



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
September 26, 2022

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel and Derbigny. Director Leyba was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Added Personnel Approval**
 - B. **Mary Lee Garrett and Chanelle Blair added**
 - D. **High School Track Assistant Coaches added**
 7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - A. **Hygiene Products Grant added**
 8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - E. **Added Purchase of Dishwasher and Heater**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Louise Gonzales - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Zeta Mills - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at S.E.A.L. Academy and the Primary School for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - B. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2022-2023**
 - C. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2022-2023 School Year**
 - D. **Approve Extra Duty Assignments for 2022-2023 School Year**
 - E. **Approve the Revised Extra Duty Salary Schedule**
 - F. **Approve Resolution Which Addresses Remote Learning for the 2022-2023 school year**
 - G. **Approve Revised Policies BEC, GBAB, GBEA, GBJ, IHCD, JFAB, JFABA and JFBB on First/Revised Reading**
 - H. **Approve Revised Policy GCG/GCGA on Second/Final Reading**
 - I. **Approve Revised Exhibit JQ-E on First/Revised/Final Reading**

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Superintendent Lovato said the Board received long versions of revenue and expenditure reports to close out June. He presented a summary tonight. Superintendent Lovato highlighted the February 2022 general fund revenue and the February 2022 capital projects expenditures and said they are both off by a \$1,000,000. He said this was caused by a transfer that was found and the money has not left the district. He said it doesn't change where we are at as those numbers cancel each other out. He said the year won't be closed out entirely until the auditor comes in the fall and the district could be around \$200,000 in the red or black, give or take, after the audit. Superintendent Lovato said a lot of that will come in after reconciling the grants. As of right now, it is looking like the district will be around \$272,000 in the black, but again there will be a lot of adjustments made when the auditor comes. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is coming to do a training at BOCES on Wednesday, which he and Ms. Huckaby will attend, and then CDE will help the district individually on Thursday. He is hoping they will be able to get the other reconciliations done in order to move forward.

A motion was made by Director Backes to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Bickel.

Director Ayala asked if the Board is approving a financial report that is not accurate. Superintendent Lovato said it is accurate as far as the revenues and expenditures. Director Backes asked if records are being kept on the manual

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journal entries that are having to be completed. Superintendent Lovato said he will present a journal entry report to the Board when the audit is complete. Director Ayala asked if when the year is closed out, will all these errors be corrected. Superintendent Lovato said yes. Director Derbigny said the bottom line is we know what happened to get in this situation so we know what not to do again. Director Backes asked if this financial report needs to be approved as the information is not in this fiscal year. Superintendent Lovato said it does not and this has been informational.

Director Backes withdrew her motion to approve the financial report until a quarterly report is presented next month and Director Bickel seconded the withdrawal. No action taken.

6. MINUTES – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 8, 2022 and the Special Meeting on September 14, 2022

APPROVED AS PRINTED

7. PRESENTATIONS:

Julie Meiklejohn/Jennifer Ritter

Ms. Meiklejohn and Mrs. Ritter will be attending the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) convention in Anaheim, California in November. Their presentation is titled “A Healing Place for the Soul” – Literature as a Remedy. A power point presentation showcasing what will be presented at the convention was shared. Ms. Meiklejohn said the presentation will be sharing how to use biblioguidance, which is the use of literature to help navigate life challenges. This is a strategy for social-emotional learning. She said she chose Mrs. Ritter to help her with this presentation as Mrs. Ritter helps students find books that fit them. Mrs. Ritter is contributing in the library department by curating a collection of books on a variety of topics appropriate for biblioguidance. Ms. Meiklejohn said the NCTE is a prestigious group and it is an honor to represent East Otero School District at the convention.

Director Derbigny asked if they will attend the CCIRA (Colorado Council of the International Reading Association). Ms. Meiklejohn said they may. She asked Ms. Meiklejohn how she will present this to her students and let them know they need biblioguidance. Ms. Meiklejohn said her goal is to get to know each student personally, which will help introduce biblioguidance.

