data is being looked at frequently and not just prior to big testing times. She said she thinks the amount of work that is going into providing tutoring throughout our district is a huge testament to the dedication that staff and administrators have to giving improvement and support to students during this pandemic and she thinks it is commendable and appreciated. She wanted to say thank you for that and said it really shows that everyone is here for the kids. Director Backes also took a moment to congratulate Mrs. Maik on her retirement and thank her for the years she has served our school our district. She will be missed and is a great teacher. The last thing Director Backes wanted to mention was to commend everyone who worked so hard to provide an online option for our students. In looking at the counts that were approved tonight and only losing a little over 40 students when we thought there was the potential to lose a great many more students is a testament to the work that was done to create an online option for our students who did not feel safe to return to school. She would like to see that grow and build and feels we have an opportunity within our district to offer some really great online options for families and children where the typical school and education environment is not suitable for them and continuing to have a really great online program.

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- ✓ Director Ayala wanted to thank the staff for putting in the effort and being there for the students. She said staff is appreciated and their hard work during this pandemic has not gone unnoticed.
- ✓ Director Derbigny said it feels like we are just waiting for the looming pandemic. Superintendent Lovato said it is a combination of things and it feels like there is a black cloud hanging. He said the one thing that is different now compared to August is we are beginning to see more cases in our area. He said we are prepared to change on a dime. He said he worries about parents who don't have daycare. Also with the upcoming holiday season which can cause stress, that stress could be increased if the Covid dial goes into the red zone and people lose jobs. He encouraged everyone to Mask, Wash and Space.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said the district has several employment opportunities. He encouraged anyone who would like to become a substitute teacher, a teacher or a bus driver to check the district website. Director Backes recommended Superintendent Lovato spotlight openings on his live Facebook feeds. Superintendent Lovato mentioned the district may have to switch to remote learning due to not having enough staff to work.

**13. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:16 p.m.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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