



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**September 9, 2019**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Leyba and Paolucci; Director Bickel was absent.

2. **AUDIENCE**

Cori Hanson, Chartwells Food Service Director, introduced his assistant director, Tyler Martin. Mr. Hanson informed the Board that Chartwells is expanding in the valley which requires the extra help. The Board welcomed Mr. Martin to La Junta.

Angelica Good, Octavia Medina and Jadon Jaramillo who are all students at Tiger Trades Academy, shared their day at school with the Board. They said Mr. Kirk currently has them working on vehicle maintenance, detailing cars and putting together their shop.

Gayle Eveatt spoke to the Board regarding the student dress code. She would like to see students following the dress code. She said administration tries their best to enforce the dress code, however, there are still students who don't comply. She would like to see a student shirt uniform be implemented.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Personnel Approval**

- Rita Ojeda - New Hire as TTA (Tiger Trades Academy) Secretary for the 2019-2020 school year

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

C. **Approve Online Registration Initial Fee - Changes to the cost**

E. **Approve Revised Exhibit GCBB-E1**

F. **ADDITION - Approve Roof Replacement for the Junior/Senior High School Gymnasium**

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

A. **Personnel Approval**

- Vanessa Henson - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at La Junta Intermediate School for the 2019-2020 school year
- Cierra Sisson - New Hire as High School Assistant Softball Coach for the 2019-2020 season
- Mark Archuleta - New Hire as Custodian at La Junta Intermediate School for the 2019-2020 school year
- Sidney Nunez - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2019-2020 season
- Lance Mosness, Jr. - New Hire as Paraprofessional at La Junta Junior/Senior High School for the 2019-2020 school year
- Peggy Larsen - Resignation as Bus Driver effective September 30, 2019
- Rita Ojeda - New Hire as TTA (Tiger Trades Academy) Secretary for the 2019-2020 school year

B. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2019-2020 School Year**

C. **Approve List of Substitute Teachers for the 2019-2020 School Year**

6. **MINUTES** – Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 12, 2019 Regular Meeting **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

**7. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, explained this month expenses were higher than income. She said in the insurance reserve, the new policy for this year has been paid and money hasn't been transferred from the general fund yet, which shows a negative. Mrs. Reisch said the district has received part of the summer program food service money, however, a slight loss was incurred. The grant funds will have money transferred once the auditor gets here and state funding will begin being received. Mrs. Backes asked how much of a loss was incurred with the summer lunch program. Mrs. Reisch said the number of participants weren't very high for both breakfast and lunch at East School and next summer the program will be looked at as far as determining what the district will do.

**FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**8. PRESENTATIONS**

**Building Report/Update**

**Julie Miller, Primary School Principal -**

Mrs. Miller told the Board enrollment at the Primary School is currently at 333 students and last year at this time there were 326 enrolled. She said new students are still arriving. Mrs. Miller reviewed Beginning of Year (BOY) STAR and Dibels testing data and said 43% of Kindergarten students are at or above benchmark. In 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students either take the STAR Early Literacy test or the STAR Reading test, based upon practice test results. Based on that, 92 1<sup>st</sup> grade students took the STAR Early Literacy test. She said fewer students will take the STAR Early Literacy test in the middle of year testing. 28% of 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are at or above benchmark in the STAR Early Literacy testing. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade STAR Reading test showed 55% of the 29 students who took the test are at or above benchmark. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade there was a lower number of students, 20, taking the STAR Early Literacy test and Mrs. Miller said that staff want to cut that number down even more. There was one 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student that scored at or above benchmark on the STAR Early Literacy test, which showed this student was ready to take the STAR Reading test. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade STAR Reading test, 58% were at or above benchmark. For Dibels testing, 42% of Kindergarten students at or above benchmark, 52% of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are at or above benchmark and 65% of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are at benchmark or above. In looking at this data, Mrs. Miller commended the 1<sup>st</sup> grade team for their efforts last year. STAR Math assessment is only given to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. The data shows 54% of students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at or above benchmark and 45% of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at or above benchmark. Mrs. Miller shared upcoming events at the Primary School. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on September 26-27. A book fair will be in progress the week of September 23. The 7 Mindsets curriculum is also being taught at the Primary School. This is in addition to the existing 2<sup>nd</sup> Step social/emotional curriculum. Mindset Monday happens weekly as well as a weekly 2<sup>nd</sup> Step lesson. The counselor presents the lessons to the students with the teacher present so the same language is used. The first Building Accountability and PTO meetings were held on September 3. Mrs. Miller said there was great parent turn out. The Primary Building Leadership Team (BLT) has made their charge for the year the move back into their new building. Mrs. Miller said the BLT team will be meeting and going to the new building to look and see what routines can be established, i.e., parent pickup and drop off; lunch transitions, specials transitions, etc. The Primary School is excited to cheer on the Tigers for homecoming week.

