



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
September 11, 2017

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Reeder asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims of 9-11-01.

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Personnel

- **Marlina Maes - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2017-2018 school year**
- **Antonia Gonzales - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2017-2018 school year**

B. An Additional Out-of-District Student

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fund Balance Reports attached

5. BUILDING REPORT/UPDATE

- B. Junior/Senior High School monthly report attached**
Primary School monthly report attached

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

Personnel Approval

- Joseph Zemba - Resignation as Paraprofessional at the Primary School effective August 14, 2017
- Mariah Davis - New Hire as Junior High Volleyball coach for the 2017-2018 season
- Carol Young - Resignation as Junior High Assistant Track coach effective August 10, 2017
- Justice Medina - New Hire as Paraprofessional at Child Development Services for the 2017-2018 school year
- Brooke Waring - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2017-2018 school year
- Brian Munson - Resignation as Sub/Activity Bus Driver effective September 10, 2017
- William Compton - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2017-2018 school year
- Marlina Maes - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2017-2018 school year
- Antonia Gonzales - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2017-2018 school year

Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2017-2018 School Year

Approve Additional Substitute Teacher for the 2017-2018 School Year

Approve Revised Extra Duty Assignments for the 2017-2018 School Year

5. **MINUTES** – August 14, 2017 Regular Meeting and August 30, 2017 Special Meeting **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Reisch apologized that due to internet issues, the financial reports were attached late. There were no questions on the financials. The audit was finished and everything looks good. Mr. Waller of Dixon, Waller and Co., Inc. will attend a later Board meeting to discuss the audit results. Some of the grants funds will be re-worked in the budget for ease and clarity. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. PRESENTATIONS

CMAS Results Update

Superintendent Lovato reviewed the CMAS results. He said the results can't be sugar-coated and that the district has identified some things to move forward. The Intermediate School is on Turnaround Status. One of the main things Superintendent Lovato would like to do is to invite parents to become involved and active with their child's education. He recently held an academic pep assembly to encourage students to do their best on any test they take throughout the year. He hopes the community and schools can come together to help our students succeed. Tutoring will be increased, as well as more computer time for younger students. The district has increased technology funding to benefit our students. Intervention classes will also be looked at. A Jump Start program will be recommended for next year. Superintendent Lovato mentioned the high amount of students who chose to "opt out" of testing hurt the districts participation numbers. He also praised the special needs students who improved in all areas. Superintendent Lovato said the theme throughout this year will be, "Are you ready?" He said we want our students to be ready for the world and want them to be prepared. There will be a public hearing with the Board scheduled prior to the adoption of the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP).

Building/Principal's Monthly Report

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

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

I would like to invite all board members to come in our building and visit classrooms so you can see firsthand what an amazing job our teachers do. Kevin Jones, the Principal at Center High School, will be meeting with the administration and a community meeting will be held regarding the implementation of the Jump Start program on September 21. Professional development was held on August 25. Data was discussed, as well as walk-throughs and guided explorations through CU Denver. The Juniors have linked their College Board accounts to Khan Academy using their SAF Suite of Assessment data. Classroom procedures and routines are in place. The 7th grade students are settling in nicely. The marching band took 2nd place at the Colorado State Fair parade. They are currently preparing for the Harrison contest on October 14. The pep band is going strong. The band will march in the Homecoming Parade on September 29 beginning at 1:00 p.m. In Drama, auditions for Legally Blonde have wrapped up. Rehearsals are under way for a November opening. Legally Blonde is a fabulously fun international award-winning musical based on the adored movie, *Legally Blonde*. The musical follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. The LJ BEST Robotics club will compete October 14 at Trinidad State Junior College in their robotics competition. Students have six weeks to design and build a robot that will pilot through a variety of tasks. This is the second year for the competition and many veteran students from last year's team have signed on again to help design and build the robot. The Robotics Club and the Engineering Design class recently received two major grants for equipment. One, from the Jared Polis Foundation, was for \$850 to purchase a VEX robotics kit like those used in the TSJC competition so the Robotics Club can be operated year-round. The second grant, from Otero County Economic Development and the Southeast Colorado Manufacturing Partnership in the amount of \$3,500, was used to buy a 3-D printer and other engineering and robotics kits for student use. Knowledge Bowl begins another season of competition on September 21 at the Ark Valley Meets competition held at Pueblo Central High School. There is a great turnout of Freshmen that are new to the team and some star Senior and Junior members who are returning to lead the varsity team. Junior High Leadership in Action is raising money to support local organizations. They will help Hospice by donating hospital-grade pillows and blankets, as well as canned food/kitchen items or perishable goods. Student council is busy in preparing for homecoming. This year's theme is Hollywood Homecoming. They are planning on painting faces at football games this year in an effort to spread Tiger Pride. Currently, there are 65 members. The varsity boys golf team took second place at the Pueblo South invite and are currently sitting in second place in the Tri-Peaks League as a team. Volleyball has implemented a Big Sister-Little Sister program where varsity players do kind gestures throughout the season for their little "sister" and at the end of the season they will find out who that is. The volleyball team will be hosting a clinic in two weeks for the Parks and Rec teams. Softball is currently ranked eighth in the state. The football and cross country teams are having a successful start to their seasons. The football team is currently ranked third in the state. There are twenty cheerleaders on the squad this year. The counseling center has all schedules completed. The counselors are giving guidance lessons with all grades. For grades nine through twelve, the focus is on career and college readiness. For grades seven and eight, the focus is on emotional topics (bullying, sexting, social media use). Students will be attending the OJC College Fair on September 20. The counselors are looking forward to helping seniors and their families complete the FAFSA form during the Financial Aid Night on October 9. The LGBTQ group partners with Southeast Health Group, who offers students small counseling groups.

