



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**November 13, 2017**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Leyba, Paolucci, and Reeder

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**Personnel Approval**

- Patrick Christensen - New Hire as High School Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach for the 2017-2018 season
- Molly Butler - Resignation as 4th Grade Teacher at La Junta Intermediate School effective no later than December 31, 2017
- Kristy Malden - New Hire as Paraprofessional at La Junta Primary School for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year
- Felicia Gomez - New Hire as Paraprofessional at La Junta Intermediate School for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year

Approve Building Accountability Committee Members for the 2017-2018 School Year

Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2017-2018

4. **MINUTES** – October 9, 2017 Regular Meeting and October 13, 2017 Special Meeting **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Reisch, Business Manager, said year-to-date, \$3.4 million has been spent and income is at \$4.2 million. She said the district is looking good on expenditures and revenues. There will be a few revisions to the final budget which will include the additional funding for increased enrollment and transferring money to new accounts that are being created for Title funds. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

6. **PRESENTATIONS**

**Building/Principal's Monthly Report**

➤ **Dan Nuschy – La Junta Jr./Sr. High School**

Mr. Nuschy said the La Junta Junior/Senior High School has been working on two different state assessment practice tests. One test will begin this week. The released data has been taken from the CMAS and PSAT and staff have created sample tests in order to get a couple of practice attempts in before standardized testing in the spring. Staff will evaluate the student needs during the November work day and will move forward from there for spring testing. There was a school safety workshop held in October and Mr. Nuschy said incredible information was presented. He said we are moving together with agencies in the community and are in the process of creating protocol for school safety issues. Celebrations that have occurred in the last month at La Junta Junior/Senior High are Band placing first at regionals and fifth at the state competition. Unfortunately, due to weather, the band was unable to perform their marching routine and were only allowed to stand and play their instruments. Mr. Nuschy said that was unfortunate for the kids. The LJHS BEST Robotics team finished up their competition in the top 4 to make the finals and brought home a 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall trophy. The softball team made it to the quarterfinals and ended up losing to the state champions, Strasburg. The football team is still moving forward in the playoffs and will be traveling to Eaton for the semi-final playoff game. The fall play "Legally Blonde" was a great success and was awesome. The kids did a great job and there was great singing and acting. College visits continue every week. A lot of students sign up to go see what their future holds for them. Tutoring continues three days a week during lunch. Detention is held for students with tardies for an hour after school. The numbers are beginning to drop as students are beginning to understand they can't be late. Mr. Nuschy handed out a sample Jump Start 7-12 pamphlet to the Board. This was created with the Building Leadership Team (BLT) and the Building Accountability Committee. He gave a break-down of the pamphlet. The overview of the program is to try and support students in academic need while rewarding those

students who are performing at or above grade level. Classes would begin three weeks early for students who opted-out of state standardized testing or did not meet or partially met proficiency on the tests. Students would receive extra help during those three weeks. There will be ten days of instruction, one day of assessment and one fun day. Students that have met their state standardized testing can also elect to come to school or enjoy staying at home as a reward. Mr. Nuschy reviewed the benchmarks and said all are set based on last year's data. The schedule would be in 1 hour and 45-minute block periods. An estimate of students who would be required to attend based on last year's data would be about 370 students. The BLT and Building Accountability both like the Jump Start program proposal. Mr. Nuschy said the proposal he presented would be for 7-12 grade students. He believes the 3-6 grade students will have a similar schedule, although the Primary schedule will most likely be different to fit their needs. Director Leyba voiced her concern about special needs students and if they are below level, but are showing significant growth not being able to participate in the fun day. Mr. Nuschy said the fun day will only be for the Jump Start students. Director Ayala requested Mr. Nuschy begin including in his report data regarding the number of students attending detention, the number of students who are tardy, as well as behavior and enrollment details. Director Ayala also asked if the state contact hours' requirements would still be met with the Jump Start program. Mr. Nuschy said they would. Director Paolucci voiced a concern regarding instructors have to reinvent their curriculum due to the Jump Start program and students who wouldn't begin school until September 4. Mr. Nuschy said staff would have to make some kind of adjustment and it has been discussed. Director Leyba said she is also curious about the attendance numbers as well. She also asked about the attendance for tutoring. Mr. Nuschy said it is required and there have been a few voluntary students. Director Leyba asked if there are minutes kept for the BLT meetings. If so, she would like copies of the minutes as well as the calendar committee minutes, if any are kept. She would like to see the discussion that took place at the meetings. Director Ayala wanted to know if students who are at level will be able to begin school and not have to back track for students who are not at level. She also has a concern about students beginning at the later start date being a disruption for those students who have been at school participating in the Jump Start program. Director Reeder said he spoke to the Rocky Ford School District who has implemented a similar program and they said they have not had any problems or disruptions. Mr. Nuschy told the Board that right now he doesn't know how the Jump Start program will work. He said there will be some pitfalls and things will have to be adjusted. The purpose is to get kids engaged and get them extra help if they need it. Director Ayala again requested that all principals be present at each Board meeting.

