



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
April 8, 2019

1. **WORK SESSION – TOUR OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SEE THE RENOVATION PROGRESS**
2. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Leyba and Paolucci
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
5. **STUDENT RECOGNITION – JUNIOR HIGH STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS: ELIJAH MONTALVAN AND LUKE GARNER**

The Board congratulated Elijah Montalvan and Luke Garner on receiving state championship titles in Junior High wrestling. Each wrestler received a certificate from the Board handed out by Director Paolucci. Elijah wrestled in the 90-pound bracket and won his match 1-0. Luke wrestled at 152 pounds and pinned his opponent. Elijah is in 7th grade and Luke is in 8th grade.
6. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Marlina Garcia Maes - Resignation as Special Education Paraprofessional effective March 26, 2019
 - Morgan Sutton - Resignation as 4th Grade Teacher at La Junta Intermediate School effective May 24, 2019
 - Crispin Miell - New Hire as Maintenance Director for the 2019-2020 year
7. **MINUTES** – March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
8. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, reviewed the expenses and income with the Board for the month of March. The report showed expenses at \$1,238,847.52 and revenue at \$1,253,748.47. The business office is continuing work on adjusting the fund balance report to show comparison amounts from year to year. Director Paolucci inquired about the CPP (Colorado Preschool Program) Fund. Superintendent Lovato explained it is showing a deficit due to a transfer not being made from the general fund yet. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
9. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - **Southeast Health Group – Peer 613**

Lisa Rodriguez and Sarah Boe, peer specialists with the Southeast Health Group-Peer 613 house spoke to the Board about their program. Peer specialists are people who have had their own experiences with mental illness and/or substance abuse and have received training to give peer support services to others who are struggling with similar life experiences.

Ms. Rodriguez began by stating the program is located in an actual home just north of Southeast Health Group. She runs a group for teens ages 13-19 called Life Matters. She explained when kids come into the house, there is a 30-minute discussion, then the kids prepare a meal that is easy to cook and have an activity. Ms. Rodriguez said during the activity time, she pulls each youth aside and gives them an opportunity to talk to her for about 15 minutes. This gives them the chance to discuss any issues they are having and Ms. Rodriguez tries to help them by giving them some coping skills to use. Ms. Rodriguez said she is also part of the Communities That Cares (CTC) group. She recently took two teens from the Peer 613 group to a CTC meeting. These teens have been struggling with self-esteem issues and not having a sense of belonging. Ms. Rodriguez explained the teens day was brightened to feel their opinion was valued. The Life Matters group is held on Fridays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Boe explained she has struggled with her own mental illness and being a parent. She runs the group, Kids and Parent Art. This group is held on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She helps parents learn to cope with their child who may be experiencing issues.

Superintendent Lovato said he is a supporter of this program and has assisted Peer 613 with funds from the Friday activity grant. Director Backes asked if their schedule will remain the same over the summer months and Ms. Rodriguez said that it would.

Director Leyba asked Ms. Rodriguez what happens if a teen has an immediate issue. Ms. Rodriguez explained she will call crisis intervention. Director Leyba asked if teens feel they need mental health services are their parents contacted. Ms. Rodriguez said they would be notified as there would be billing questions, etc.

The Board thanked Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Boe for attending the meeting and sharing information about their program.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board toured the Primary School to see the renovation progress during the work session prior to this meeting. Superintendent Lovato explained construction has experienced several delays and it's looking like the Primary students and staff won't be able to move into their new building until the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year. Superintendent Lovato said he would rather construction be completed correctly instead of corners being cut in order to be done on time.

Superintendent Lovato stated TLC (Tiger Learning Center) is doing well. He shared that he is applying for an Alternative Educational Campus (AEC) through the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Currently, TLC is an extension of the high school, and TLC becoming an AEC will provide the program with its own identity. Superintendent Lovato said it will likely be in 2021 that TLC will become a formal AEC. He said the formal application to CDE is due at the end of April. He is looking at TLC to become a program for grades 7-12. The Board asked if TLC would have their own accountability, etc. when they become an AEC. Also, would the funding received be different for TLC. Superintendent Lovato explained TLC would be its own building and would have the same funding and other items as all buildings in the district, however, there are grants available for drop-out prevention. New Horizons Alternative School was developed to house only high school students. Currently, there are more elementary students attending than high school students. Superintendent Lovato said he would like to provide online education and trades classes for La Junta students instead of them attending New Horizons.

The following students were recognized by the Superintendent:

- Isaiah Gamez – congratulations for taking 2nd place at the National High School Wrestling Competition
- Amanda Rees – congratulations for representing La Junta in the All State Honor Band. She was 2nd chair in the French horn section
- Janet Olaley, Rena Henegar, Keegan Russell, Ethan Manyik, and Timothy Johnson - Congratulations on qualifying for the state History competition. The competition will be held in May and the Colorado Denver Campus.
Superintendent Lovato elaborated on the National History Day competition. This is a competition where students create either website, documentary, performance, paper, or exhibit around a thesis which supports a theme for the year. This year's theme is Triumph and Tragedy.
- Congratulations to the La Junta Junior and Senior High School participants and award winners at the 63rd Otero Arts Festival.

The annual Retirement and Recognition reception will be held on Thursday, April 25 at the Junior/Senior High School beginning at 4:00 p.m.

CMAS testing began today. The Intermediate School had planned kick off events, however, the need to close the school Wednesday and Thursday last week interrupted those events. Superintendent Lovato thanked everyone on how the situation was handled.

This time of year is a challenge for everyone. Superintendent Lovato took a moment to comment staff for putting up with a lot of the adversity they have overcome throughout the year. He is really proud of how things have been professionally handled and added this time of year can be rough.

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11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget Update (Lovato) **NO ACTION TAKEN**
- b. Approve Revised Policies GDBD and GCCAA on Second/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Chartwells Contract (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Unified Improvement Plans (Lovato) **NO ACTION TAKEN**
- c. Approve Certified Staff Employment Renewals - Resolution 2019-2N and Resolution 2019-2P (Lovato) **APPROVED WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Revision of the Administrative Support Staff Salary Schedule (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

13. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Backes thanked the audience for attending and staying for the entire meeting.
- ✓ Director Leyba said there is a survey for bullying prevention as well as a handout. She said the handout explains the definition of bullying is. She wants the district to use parent-friendly information. She also congratulated all of our students.
- ✓ It was noted that the Junior High wrestling team took 3rd at state out of 245 teams.

15. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:29 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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