



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
October 24, 2022

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **AUDIENCE**
Lenea Ortiz wanted to ask the Board some questions regarding policy revisions and inquired if this was the appropriate way to ask her questions. Director Leyba stated the audience portion of the agenda is for the Board to hear the speaker but not interact. She recommended Ms. Ortiz email the Board her questions.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 5. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - B. **Presenter added**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Marissa Rodriguez - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at La Junta Junior/Senior High School effective September 30, 2022
 - Greg Salas - New Hire as Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - Katie Morales - Resignation as Secretary at Tiger Trades Academy effective October 19, 2022
 - Socorro Morales - Resignation as Custodian at the Junior/Senior High effective October 19, 2022
 - Michael Andrews - New Hire as Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - B. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2022-2023 School Year**
 - C. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2022-2023**
 - D. **Approve FAMLI Leave Opt Out Resolution**
 - E. **Approve Revised Policies BEC, GBAB, GBEA, GBJ, IHCD, JFAB, JFABA and JFBB on Second/Final Reading**
 - F. **Approve Revised Policy GBGD on First/Revised Reading**
 - G. **Approve District Advisory Council's Master Action Plan and Membership List for 2022-2023**
 - H. **Approve Building Accountability Committee Members for 2022-2023 School Year**
6. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 26, 2022 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
7. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
Superintendent Lovato presented a financial report for the first quarter of this year. He said the business office is still having difficulties in closing out last year's books. He said the balance sheets have been isolated and it boils down to a single transfer to be able to close the month of April and then the year will be able to be closed out. The auditor will be here the week of Thanksgiving on Monday and Tuesday and then the following week.

Superintendent Lovato shared information regarding the ESSER funds. He said the ESSER I funds have been completely spent. The total amount was \$455,329.00.

ESSER I breakdown:

- \$166,588 for salaries/benefits (subs, class coverage and anything associated to the pandemic where a position was added)
- \$52,868 for supplies (cleaning)
- \$235,875 for purchase services (hot spots, mental health counseling)

The ESSER II grant funds totaled \$1,900,000. Approximately \$500,000 has been spent.

ESSER II breakdown:

- Electronics/media (tablets, Chromebooks)
- Supplies (facility management-signs, tents for outdoor classrooms if necessary, chairs). There was an allotment for each building and a tent was purchased for each building.
- \$380,394 for equipment (hot spots, keyless entry, locks, safety/security)
- Purchase services (security, phone service)

The ESSER III grant funds totaled \$4,500,000. Superintendent Lovato said \$1,433,000 has been spent to date. He said that does not include this month's HVAC requests.

ESSER III breakdown:

- \$294,586 for learning loss (tutoring, TAC, some summer school expenses, IXL and other software programs)
- \$39,737 for personnel (clerical positions)
- \$874,000 for HVAC (closer to \$1,200,000)
- \$26,000 for teacher improvement (online professional development)
- \$225,000 for outside mental health counseling services

Director Backes asked if Superintendent Lovato he will be able to get through the fiscal year before the auditor arrives. He said yes and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) really helped with the reconciliation. Superintendent Lovato said once April is complete, May and June will be done rather quickly. Director Backes asked if a special session will be held to review the financial reports prior to the auditor coming. Superintendent Lovato said it will most likely be after the auditor comes. He explained he and the business office have had to go back to July 2021 and work through each month. Director Backes asked there is any indication whether this fiscal year's budget will be impacted by numbers that we are seeing now. Superintendent Lovato said it shouldn't be. He said most of the issues are grant to grant coding. Director Backes asked when the Board will approve financials for last fiscal year. Superintendent Lovato said in December. ADP will be taking over payroll. The business office is going line by line to make sure every benefit code is accurate. Director Leyba asked if this report and the ESSER report will be attached to the district's financial transparency page and Superintendent Lovato said it will.

8. PRESENTATIONS:

Cassandra Siefkas

Mrs. Siefkas, ELD (English Language Development) Coordinator, informed the Board about an upcoming conference the ELD department will be attending in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mrs. Siefkas reviewed with the Board the improvement plan for the ELD department from the Bueno Center evaluation. She said one of the recommendations was more professional development and attendance at the La Cochea conference was encouraged. The entire ELD team will attend the conference and Mrs. Siefkas feels it will be beneficial to attend this conference which caters to the population the team works with. Director Derbigny asked how many ELD students there are in the district. Mrs. Siefkas said there are 37-38 students in the program. She shared she tests students who speak other languages at home and, if recommended, students will be placed in the ELD program. Director Derbigny asked what building the majority of ELD students are in. Mrs. Siefkas said the numbers are distributed throughout the district. Director Derbigny asked how many years the program has been in existence. Superintendent Lovato said it has been in place for many years and the district has been in an OCR review for the ELD program for several years. Director Bickel asked Mrs. Siefkas what she hopes to gain from the conference. Mrs. Siefkas said she hopes to gain strategies to incorporate families better. Director Derbigny asked if part of the program is to give language instruction to parents. Mrs. Siefkas said that is not a federal requirement but she would like to look into that in the future. Director Backes stated she noticed one of the items in the improvement plan was to purchase curriculum. She asked Mrs. Siefkas if she has the curriculum she needs and was told yes, it has been purchased. Mr. Nuschy praised Mrs. Siefkas for her efforts on bringing the ELD program to where it needs to be. Director Derbigny asked Mrs. Siefkas to return and report to the Board what she learned at the conference.