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

Mrs. Woodyard shared with the Board that she is very confident with her staff. Teachers are looking at a multitude of things. Mrs. Woodyard said students and teachers will be graphing data. Pre- and post-testing will be done this year, so students can see their own individual growth. Mrs. Woodyard said she and Mrs. Haberman have been working closely together to lower the number of students entering 3rd grade who are below level. Superintendent Lovato said he and Mrs. Woodyard are meeting with the Colorado Literacy Foundation who would like to implement a literacy pilot program. Mrs. Woodyard would also like to encourage parents to remind their students to complete their nightly homework. She said outside practice time is very beneficial to the child and helps build a good foundation. She feels families are getting away from good homework practices. The T-PREP program is continuing this year for teachers. There are several professional development opportunities being offered and teachers can choose which appeals to them most. Mrs. Woodyard said there are currently six teacher candidates from Otero Junior College at the Intermediate School completing observations. The student council officers will be offering building tours to visitors or new students this year. Mrs. Woodyard told the Board to not be surprised to get an email asking them to be “practice” visitors. Accelerated Reading (AR) is being implemented again this year. Students are reading during school hours and there is an ongoing competition to see who can meet 100% of their goal first. Some ideas that were mentioned to improve test scores after a lengthy discussion were: once a month Friday school, summer school offered for more grade levels, parents and teachers meeting and setting goals for students, have evening classes to help parents understand the student’s homework, change conferences/open houses to mid-quarter instead of end of quarter, the Jump Start program and retaining students.

Mrs. Woodyard’s written monthly report to the Board:

We have had a great start to our 2017-2018 school year. I am really excited about the staff that we have at the Intermediate School--Everyone is excited and energized and we are all looking forward to a successful academic year! Currently our enrollment numbers are 465 students. Mrs. Foxhoven, Mrs. Haberman, and I all had the opportunity to attend the T-PREP retreat with CU Denver this summer. We were again presented with several professional development opportunities that we will be able to offer to our staff throughout the 2017-2018 school year (please see attached Guided Explorations that will be offered). Each teacher will have the opportunity to choose a professional development module (Guided Exploration) that they feel will help to support them to continue to become increasingly effective within the classroom. We had several teachers take advantage of this opportunity last year and we are looking forward to continuing this great opportunity with our staff again this year. Our Instructional Coach and I have been working closely together this summer to come up with an individualized collaboration plan for the 2017-2018 school year which will help each teacher work closely with Mrs. Salazar to consistently look at end of unit data, to reflect upon the “What’s Next”, and how to share the class data as well as individual data with the students. Analyzing, reflecting upon, and interpreting data will be the major focus during collaborations throughout this academic year. Marching Dynamite is back in action—they did a great job marching in several parades this summer and we are looking forward seeing the band increase in numbers. This year we currently have over 50 5th and 6th grade students enrolled in band, so we are hopeful these students will be interested in joining Marching Dynamite at the end of the school year. We had a district-wide cross building collaboration between all of our specials teachers during the work day on August 25. Our specials teachers expressed they appreciated this time to work with the specials teachers from the other buildings in order to have the opportunity to ensure content alignment between buildings. Our Student Council Officers and Representatives are up and running for the 2017-2018 school year. I would like to thank Claudia Apodaca for taking the time to work with this group of students again this year! Here are a few things they are currently working on: 9/11 Ceremony, Veterans Day Ceremony, and practicing being “Tour Guides” of the school.

