



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 14, 2022**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **RECOGNITION**  
Cori Hanson, Chartwells Food Manager, was recognized by the Board. Mr. Hanson will be transferring out of state. The Board presented Mr. Hanson with a card and thanked him for his service to the district. Superintendent Lovato said this is bittersweet congratulations and Mr. Hanson will be missed.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
  - **Policy GBGH moved from Consent Agenda to Unfinished Business**
2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Personnel Approval**
    - **Norma Moore - Retirement as a Junior High Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 26, 2022**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
  - A. **Personnel Approval**
    - Marissa Oquist - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at Tiger Trades Academy for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year
    - Elena Ramsay - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at Tiger Trades Academy for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year
    - Gayle Eveatt - Retirement as Health Aide at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 26, 2022
    - Marlene Vasquez - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year
    - Lynae Morales - New Hire as Health Aide for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year
    - Norma Moore - Retirement as a Junior High Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 26, 2022
  - B. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2021-2022**
  - C. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2021-2022 School Year**
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Reisch phoned into the meeting. She informed the Board that Title, ESSER I, II and III fund reimbursement has been requested. Those funds should be received by the end of this week or next week. There was over \$1,000,000 requested. Superintendent Lovato said the Fund Balance Report shows funds were getting low and there were a lot of federal monies. Mrs. Reisch said the food service is different this year because we are not getting the reimbursement which is shown on the fund balance report compared to last year. Superintendent Lovato said we are still working with the auditor and we don't know when he will come and present the audit. **FINANCIAL REPORT WAS APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
7. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
8. **PRESENTATIONS**  
Cori Hanson, Chartwells Food Service Director, informed the Board he will be relocating to another state. Mr. Hanson introduced Amanda Gingrich, who will be replacing his position with the district as food service director. Ms. Gingrich told the Board she has been with Compass Group (Chartwells parent organization) for 12 years and will assume her duties here on March 1.

Mr. Hanson said the USDA has put out new reimbursement rates for the summer feeding program. He said this usually doesn't affect the district, but this year it will. The new rates will increase funds for the summer program, which is welcome with rising food costs.

Mr. Hanson said food production is going well but he continues to deal with ongoing staffing issues. Director Leyba asked Mr. Hanson if this administration (the Biden administration) is going to be changing student lunches. Mr. Hanson said yes and the changes made will go into effect next year. He said the changes will be fewer whole grain offerings (80% whole grain), less severe salt limits and low-fat chocolate milk instead of only nonfat. Director Leyba asked if there should be three options for drinks. Mr. Hanson said there is nothing that states juice or water have to be options and the only requirement if two options of milk. He shared this year there is a waiver in place due to milk supply issues and elaborated by stating the real issue is not a milk issue but is a carton issue.

Director Derbigny asked if the whole wheat items were nasty tasting. Mr. Hanson said taste is an opinion everyone has. He said the majority of kids are used to eating breakfast sandwiches from fast food restaurants or home and those aren't made with whole wheat. He stated kids see the difference and don't like the whole wheat products because that is not what they are used to eating.

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

Superintendent Lovato informed the Board the weather is warming up on a consistent basis and we will finally be able to insulate the building.

The S-CAP in person review will be February 28-March 1, 2022. Superintendent Lovato said he has been preparing for the review and acknowledged Amy Salazar for her hard work on the S-CAP website.

The technology department would like an additional staff member. Superintendent Lovato said this would be an 11-month position. He told the Board the Chromebooks and staff computers require annual cleaning and this position will begin this summer.

Superintendent Lovato shared he and the principals have been discussing upcoming staffing needs. He said student discipline issues have been steadily increasing which has administrators looking at the need for adding an assistant principal position at the Intermediate and Junior/High Schools, as well as a Dean of Students at the Primary School. The increase in discipline issues have impeded the administrators from performing their daily duties and teacher evaluations. Superintendent Lovato said he is also looking at increasing the number of counselors due to the increase in mental health issues. He also stated the salary schedules will need to be increased and classified staff need to be paid more. All of these things will be a substantial monetary increase and Superintendent Lovato said he does have a concern on being able to sustain the increase. He has also explored moving some grade levels to different buildings, however, to open up and staff a new building could be a \$1,200,000 annual expense. Superintendent Lovato said there are a lot of wants and said when the ESSER monies go away, it will be interesting to see how different districts used the funds.

