



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**August 8, 2022**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba. Director Backes was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
  2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
    - C. **Approve List of Substitute Teachers - name added/removed**
  7. **NEW BUSINESS**
    - B. **ADDITION - Purchase of ELL Curriculum**
    - C. **ADDITION - Purchase of a 2023 Chevy Suburban**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
  - A. **Personnel Approval**
    - Brandon Bernal (Coates) - Resignation as a Social Studies Teacher effective July 21, 2022
    - Aubrey Ayala - New Hire as a Health Aide for the 2022-2023 school year
    - Lisa Villanueva - New Hire as a Specials Teacher at the Primary School for the 2022-2023 school year
    - Adriana Juki - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2022-2023 school year
    - Raquel Martinez - Resignation as Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School effective August 3, 2022
  - B. **Approve Fall Sports Extra Duty Assignments for the 2022-2023 Season**
  - C. **Approve List of Substitute Teachers for 2022-2023 school year**
  - D. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for 2022-2023 school year**
  - E. **Approve Revised Policy BE on Second/Final Reading**
  - F. **Approve Revised Exhibit GDBA-E-1 on First/Revised/Final Reading**
  - G. **Approve Revised Policy GCG/GCGA on First/Revised Reading**

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Superintendent Lovato shared that the Business Office has been working intensely on the financials. He said April is close to where it should be, but it can't be closed until the expenditures are exact. Currently, the bank is showing more than the accounting system shows. He said the revenues are balanced and it should be completed by the end of the week. Superintendent Lovato said once it is completed, it will be released and things posted. He also shared there was a question regarding job postings and making sure the district is compliant. What is on the website should include the job description and salary schedule. The substitute teacher pay scale has been revamped. Superintendent Lovato said he is confident that for the September meeting, things will be in order. He is also seeking help from the auditor, as well as a retired business manager. Superintendent Lovato stressed the district is not in any deficit, it is just a matter of getting things to match up.

Director Ayala said she was approached by a community member regarding the district having missing money. Superintendent Lovato said the district has pooled cash where all of the money from 6 out of 9 accounts goes into the same pot. He listed some of the funds [general (fund 10), insurance (fund 18), preschool (fund 19), food service (fund 21) and special revenue/federal programs account (fund 22)]. He said there are also two certificate of deposits at First National Bank and a savings account at COLO TRUST that gains interest. All of those revenues are put into a general fund account. When something is paid for, one check is received, however, the actual account the expense is coming from might not be from the general fund, as it might not be a general fund expense. For example, the district bought two buses. They would typically either be a capital expenditure or in this case an ESSER fund expenditure, which is the 22 grants fund. The expense was coded in the 10 fund. This then required journal entries to put the expense into the right account. The total is correct, but the account that the expense came from is not as accurate as Superintendent Lovato would like it to be and the auditor will ask for this to be done. He said prior to this fiscal year, what would happen if expenses were miscoded or weren't in the right fund, the auditor would come and would have to make many journal

entries to move the money into the right accounts. Superintendent Lovato said he doesn't like that and wants to have the money in the right account. He said the problem is when he shows a balance in the general fund (case in the point, the two buses were roughly \$250,000. If that shows in the general fund that the fund is down \$250,000 but shows no expenditures in the capital projects, it makes it look like there is money in the capital projects to do something different.) He said he and the Business Office staff are literally making journal entries and getting the money to show in the right places. Superintendent Lovato said there is nothing missing. He said the district brings in a lot of revenue through grants and if the grant money comes in and gets coded to the grant and the expenditure goes out from the general fund, it doesn't show at the bank. In the district's accounting software those are two separate accounts.

**6. MINUTES – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 21, 2022 **APPROVED AS PRINTED****

**7. PRESENTATIONS:**

***Crispin Miell, Maintenance Director***

Mr. Miell said there are a few big projects going on this summer with the bus barn still ongoing. He said he is hoping to have interior bids for the bus barn by the end of the week as well as bids for the bus barn fire alarm system. Fiber will be installed next week.

The HVAC project has cooling in all the buildings. The controls aren't in, but it is running and cooling the buildings. There were a few pieces of equipment that were delivered broken and there are still things to get finished. Mr. Miell said when school starts TRANE will begin working nights, Fridays and weekends. There are some parts that won't be in until the end of September, but the boiler for the Intermediate should be in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Miell commended the custodial staff for working in very hot conditions this summer.

Director Derbigny asked if the swimming pool is on a regular cleaning schedule. Mr. Miell said when school starts, there will be custodial staff assigned to cleaning the gym. Director Derbigny asked if the sink has been repaired and Mr. Miell will check on that. He said the pool re-roofing is complete and the pool will re-open on August 15. Director Leyba asked for a report of how many work orders were completed. Mr. Miell said he can do that. Director Ayala asked if there was anything that needed to be done to the roof in the ag building. Superintendent Lovato said there are issues that need repair on the Jr/Sr High roof. He said he is not sure where the water is coming from, but the roof is leaking in several spots. He shared he had an infrared scan done on the roof and the results were inconclusive due to the geometric domes and thermal coating on the roof. The leaks are fixed as they are found, but it is difficult to find them. The asbestos inspector has retired and Superintendent Lovato said he and Mr. Miell are working on finding someone else in order to get back on track for asbestos management. Director Ayala asked Mr. Miell how the equipment is and if everyone is happy. Mr. Miell said he replaces items as needed.

