



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
November 14, 2022

1. **FAMLI LEAVE PUBLIC HEARING** - The Board held a public hearing for any comments or concerns regarding the Colorado Family and Medical Insurance Leave Program (FAMLI) and the district opting-out of the program.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba. Director Backes arrived late.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - **Amy Tafoya - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year**
 4. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
 - A. **Financial Report added 11-14-22**
 8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - E. **ADDITION - Approve Purchase of Microsoft 365**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Matthias Inguito - New Hire as a Custodian/Maintenance Worker for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Sarah Lopez - Resignation as Special Education Paraprofessional at Child Development Services effective October 26, 2022
 - Stacy Davis - New Hire as Assistant Swim Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - Michelle Montoya - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Boys Basketball coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - David Lusk - New Hire as a Custodian for the 2022-2023 school year
 - Cassandra Branum - Resignation as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School effective November 10, 2022
 - Cezanne Baca - New Hire as Secretary at Tiger Trades Academy for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Amy Tafoya - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional 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 Revised Policy GBGD on Second/Final Reading**
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Superintendent Lovato said no inter-fund transfers have been made and that most purchases have come out of the general fund. He said schedule-wise the financials are tracking pretty normal. There was an error in the accounting system that was pulling payroll from the wrong accounts, which shows on the report, but that has now been corrected. Superintendent Lovato shared that ADP will be taking over payroll this month and will complete a mock payroll prior to the actual payroll. Director Leyba asked Superintendent Lovato to let the Board know if the mock payroll from ADP worked properly. He said he is trying to get ADP to handle the November and December payroll so they can process the end of year tax documents. Director Bickel moved to approve the financial report for October 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Derbigny. Superintendent Lovato said the spreadsheet he is using for the financial report will be regularly sent to the Board and is a running log. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
7. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 24, 2022 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

8. PRESENTATIONS:

Cassandra Siefkas

Mrs. Siefkas, ELD (English Language Development) Coordinator, shared her La Cosecha conference experience with the Board. She began by thanking the Board for the opportunity allowing her and the ELD team to attend this conference. Mrs. Siefkas was asked what she and her team took away from this conference and what, if anything, they would like to implement in EOSD. She answered by saying they would like to see Spanish back in the classroom. Mrs. Siefkas shared she is aware this would be a huge undertaking and after careful thought would like to gauge community interest for possibly implementing this in the elementary schools. This would require hiring bilingual teachers which are very difficult to come by. Mrs. Siefkas also stated she and the ELD team walked away from the conference with many useful teaching strategies.

Director Leyba asked if the community assessment would be district-wide or just for the elementary schools. She offered her assistance to Mrs. Siefkas in coordinating the community assessment.

Director Derbigny commented that the purpose of the ELD program is to help Spanish-speaking students learn the English language and asked Mrs. Siefkas how introducing a Spanish program would help those students. Mrs. Siefkas stated she currently uses minimal Spanish in the classroom with the ELD students, but implementing a Spanish program into the elementary schools would be offered to all students.

Director Backes said evidence-based data shows dual languages help students academically and is also a cultural benefit. She stated a dual language program is different from English language development.

Director Leyba clarified that the English language development keeps being referred to as a program. This is not a program that is being taught, but a requirement that is being filled. She said Mrs. Siefkas is not talking about implementing a new program, but is trying to maximize an opportunity to implement best practices. This is not a course, but a federal mandate.

Director Ayala said this could potentially serve an ELD student with non-Spanish speaking students being in the same classroom.

Mrs. Siefkas shared she would like the OCR (Office of Civil Rights) audit that the district has been in for several years get wrapped up before looking into bilingual education or dual language classrooms.

FFA Student Presentation

Madison Wiley and Emily Noll shared their National FFA Convention trip with the Board. They stated Jay Grimsely was unable to attend the presentation. The young ladies shared a slide show with the Board that highlighted their trip.