Director Bickel asked if these books are books we have in our library. Mrs. Ritter said yes along with Ms. Meiklejohn’s collection. She asked who will have access to the curated database that Mrs. Ritter is working on. She said anyone who she shares it with but is continually working on it.

The Board thanked the pair for coming and wished them a wonderful time.

Building Reports:

Julie Miller, Primary School

Mrs. Miller said the Primary is using the Capturing Kids Hearts program for discipline. She said students are being recognized in different ways besides perfect attendance, such as recognition for demonstrating the monthly character trait.

Enrollment is lower at 289 students, with a smaller incoming Kindergarten class than anticipated.

Mrs. Miller said the beginning of year Dibels data is showing some exciting trends. Kindergarten started at 51% at benchmark, First grade at 65% and Second grade at 56%. There was only a 1% loss of first graders going into second grade. Mrs. Miller said she put in last year’s UIP showing a decrease in summer loss. She said the goal is to get to 6% or less. NWEA is a learning curve that gives good data and includes a math assessment for all grades. She said staff is still working on dissecting that data.

Primary had a back to school ice cream social event that was planned and executed by the S-CAP communication committee. There were 300-350 people attend this event.

Director Derbigny asked about the end of year event and if it will be held at the same place. Mrs. Miller believes it will be held at the park as that seemed to be a good venue.

Director Ayala commended the principals on doing what the Board has asked regarding working together.

Claudia Apodaca, Intermediate School

Mrs. Apodaca said the Dibels beginning of the year data showed that 51% of 3rd grade students came in at or above grade level, 4th grade 75%, 5th grade 56% and 6th grade 73%. She said summer loss seems to be less and less each year. NWEA has been administered and she said staff is still learning how to dissect the data.

The enrollment is currently at 401 students, which is a little down from last year. Mrs. Apodaca said there have been a lot of out of state students enrolling this year. She said her building is using Capturing Kids Hearts for discipline and explained it is accountability for students as well as building relationships and is also working with staff relationships. Students are greeted individually each morning and there are universal hand signals that are used with the program as well.

Mrs. Apodaca said student council will hold their first meeting this week. She said they are looking at outreach groups to come in. Science fair will be beginning again this year at the Intermediate. The drop off and pick up is new this year. There are still some bugs to be worked out, but Mrs. Apodaca said she feels the students are safer which was the goal. Parents have been patient and are willing to work with the school. The fall festival will be held on Thursday, October 13. The phone system being updated has been nice, as well as the updated HVAC. Automatic flushers have been installed on the toilets as well.

Director Ayala asked what grade levels Science Fair will be available to. Mrs. Apodaca said it will be available for all grades and there is only 15 slots, but Mrs. Remick is trying to get that number increased.

Back to school night had a good turnout of 300-400 people. Mrs. Apodaca said it went good and the information that was shared was helpful to parents.

Jennifer Foxhoven, Junior/Senior High School

Mrs. Foxhoven said NWEA is coming to a close this week. Homecoming was a huge success and is hoping student-led conversations will happen regarding the parade. Students had questions on why students can't ride on a float in the parade and she is hoping students will dig in to the "why". She said students are running class meetings this year. Themed pep assemblies are being held each month and are being led by student council members and cheerleaders.

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Foxhoven went to an S-CAP Systems Support Review (SSR) in La Veta. She said the different processes she saw shows her that the Junior/Senior High School is going in the right direction. There are now S-CAP committees in the building which involves all teachers and some students, which gives everyone a voice.

Mrs. Foxhoven said enrollment is currently at 546 students. The Responsibility-Centered Discipline (RCD) is where students are doing the thinking and having to come up with their own behavior plan. She said they have eligibility goals this year. The Tiger Health and Wellness referrals have begun. All students who have been on the eligibility list have met with a counselor. Last year celebrations of most improved and top performer have morphed into staff being nominated as well as students. Three teachers are completing the induction program and four teachers in the alternative licensure program.

Ken McNerney, Tiger Trades Academy

Mr. McNerney thanked the Board for the new phone system at TTA. He said there is an Industrial Arts program this year which is moving into a school to work program as well. This summer TTA students worked for the district's maintenance department. This year TTA has a student council, as well as having students participate in the homecoming parade.