*Mr. Nuschy's written monthly report to the Board:*

**Friday Professional Development**

- State Assessment Practice Sessions (two practice sessions)
  - November 13/14/15 with Friday, November 17th - data analysis
  - January 29/30/31 Friday, February 2nd - data analysis
    - CMAS - 7th/8th Grade Reading & Math
    - CMAS - 8th Science
    - PSAT 9 - 9th Graders
    - PSAT 10 - 10th Graders
    - SAT - 11th Graders
- School Safety
  - November 17th 8 am: Active Shooter Video Series
  - I Love You Guys Training was held Friday, October 20th - GREAT information

**Celebrations**

- Band - placed first at the Southern Regional and 5th at the State competition.
- LJ BEST Robotics team – They finished their competition season by driving their robot to the top 4 to make the Finals and brought home the 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall trophy
- Softball team made it to the State tournament and lost in the quarterfinals to Strasburg who won the championship
- Football team won the League championship for the third consecutive year and are in the playoffs.

**College Visits**

- We have an active stream of colleges visiting with our students

**Tutoring**

- We are continuing to hold our tutoring during lunch every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

**Detention**

- Held after school for an hour for tardies

**Jumpstart**

Schedule

➤ **Brenda Woodyard – La Junta Intermediate School**

*Mrs. Woodyard's written monthly report to the Board:*

- Thank you to the Board members, community, and staff that were able to attend the first Wendy's Night of the year! We had an awesome turnout and were able to raise \$391.13 for our AR program.
- All of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students did an awesome job painting the map of the United States on the basketball court that is next to our playground. THANK YOU to Mr. Krueger for providing this great opportunity for our students and THANK YOU to PTO for purchasing the paint and supplies for this project!
- Congratulations to the following students for performing well during the choir auditions that were held during the month of October: Madyson Delair, Ashley Torrez, Anaisa Sanchez, Elah Backes, Julie Graham, Chevelle Hogan, Alexandria Mascarenas, Kloe Six, Bobby Roberts, and Isabella Roman. This group of students will be participating in the Choir Festival on November 2. Thank you to Natasha Wall for working hard with this group of students.
- Parents have been expressing a need to have more help with assisting their children with math homework. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade math teachers (Mrs. Griffy and Miss Higgs) have started a "Math Night" which will provide parents with the opportunity to come into the school and see how the teachers will be teaching different concepts to their children. This will help parents have some "cheat sheets" that can be referred to when their children come home and have questions about their math homework. The "Math Night" opportunity started on October 30 and will be offered every other Monday from 5:30-6:30. The information that is provided during the "Math Night" will also be uploaded to our social media sights so if parents/guardians are unable to attend they will still have the opportunity to access the material if needed. THANK YOU to Gina Griffy and Hannah Higgs for being so willing to organize this!
- Our Student Council officers and representatives did an AWESOME job with our Cancer Awareness Celebration and working with our Chamber of Commerce to put on the Veterans Day Ceremony. Thank you to Claudia Apodaca and our Student Council for helping to organize such great experiences for all of the students, staff, and community to be a part of!
- We would like to recognize the following 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for their exceptional job at the Middle School Cross Country meet: Jevon Mathenia, D'Rese Leon, Miles Marshall, Xavier Velador, Dilan Ruiz, Julian Tafoya, Janae Martinez, Cira Fowler, and Conner Kinslow-Smart. Mr. Pacheco and Mr. Bomar were both extremely impressed with this group of students and the effort they all put in!
- Teachers and students have been doing a great job collecting the class and individual pre/post assessment data. We are really liking the addition of the pre assessments this year as we are seeing nice growth on our unit assessments and our students seem to be grasping the understanding of what growth means as they graph their class and individual pre and post assessment data and set personal and class goals in each area.

Mrs. Woodyard shared some important dates.

➤ **Cindy Haberman – La Junta Primary School**

*Mrs. Haberman's written monthly report to the Board:*

October was National Bullying Prevention month so La Junta Primary School celebrated with a week of special activities. In Character Education, all students participated in the Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit throughout the month.

LJPS continues to encourage the community to support the school by eating out at Sonic on a monthly basis. One class from each grade level volunteers to make posters and encourage the public to eat at Sonic. 10% of the proceeds from 5-8 p.m. goes to LJPS.

Music is a family affair. Parents enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate their child's ability. The Second grade program "Night at the Museum" was held on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Otero Junior College's Humanities Center. Mary Belew impressed parents, grandparents, community members and friends once again with an amazing performance.

The ELL program is an additional school service provided to enable children to succeed in the grade-level classroom. We work with classroom teachers to help children develop English language skills, cultural awareness and learning strategies which they will need to work successfully with the curriculum. Students will work on building fluency and confidence when using the English language in a safe and fun learning environment.