Isidora Vranjkovic

Miss Vranjkovic, an exchange student from Serbia, spoke to the Board regarding receiving a diploma versus a certificate of attendance. She explained to the Board she would be required to take several exams back in Serbia to receive her diploma. She also stated she intends to attend college in the United States. She asked the Board to allow her to receive a diploma here. Superintendent Lovato said there are several things to check on regarding this request. He said he will let her know a decision in the future.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Lovato briefed the Board on the bus barn construction. He said materials have been ordered and the walls should be going up soon.

The S-CAP Diagnostic Review will be January 11 and 12, 2022. Superintendent Lovato stated the surveys have been released and the deadline for completion is the end of this week. He encouraged everyone to fill out a survey.

The financial audit will begin on November 21, 2022. The new auditor for the district is Ronny Farmer from Lamar.

The enrollment count right now is at 1,350 students. Last year's count was 1,358. Superintendent Lovato said this number can still fluctuate. Director Derbigny asked how this number compares to pre-pandemic numbers. Superintendent Lovato said a few years ago, the district enrollment was at 1,450 students. He said his plans are to include the enrollment numbers in his financial report beginning in January.

Superintendent Lovato shared he and Director Leyba will begin monthly meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be to help with building the agenda and discuss topics for work sessions. Director Leyba elaborated and said this will also enable candid conversation and allow for enough information to make informed decisions with the best interest of students in mind.

Superintendent Lovato said he and Assistant Superintendent Nuschy have gotten into a good working rhythm. He said things are working well.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the Purchase of 5th and 6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,698.65 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Bleacher Floor Replacement at Potter Park (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,960.91 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Out-of-State FFA National Trip Request and Funding (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,647.69 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Out-of-State Trip Request and Funding for the La Cosecha Dual Language Conference (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,841.18 AS PRESENTED**

10. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Derbigny asked about the district health insurance and how in-network and out-of-network physicians are decided. Superintendent Lovato said this is the physician's choice. Director Derbigny asked if Miss Vranjkovic's credits transferred here successfully, would it be a problem for her to graduate here. Superintendent Lovato and Assistant Superintendent Nuschy said they will need to look into all aspects before a decision can be made.
- ✓ Director Leyba asked if the districts in the Tri-Peaks League discussed which streaming service is used for CHSAA streaming. Assistant Superintendent Nuschy said each district chooses its own service, but said he will look around for providers and will bring this up at the monthly league meeting. Director Leyba said there are a lot of parents who can't go to the away games and she would like the streaming feed to work so our students can be supported. Director Derbigny asked if cameras are going to be purchased to stream the Board meetings. Superintendent Lovato said Technology Director, Dakota Vaile, is looking into different options.
- ✓ Director Backes shared she and Director Leyba recently attended the CASB (Colorado Association of School Boards) delegate assembly conference in Denver. She said there were some great speakers at the conference and she shared it is good to be able to work with CASB about things that impact students across the state. Director Backes said there were 32 resolutions presented to be voted on and there were several submitted to support efforts across the state for special education funding. She said as a committee, the CASB delegation put forth a resolution to the legislature stating there are unfunded mandates in Colorado and asked them to fund those mandates for districts to be able to do their jobs correctly, consideration for funding special education, etc. were big topics. Director Backes said it was a very useful amount of time that she was able to represent our district as a voting delegate. Director Derbigny asked about the resolution that was dropped. Director Backes said there was one resolution that was withdrawn because the school board that put forth that resolution felt that it was addressed in another resolution. There were two resolutions that were postponed until the December delegation committee. Director Derbigny asked what the reasoning was for the postponement. Director Backes said the way the rules work with delegation and voting is just like voting at Board meetings. You have what is being voted on and can ask for an amendment to the resolution and then a second amendment to the amendment. If no progression is made through that, one of the options is postponing the vote until more information can be gathered.

Director Backes said basically there was an initial resolution and there was an amendment requested to the resolution. There was not a consensus to vote on that and then there was an amendment to the amendment. Again there was no consensus so it was asked for the question to be called for a vote and postponed. Director Backes said the resolutions that a consensus couldn't be reached on were really about looking at the delegation structure of the Board of Directors and how the Board of Directors for CASB are voted on, how they're represented, and the current Board of Directors think there has been some of the delegation that doesn't agree with that structure or how some of the Board members are currently in the seat right now. She said there is just a little bit of discussion that needs to be had with some of those issues.

11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:25 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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