Class sizes are small with 120 students enrolled. 85 students are on campus and the rest are hybrid students (complete online classes at home and come to campus for elective classes).

There are several exciting classes offered at TTA (advanced art, advanced music, animal science, mechanics, tech lab, and science lab). Mr. McNerney said TTA is also using the RCD program which is putting more responsibility on the students and seems to be successful. The NWEA tests will take place and Mr. McNerney is hoping that will help assign Odesseyware classes.

Chartwells Update:

Mrs. Amanda Gingrich, Chartwells Director, handed out a newsletter. Over the summer, Mrs. Gingrich painted the Intermediate School kitchen and she said she wanted to make the kitchen warm and inviting which prompted her to paint. Mrs. Gingrich said the district received the fresh fruit and vegetable grant which is based on enrollment. This allows Chartwells to serve the students fresh fruits and vegetables three times a week. She likes to introduce new foods to the students. Chartwells have a few new menu items. They are also handing out pickles, bananas and Gatorade to the football teams. Mrs. Gingrich shared 800 breakfasts, 14,000 lunches, 11,000 snacks and 150 dinners have been served so far. Dinner will also begin being served to the tutoring groups. Mrs. Gingrich said there are no more waivers and each meal/snack has to be tied to a student. This has led to a decrease.

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Director Ayala asked if teachers are receiving larger portions than the students. Mrs. Gingrich said sometimes a little more, but generally it is the same amount, however, she would like staff to state what they would like to have their portion be and will have her staff ask them. She said there are also salads available for teachers. Director Ayala also said she asks her kids what they have for lunch every day and wondered what a fun lunch is. Mrs. Gingrich said a fun lunch is something a student might pack in their own lunch from home. She said it is a departure from a hot lunch and fun lunch is an option for students. Mrs. Gingrich also shared the salad bar is all you can eat.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Lovato briefly updated the Board on the bus barn progress. He said the contractor for the walls and finish work inside is having some TTA students help with the work.

Our preliminary enrollment numbers are currently at 1,361 students. The official count day this year will be on October 3, 2022. Last year there were 1,359 students enrolled. Superintendent Lovato said the numbers are down from years past and he is not alarmed right now. It might be a concern when the higher enrollment numbers go away in the enrollment average component.

The performance frameworks have been released by the Colorado Department of Education.

Superintendent Lovato would like to hold a work session next Wednesday, October 5, 2022 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This will be a budget discussion including school/facility improvements.

Jessie Wallace, district nurse, has applied for a hygiene products grant. This grant will allow the district to purchase new dispensers for the restrooms at the Intermediate, Junior/Senior High School and Tiger Trades Academy. This grant will also pay for supplies for a year.

Assistant Superintendent Nuschy said he sent out a survey to students regarding soccer and bowling. He said 80 students responded and 13 boys would like to participate in soccer with 38 girls showing interest. There were 21 students that showed an interest in bowling. Mr. Nuschy said he wants to look deeper into offering girls soccer, but stressed using a facility would be a big question. Director Backes asked what spring sports are offered for girls and Mr. Nuschy said track, tennis and golf. He said he will look to see how the numbers fluctuate but the girls golf program is dwindling with only one or two girls returning. He did say a sport may have to be lost in order to introduce a new sport. Director Ayala told Mr. Nuschy she appreciates him doing the leg work and following through with the survey. She feels it is important to cater to other students than the norm.

Director Ayala asked Superintendent Lovato how much longer until the bus barn is completed. He said he is hoping for completion by Christmas.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the Trane HVAC Change Order (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,579.00 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the Purchase of an HVAC System for the Bus Barn (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$277,993.00 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Purchase of the Bus Barn Fire System (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,993.77 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Out-of-State Trip for Staff (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,342.00 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve the Purchase of a Dishwasher and Heater (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,688.71 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Executive Session regarding student discipline per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(h). **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:18 P.M. MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:31 P.M.**

10. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Bickel announced that Sandy Malouff, BOCES Executive Director was recently awarded the Gifted and Talented Lifetime Achievement Award.

11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:33 p.m.

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