They ended their presentation by asking what can be done in the future to fund this trip so students won't have to pay for the majority of the expenses. Director Backes asked if there were any students who weren't able to attend this year due to finances and was told no, that only the Seniors went. She said in the future, bring a request to the Board and also do some fundraising. Director Backes asked Mr. Ryan Siefkas, FFA Sponsor, when he finds out what students qualify for the FFA National Convention. He said in May. Director Backes thanked the students for sharing their trip highlights and said she is glad they got to attend the convention.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Lovato said the wall framing at the bus barn has begun. He shared the cost of the HVAC system at the bus barn that the Board approved in September will be substantially lower due to paring down the design.

The October count numbers showed the district down 0.5 students from last year. Superintendent Lovato said this is about as flat as you can get. He said the downside is the higher average the state has been using for funding purposes will be lost.

Superintendent Lovato said he would like to have a budget work session in January. He said during the work session he would like to review where things are at with this year's budget and shared he wants to be more intentional with projects. Superintendent Lovato stated the district should begin entertaining the thought of a new building within the next ten years at the most. Roof and plumbing issues will come into play as buildings age.

BOARD WRAP UP – November 14, 2022

Page | 3

Superintendent Lovato reviewed policy questions from staff:

1. Sick leave bank and new employees receiving 2 discretionary days to join. How come existing employees don't receive 2 discretionary days to join. Superintendent Lovato said anyone who wants to join the sick leave bank will get discretionary days to do so. Joining the sick leave bank is a one-time donation and no one has asked to leave the sick leave bank.
2. Discretionary leave payout – The district pays down to 36 accumulated discretionary days annually at the sub pay rate. Days aren't paid out until the employee has reached more than 36 days.
3. Mentor stipends – one stipend regardless of how many are being mentored.

The Chartwells dinner at the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) convention requires an R.S.V.P. by this Friday, November 18. Superintendent Lovato reminded the Board in case they would like to attend this event.

Director Leyba asked about the staff work out location and if the equipment has been moved yet. Superintendent Lovato said the custodian that was working on the room to get it ready fell ill and custodial staff are being moved around to get the room completed. Superintendent Lovato said this was an untimely illness and there have been significant setbacks to the custodial department. Superintendent Lovato reminded everyone to follow health protocol to try and stay healthy during cold/flu season.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Certify Total FTE for October Count at 1348 for 2022-2023 (Lovato) **CERTIFIED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the 2022-2023 Unified Improvement Plan (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve FAMLI Leave Opt Out Resolution (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Johnson Controls Fire Protection Head Replacement (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,432.40 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve the Purchase of Microsoft 365 (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,627.00 AS PRESENTED**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Ayala asked Mr. Strenger, Assistant Director of Chartwells, if enough food is being made to feed all students. She shared her daughter was told there was only one option left for lunch instead of being able to choose out of three options. Mr. Strenger told Director Ayala this was the first he has heard this and will look into it. He stated the main and secondary entrées should carry through lunch service. Director Ayala said she wanted to check because her daughter shares she doesn't get enough lunch. Director Leyba said she used to put money on her student's account in case extra food was wanted. She asked Mr. Strenger if parents receive anything to inform them their student's accounts are out of money. Mr. Strenger said he doesn't turn a student away due to not having money and tries to not let the balance build up. He said parents can check in Infinite Campus for their balance as well as being able to add money to their student's accounts. Director Derbigny asked if a child's balance builds up, do parents receive a call to come in and pay. Superintendent Lovato shared that years ago there was thousands of dollars owed to the district for outstanding lunch accounts.
 - ✓ Director Backes expressed her sincerest condolences to the family of Carl McDade. She said a lot of students and faculty will miss him.
 - ✓ Director Bickel gave a shout out and kudos to the 4th grade class for raising money to purchase a wheel chair swing. She also thanked Superintendent Lovato for getting the elevator fixed for inclusion. He said it took about two weeks longer than he wanted to get a technician here for repairs. Director Backes would like the 4th grade class to attend a meeting to be congratulated.
 - ✓ Director Ayala asked if lockers are being used anymore in any building. Superintendent Lovato said he believes lockers are being used and at the very least, offered to students. He said he will revisit this.
12. Executive Session regarding student discipline per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(h). **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:48 P.M. MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:54 P.M.**
13. **ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:54 p.m.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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