Director Derbigny asked if there have been any rumblings from teachers/aides regarding not returning next year. Superintendent Lovato said there are some. He said letters of intent have been distributed but he has not seen them yet. Director Derbigny asked about state testing and the Intermediate School's turnaround status. She is wanting to know if things are getting better. Superintendent Lovato said the accountability clock has been on a standstill due to Covid and he isn't sure state test scores are flat. He shared the state accountability system may be revamped. Director Derbigny asked if the READ Act is used for accountability. Superintendent Lovato said it is not but there are consequences if that is not followed from the state. He said Dibels and STAR testing are used for the READ Act. Director Derbigny asked if there will be state testing this year and Superintendent Lovato said there would be.

The calendar committee has met and are planning on having a calendar for Board approval on the March agenda. Superintendent Lovato said one of the non-negotiable items was starting school after the Arkansas Valley Fair. He said in doing this it caused a shortage of seat time, which will require longer or more days added throughout. Discussion was held regarding Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks. Martin Luther King and President's Day may be added in. Spring break 2023 will be a week later than this year.

The March board meeting falls on the Monday of spring break. Superintendent Lovato asked the Board if they would like to move the meeting date. After some discussion, the March board meeting will be moved to after spring break.

Director Leyba asked if there is ever any discussion about year-round school. Superintendent Lovato said July still needs to be a free month. He said we are almost in year-round school now as summer school runs the entire month of June. He also said there are a lot of summer activities that go on and it would be very difficult if we were the only district on a year-round calendar. Director Ayala asked if we are taking a stance to return to a 5-day week. She said she understands there is burnout and we are in the middle of a pandemic. Superintendent Lovato said we are spending more time and energy on social/emotional issues for both staff and students. He said the administrators are wanting to know when they can do their real jobs and many new teachers don't know what a regular school year is like. Director Derbigny said for the last two years everyone has just been keeping their heads above water. Superintendent Lovato said we will keep trying. Director Leyba asked how many students serve on the calendar committee and Superintendent Lovato said none.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Approve Revised Policy GBGH on Second/Final Reading (Lovato) **AGENDA ITEM TABLED**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Superintendent Evaluation Results (Leyba)
- b. Approve Superintendent Contract (Leyba) **RENEWED SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT WITH AN AMENDED MOTION TO JUNE 30, 2024 AT THE CURRENT SALARY OF \$108,150.00 PLUS \$1,800.00 FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES.**
- c. Approve the Purchase of a Plasma Cutting System (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,228.33 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Pool Roof Replacement (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$246,904.00 AS PRESENTED**

**12. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Derbigny received a book in the mail and it was really informative. Of all the information you can get from Reading First, she said it would be nice if the Board was given data throughout the year so the Board would know who is on reading level, who is proficient and who is below, etc.
- ✓ Director Ayala wanted to share an opportunity. She said there is a housing project coming to the area that will be building homes in La Junta. She talked to the lead person on that about possibly bringing in our TTA students to do walkthroughs and see how those skills are actually in motion. She said she doesn't know if student have ever had the opportunity to see a house being built in La Junta from start to finish. She said she talked to them about opportunities for our kids maybe designing a custom mail box or numbers on the house; something to get them involved with the program to feel like they have contributed. A secondary source who is talking about potentially helping us start a program with the TTA kids where they actually go in and help them build a home from start to finish. They are willing to help us do that so those are good things to look forward to. I think the TTA kids are really doing some good things.
- ✓ Director Backes said her comments are related to the leave policies. She said created a spreadsheet of staff leave policies. She said out of the 23 leave policies only five have been revised in the last three years. She would like a work session to update the policies. Superintendent Lovato suggested each Board member take a few of the policies, review them and then come together as a group. He said he will also have the attorney look at them. He said this will lighten the individual burden. Director Backes said there are six different types of leave.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said the Douglas County support letters can be individually signed and include your Board title. A signature is not a Board action. If the Board wanted to do a resolution, that would require Board action.
- ✓ Director Ayala thanked Mr. Hanson of Chartwells.

**13. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 p.m.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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