**Claudia Apodaca, Intermediate School Principal -**

Mrs. Apodaca stated the enrollment is currently at 462 students compared to 455 at the same time last year. She said new students are still enrolling. The results of the beginning of year (BOY) Dibels testing were 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 57% of students tested at or above benchmark; 4<sup>th</sup> grade had 46% of students at or above benchmark. The STAR reading testing results were as follows: 37% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students were at or above benchmark; 44% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were at or above benchmark; 27% of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at or above benchmark and 6<sup>th</sup> grade had 26% test at or above benchmark. The STAR math testing results were as follows: 35% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students were at or above benchmark; 52% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were at or above benchmark; 39% of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were at or above benchmark and 33% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students tested at or above benchmark. Mrs. Apodaca shared the upcoming events at the Intermediate School. The PTO and Building Accountability meetings will be tomorrow beginning at 5:00 p.m. On Wednesday, a 9/11 ceremony will be held at 8:00 a.m. The Literacy Project began today, with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students joining 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students were worked with today and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be worked with tomorrow. Mrs. Apodaca said with the large 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class that entered the Intermediate School this year, it was decided to have a transitional 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. So far this is showing good progress. The Intermediate students in grades 3-5 have Mindset Mondays. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade has Mindsets lesson every day of the week. Handwriting and cursive is also being incorporated this year for grades K-8. Mrs. Foxhoven researched and there is data that shows handwriting helps with memory and the social/emotional aspect as well. Mrs. Apodaca said Tiger Trades Academy has been a great resource this year. Intermediate students

are sent to TTA when the regular setting might be a little bit too much for them. Another thing happening at the Intermediate School is the focus on PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) to improve the climate and culture of the building for both students and staff. Superintendent Lovato clarified that students are being sent to TTA in lieu of out-of-school suspensions. Mrs. Backes inquired about the process to send a student to TTA. Mrs. Apodaca explained the PST (Problem-Solving Team) paperwork is followed, which shows methods that have or haven't been working for the student. Mrs. Ayala said she came in and ate lunch with her daughter. She said she appreciates adjustments made so students can have more time to eat.

**Dan Nuschy, Junior/Senior High School Principal -**

Mr. Nuschy said enrollment is at 660 students, which is an increase of 34 students from this same time last year. Parent teacher conferences will be held on September 25 and 27, 2019. Homecoming will be the week of September 30. Peer tutoring is being offered in the counseling center all day long and GEAR UP tutoring is being offered after school to students. The 7 Mindsets program is underway and working well. There have been 300 contacts to parents since the beginning of school, with both positive and negative reports. Mrs. Ayala said she spent quite a bit of time in the new bleachers and told Mr. Nuschy she noticed people not having any trouble getting around on them. Mrs. Backes asked if the advisory time is helping with eligibility. Mr. Nuschy said it is about the same now as last year. Mrs. Backes said she has heard a lot of positive things regarding the advisory group and the 7 Mindsets program. Superintendent Lovato said a trend he has noticed is students who tend to be on the ineligibility list aren't in any activity, i.e., band, athletics, etc. Mr. Nuschy said the advisory groups are going to start having a contest, hoping this will get all students involved in something. Mrs. Ayala asked if parents are being called regarding their student's dress code violation. Mr. Nuschy said if a student is sent to him, parents are contacted and students have to change.

**Ken McNerney, Tiger Trades Academy Director/Principal -**

Mr. McNerney informed the Board that currently Tiger Trades Academy (TTA) has 60 students attending. Out of those 60 students, 20 are at the lower grades levels and 40 students are at the high school level. The teachers are differentiating instruction after STAR testing scores were received. Mr. Kirk is focusing on what the students would like to do. Mr. McNerney said some students have already completed one-half credit on the Odysseyware program. Mr. McNerney said the In-School Suspension (ISS) room is running good and will improve when TTA moves buildings later this year. Mr. McNerney thanked for the Board for allowing him to have a secretary.

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Superintendent Lovato informed the Board of the Primary School construction progress. He said a couple of weeks ago, he discussed with the contractor about meeting their deadline. Work has picked up and there are fees that the contractor will have to pay if work is not finished by the deadline. The marquee sign is considered cosmetic and not a necessity.

Enrollment numbers are at 1448 this morning with last year's enrollment number at the time being 1414. Superintendent Lovato said the district may drop or gain a couple of students. This year's budget was built on an enrollment of 1400 students.

Superintendent Lovato reviewed the Preliminary School Performance Frameworks. He said the district has some work to do. In comparison with state average we are below in terms of meeting and exceeding in literally any category. There have been some bright spots in sparse areas. Last year, there were no advanced scores and did have some this year and showed some growth in some areas. Superintendent Lovato said ultimately the district has to continue focus and to work. He said the things are being done to improve is the S-CAP diagnostic review that is upcoming. Staff turnover has been a big concern. At the Junior/Senior High School, the turnover rate is low and the students are testing well. The graduation and attendance rates are good, and the test participation rate is good since the introduction of Late Start. An English/Language Arts Intervention teacher has been added at the Junior/Senior High School to help with Junior High improvement. Peer tutoring, GEAR UP tutoring and the 7 Mindsets are also being offered at the Junior/Senior High School. The Intermediate School is the district's highest need building and is starting year three of Turnaround Status. The Intermediate students tested below average in every category. The growth reports showed students very flat and under that state average. Superintendent Lovato shared some class cohort comparisons (see table below).