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In our attempt to strengthen our communication from home to school and keep parents and caregivers informed with daily updates on lessons, projects, behavior, and AR, each grade level has created a communication (homework) folder. Parents, please review your child's folder daily and help your child to develop study skills and habits by practicing, preparing and extending their knowledge of the subject matter that has been provided in school. The activities/skills given is a way to tap into students' existing skills or interests and can be motivating and informational to parents of their child's learning.

During the first quarter, students learned about three of the elements of art: line, shape, "I Spy a \_\_\_\_" game to play in the car and include diagonals, zig-zags, spirals, and more. Shape is a two-dimensional space that can be defined by edges. Students will identify primary, neutral, warm, and cool. Mrs. Goheen is instructing students in creating an art piece.

Our enrollment in the month of October was 343, with an addition of 2 from the previous month. The number of students, broken out into individual grades are as follows: Kindergarten, 116 students; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 121 students; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 106 students. Currently there are three Primary students who attend New Horizons Academy.

For Parent Teacher Conferences, there was 85% parent attendance for Kindergarten, 92% for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, and 87% for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, which averages out to 89% for the school.

We continue to focus on catching students doing what they're supposed to do!! Power up, Power Down! The classroom competition "Pawsitive" Paw for the classroom who has no referrals to the office or negative behavior in the classroom. For the month of September there were 8 classrooms out of 17 that received the "Pawsitive" Paws. Congratulations!

Mrs. Haberman shared behavior information and some important dates.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Continued discussion of policies GBEB and JICA – staff and student dress code **TABLED TO A LATER DATE**

## **8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Superintendent Lovato reminded the Board of dates and upcoming activities in the district as follows:

- District Accountability Meeting - November 14
- Fifth Grade Concert - November 14
- Primary Literacy Night - November 16
- Fall Break - November 22 - 24
- CASB Convention - November 30 - December 3
- TRY Toy Bowl - December 2
- First Grade Music Program - December 6
- Holiday Shootout - December 7-9

Superintendent Lovato spoke to the Board about apprenticeships and work force readiness for kids. Not every student will attend a 4-year college and we need all kinds of trades, jobs and skills. He would like to begin a work force readiness program within the district. Things that could be looked at are maintenance and office help. He would like to have three intern students work at Central Office in 2-hour shifts learning skills starting next semester. At the end of the semester, the students would be evaluated and possibly apply for a summer job at the office. This would be a competitive process. Ms. Morlan, CTE Coordinator, is working on a health professional career pathway for CTE that is not nursing. This program would be an intro to healthcare. Possible athletic training or other avenues in the health field could be explored. Other possibilities for students might be transportation, maintenance or food services. Superintendent Lovato said he is looking into the possibility of finding a part-time trainer/instructor. Superintendent Lovato feels these opportunities will engage those students who struggle in the traditional school setting. These students could benefit from a trades program and will allow them the opportunity to do something that will be a benefit to them. He would like these to be certificate programs as well. This might also help those

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students who are on the college track by eliminating some classroom disruption. Superintendent Lovato told the Board it might be time to look into an alternative school. The total full-time equivalent (FTE) count is 1,366 students compared to 1,299 last year. The total head count (don't receive full funding for Kindergarten) is at 1423 this year and that was at 1355 last year. If the preschool population is included, Superintendent Lovato said the count is over 1,500 kids district-wide. Director Leyba would like to have a parent demonstration regarding lock down procedures. She would also like the vocabulary to be clarified for parents on the Safety and Response Protocol (SRP). Superintendent Lovato said he will be posting the SRP on the website for parents to see. Superintendent Lovato said that in the late spring he is hoping to have an actual and very informative drill.

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

- a. Certify Total FTE for October Count for 2017-2018 (Lovato) **CERTIFIED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve BEST Grant Agreement (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Jump Start Program (Lovato) **TABLED TO A LATER DATE**
- d. Approve Revised Regulation KF-R on First/Revised/Final Reading (Lovato) **TABLED TO A LATER DATE**
- e. Approve Modifications to the 2017-2018 School Calendar **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- f. Recognition of Dr. Jeff Reeder, Board President

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

- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said that in light of everything that is going on in the community, he expressed his concern and support for the other districts who may be going through things.
- ✓ Director Paolucci thanked Director Reeder for his commitment and support to the district. He said he has appreciated his guidance and expertise. Director Paolucci also congratulated the new board members who will be coming on, as well as the passing of the bond issue. Director Paolucci expressed a great deal of thanks to the bond committee, Primary staff and the community of La Junta and their willingness to invest in the future of our kids.
- ✓ Director Reeder thanked everyone for all their hard work-the teachers, administration and the all Board members he had the pleasure of working with over the last nine years. He said he has learned something from each of the three superintendents he has worked with. He appreciates their guidance and it takes a good, strong leader to run the district. Director Reeder said he appreciates everything and for letting him serve.

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

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**JEFF REEDER, President**  
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**JEFF PAOLUCCI, Vice President**  
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