***Dakota Vaile, Technology Director***

Mr. Vaile informed the Board said the network projects have been completed. The last piece is the firewall purchase for the network. He said everything seems to be faster with a broader range and was pleased there were no issues during registration. Director Ayala asked if the district should be good with technology and Mr. Vaile said he feels this upgrade should last at least five years and it was very cost effective. Superintendent Lovato said Mr. Romero has been working on the compatibility between the security and technology and getting lines buried as well as looking at battery backups. Mr. Vaile said more battery backups should be purchased. Director Ayala asked if the network can sustain one on one, with Mr. Vaile answering yes. Director Leyba asked if there is a room for the server. Mr. Vaile said there is at the Junior/Senior High. She also asked about the scoreboard in the gym. Mr. Vaile said it is working good.

***Dan Nuschy, Assistant Superintendent***

Mr. Nuschy updated the Board on the registration. He said it is complete for all buildings and everything went smooth, but there were the usual long lines for schedule changes. The elementary schools will begin Dibels testing next week. Intermediate will be hosting a Back to School night on September 13 beginning at 5:00 p.m. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade orientation will be this Thursday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. The TRY (Tiger Resources for Youth) swim party will also be held on August 11 for La Junta students only. Director Ayala asked about the football scoreboard. Mr. Nuschy said he will make some repairs with metal signs. He said he has some donors who are willing to pitch in money to purchase a new one and feels \$40,000-\$60,000 will be donated. Director Derbigny asked if there is any more information about the soccer program. Mr. Nuschy said Dr. Smith has never come to him personally. He said a few years back a survey was sent out to La Junta students and there wasn't a lot of interest then. Mr. Nuschy said other schools are wanting La Junta to host the event, but he doesn't feel it is feasible. Director Leyba said she would like to see tennis taken care of first, for example, before another sport is added. Mr. Nuschy stated a new sport takes away from existing sports by losing players. Director Ayala asked if another survey could be sent out. Superintendent Lovato said yes, but we are

losing students in athletics. He said without another field, there is not space to add another sport. Budget wise, travel is going to be an issue for all athletics. Superintendent Lovato said he would like to look at the feasibility and being able to sustain a new program. Director Bickel said pledged money is not sustainable. She asked if there are any club teams in the valley. Director Ayala would like a survey to show the district has done the leg work and feels the numbers will speak loudly. Superintendent Lovato feels that another district is pushing this and doesn't think that our district should shoulder the sport since other districts don't want to. Director Ayala said if there is no response or interest by students, then the soccer conversation doesn't need to happen anymore. Mr. Nuschy asked what age range should be surveyed. He said the earliest time soccer could start would be three years from now as we are just starting a CHSAA two-year cycle.

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

Superintendent Lovato didn't discuss the bus barn as Mr. Miell addressed it in his report, but he shared that the flooring is in three rooms at Tiger Trades Academy and the air is working there as well.

Registration was held last Thursday for the elementary schools and today for the secondary schools. It went well. There were two long lines, one for staff ID photos and one for schedule changes. Superintendent Lovato said enrollment numbers won't be available for a few weeks, but at the September meeting there should be a good count.

The HVAC project is still being worked on. It is better at the Intermediate, but there are still some hot rooms. He said when TRANE was trying to meet the \$4,000,000 budget they wrote in like-to-like units in the quote. They put heat only units on the Intermediate gym and in order to change that to a heating and air unit, there will be a change order. Superintendent Lovato said this project has been paid with by ESSER funds and there is contingency for changes through ESSER. He said a TRANE representative will come present the numbers to the Board.

Superintendent Lovato told the Board he attended the CASE (Colorado Association of School Executives) convention the last week in July. He said the convention was okay. There are some legislative changes and some of our district forms will need to be changed. The district attorney will keep an eye on things. He shared there was an excellent speaker.

The micro buses that were ordered last winter were cancelled due to not being able to get parts to build them. Superintendent Lovato just found out about that. He said new vans aren't allowed to be purchased any longer. He said he will still try to continue to purchase micro buses. He said he doesn't like to buy used, but may be able to find program vehicles.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve the Technology Firewall Purchase (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,230.00 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the Purchase of E.L. Achieve Curriculum (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,746.50 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Purchase of a 2023 Chevy Suburban (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,794.00 AS PRESENTED WITH A 3-1 VOTE**

## **10. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Derbigny asked about the school supplies the district has and if they are being used. Mr. Nuschy said there are still lists and students in need receive those supplies. Director Derbigny said she read a really nice summary regarding how to start off a new year. Mrs. Salazar put together an informational parent handbook that was handed out at registration.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said it will be nice to have a reliable 4-wheel drive district vehicle.
- ✓ Director Ayala thanked the City of La Junta for facilitating the conversation with the district, hospital, chamber and the college with the CU regents and CCCS representative. She said it was a very good dinner to sit in on. She is excited about the things they will be doing for our area. She also thanked the teachers for letting her serve them breakfast. She said it is a privilege and she appreciated the enthusiasm.
- ✓ Director Derbigny shared she wanted to help come serve breakfast but was out of town.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato thanked everyone for their patience over the summer. He said he is trying to stay positive and is getting tired of adversities. He hopes everyone understands we are in it together and hopes everyone focuses on joy and not anger.

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- ✓ Director Leyba thanked maintenance for working without air conditioning this summer. She said registration was amazing and helped a new student register and staff helped immensely. She said she is excited about the changes to the administration and how that will play out the rest of the year. She said burnout is real. She thanked everyone for their efforts.

**11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:52 p.m.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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