***Cohort Testing Comparison***

Class	Testing Year	Reading (% meeting or exceeding state expectations)	Math (% meeting or exceeding state expectations)
2029 (last year's 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade students)	2019	20%	22%
<b>2028</b>			
	2018	15%	11%
	2019	17%	3%
<b>2027</b>			
	2017	24%	16%
	2018	21%	3%
	2019	20%	3%
<b>2026</b>			
	2016	23%	22%
	2017	13%	6%
	2018	22%	2%
	2019	10%	3%
<b>2025</b>			
	2015	39%	21%
	2016	25%	6%
	2017	17%	5%
	2018	15%	6%
	2019	20%	8%
<b>2024</b>			
	2015	21%	9%
	2016	27%	11%
	2017	18%	7%
	2018	23%	7%
	2019	30%	11%

S-CAP (Student-Centered Accountability Program) will be coming September 23 for a diagnostic review. This will help the district improve upon things seen from a different perspective. A community survey will be released soon to help with this review. Generation Schools Network is also working with the Intermediate School staff.

Although the Primary School doesn't have state testing, however, there are things to be worked on there as well. This year they are doing flooding, where all staff are giving extra reading instruction to all students. Superintendent Lovato mentioned Early Childhood instruction needs to be looked at as well.

Superintendent Lovato said he will be publishing a letter soon to inform the community of the district's testing results.

Regarding the fire at the bus barn, the insurance adjustor felt the north end of the building was structurally sound and the south end would need to be replaced. Two contractors came in and only one gave a full report. The report said there are some places in the north end ceiling that could possibly fall. Their recommendation was to tear down the entire structure and put up a metal building. They gave a demolition price, but it didn't include the asbestos abatement cost. The company is reworking the estimate and it won't be presented until the report is complete.

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The food service walk-in coolers were housed at the bus barn. Up to this point, the food supply has been able to fit in the coolers in each building. The commodities haven't arrived yet, but will arrive in October. When construction begins, all the contents of the bus barn will need to be stored. Superintendent Lovato said he would like to install a metal building that will house the walk-in coolers and that could also be used for storage.

The sound system for Tiger Gym was looked at yesterday. The contractor will give an updated cost. While the gentleman was looking at the sound system, Superintendent Lovato noticed the gym floor has buckled on the east wall due to the gym roof leaking. This recently showed up. The moisture in the floor goes almost to the announcer's booth. He feels the insurance will cover the floor and roof.

Superintendent Lovato told the Board by policy GDQD, there was a change in the Transportation Director position. The position was let go. The district is currently looking for a mechanic.

Director Leyba said early childhood centers use different programs than the schools in the area use. She asked how often the district and early childhood staff get together to make sure the goals align. Superintendent Lovato said CPP (Colorado Preschool Program) meets about six times per year and instruction practice doesn't come up in these informal meetings. Mrs. Ayala suggested that with new leadership on both sides, this might be a good time to start these discussions.

#### **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve the Purchase of a Marquee Sign for the Primary School (Lovato) **APPROVED WITH A 3-1 VOTE**
- b. Adopt New Job Description for Maintenance Secretary (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Online Registration Initial Fee in the amount of \$10,140.00 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Incentive Pay to Employees for Emergency Bus Drivers in the amount of \$500.00 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve Revised Exhibit GCBB-E1 on First/Revised/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve Roof Replacement for the Junior/Senior High School Gymnasium in the amount of \$399,876.00 (Lovato) **APPROVED WITH AMENDED MOTION**

#### **11. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Ayala said it was nice to see the Positive Impact group doing community service. She also gave a big shout out to Superintendent Lovato who took care of an alarm going off in the early morning. She feels the district is moving into a positive direction.
- ✓ Director Backes said she appreciates everyone who attended tonight's meeting. She asked Mr. McNerney to thank the students who came and shared with the Board. She also appreciates the building reports. The climate change in the buildings is having a positive effect on the district. She said everyone needs to come together in order to bring the testing scores up.
- ✓ Director Leyba said CDE and CTC are hosting a training for accountability meetings. This is a free meeting and a link is online for people to sign up to attend.
- ✓ Director Paolucci thanked the presenters and everyone who attended tonight's meeting. He said there might be a dress code issue that needs to be looked at. The test scores are not going in the right direction and we need to be accountable for that. The dress code may help.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato thanked Mrs. Apodaca and Mr. Romero for their quick actions in taking care of the alarm issue at the Intermediate School. Mr. Romero has been a great asset to the district. Superintendent Lovato also thanked Mrs. Magana in stepping in and taking care of business at the bus barn.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:19 p.m.**

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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