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

Mrs. Haberman’s written monthly report to the Board:

Mrs. Haberman reported that the summer school program focused on curbing the regression of those students who need extensive remedial help. The new paint job to the interior and exterior was completed due to the True Value paint grant. The makeover was well received by the Primary students, parents, staff and community members. The computer lab has also grown with a new mobile lab and new child size “mouse” devices. All in all, it was a very busy and rewarding summer. Enrollment at the Primary in August was 338 students, which was 21 more than last August. The breakdown is: Kindergarten 114, First Grade 119, Second Grade 105. There are also four Primary students who attend New Horizons Academy. Mrs. Haberman reported the school year began considerably well. The summer months spent on planning and preparation paid off when the doors opened on August 16. All the “behind the scenes” logistics were in place and teachers met during in-service week to discuss the beginning of the year procedures and students. The new staff members have transitioned

nicely into their respective positions: Chelsea Batterton, Kindergarten teacher; Paula Kerr, Kindergarten teacher; Amanda Hawks, First Grade teacher; Katie Long, Second Grade teacher, Cassandra Siefkas, Intervention teacher; Brooke Waring, Paraprofessional; and Gregg Compton, Paraprofessional. Mrs. Haberman said the positive energy that each of these staff members bring forth has certainly been felt in the first few weeks together. The first few weeks of school include practicing fire drills, learning (and remembering) playground rules, implementing classroom rules and procedures, meeting new friends and generally being excited by the start of a new school year. Staff and students are in a very positive frame of mind so our challenge is to keep this high energy level consistent throughout the school year. DIBELS, Early STAR/STAR Reading, and STAR Math testing was organized into small groups to provide appropriate supervision and support to all students. A triangulation approach is utilized to gather data (using beginning of year STAR/DIBELS data, placement tests, and student performance with teacher input) to place students in their appropriate ability groups for reading and math. Focus is being placed on positive behavior again this year. There is a classroom competition happening and the classrooms who have no office referrals or negative behaviors receive a "Pawsitive" Paw. For the month of August, there were eleven out of seventeen classrooms who received "Pawsitive" Paws! The positive behavior incentives include: November 2 – mini carnival in the gym during specials; December 19 – movie and popcorn day; March 15 – outdoor games; and May 29 – swim passes to students with zero officer referrals during the year. Independent reading is an important focus so the Accelerated Reading (AR) program will be implemented for the third year in a row. The AR incentives are as follows: 1st quarter-root beer floats; 2nd quarter-pajama day with hot chocolate and a movie; 3rd quarter-BBQ at the park; and 4th quarter-craft activity. The Art program is underway. Staff is looking forward to the arts enhancing math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking and verbal skills. It has already been witnessed how art has improved motivation, concentration, confidence and teamwork in students with behavior issues. All art classes have taken on the challenge of painting rocks to add out our wonder display out front. This should be accomplished no later than October. Mrs. Haberman shared some important dates.

Jump Start Program

Superintendent Lovato said Kevin Jones, Center High School Principal, will be here on September 20 to speak with administrators and hold a community meeting regarding the Jump Start Program. This is a program for students who don't meet or exceed academic expectations or who choose to opt out of testing. These students would be required to begin school sooner than students who are at level. Superintendent Lovato said several schools have a program in place like this one. He has spoken with Mr. Snyder from Rocky Ford and Ms. Goines from Las Animas. They both say the program works well.

Primary School Construction

Superintendent Lovato said the committee for the bond election is hard at work. He said the contract for the BEST grant won't come through until after the election, so right now things are kind of in a holding pattern.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- September 12 - Intermediate PTO Meeting
- September 12 - Junior High Volleyball vs Hoehne
- September 14 - Volleyball at James Irwin
- September 15 - Football at Elizabeth
- September 18 - Regional Golf
- September 19 - District Accountability Meeting
- September 19 - School Pictures at Intermediate
- September 20 - School Pictures at the Jr/Sr High
- September 21 - Softball at Rocky Ford
- September 23 - Football at Kent Denver
- September 25-29 - Homecoming Week

Superintendent Lovato would like to send a special thank you to Thunder 'n Melon Run for the school supplies they donated to the district. Take Note Colorado (a statewide music initiative dedicated to providing access to music education and musical instruments to every K-12 student in the state of Colorado) representatives met with Superintendent Lovato today. He took them on a tour of each building and they also met with community member, Ms. Judy Hensley, community member. East Otero School District is one of only six districts state-wide who will receive help with resources to further develop music programs. Superintendent Lovato is targeting September 29 as

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the first structured Friday activity and will be targeting the Intermediate students. He is focusing on a literacy activity where students will make signs to carry in the parade. The 9/11 ceremony that took place at the Intermediate School this morning was very nice. Superintendent Lovato also wanted to thank the Central Office staff for their hard work. Director Leyba requested that there be one central location or program for communication between teachers and parents.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the School and District Performance Frameworks (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for School Resource Officer (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Revised Exhibit GCBC-E Worksheet #3 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Revised Regulation GCBD-R (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

13. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Reeder thanked the Board for all of their hard work and the teachers for the work they did to get the 4-day week implemented.
- ✓ Director Leyba congratulated all the Tigers on their accomplishments. She said it is nice to see students being involved.
- ✓ Director Ayala appreciates all the hard work the teachers are putting in with the students.
- ✓ Director Paolucci appreciated the great turn out with Primary staff and students at the Early Settler's Day Parade. He said it was a lot of fun.

14. ADJOURNMENT – **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 p.m.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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