



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

**Board of Education Meeting
December 12, 2022**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Derbigny and Leyba. Director Bickel was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

The Board commended the 4th grade class for their entrepreneurial project for raising funds to purchase a wheel chair swing for their playground. Representing the class were Isabelle Berg, Chloe Carrillo, Azaliah Sanchez, Nico Ruiz, Alfonso Marquez and Christian Barela. The students shared the project began with a Wonders story explained their own small business ventures. Director Derbigny presented a certificate to the students.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 3. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
 - A. **Financial Report added 12-12-22**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Michelle Montoya - Resignation as Volleyball Head Coach effective November 14, 2022
 - Crystal Provost - Resignation as Transportation Secretary effective November 30, 2022
 - Rusty Jackson - Resignation as District Mechanic effective December 2, 2022
 - Alyssa Lovato - New Hire as Boys Assistant Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - Robert Peteque - New Hire as a Custodian for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Frank Barela - New Hire as a Custodian for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Debbie Bogner - Retirement as Secretary at the Intermediate School effective January 31, 2022
 - Marquita Smith - New Hire as Transportation Secretary for the remainder 2022-2023
 - B. **Approve the District Advisory Charge for the 2022-2023 School Year**
 - C. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2022-2023 School Year**
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Superintendent Lovato shared a financial summary and said the budget should be around 42% expended at this time of year and that is where the district is at. There are adjustments being made due to staff transfers. The risk management is very small. The auditor will be back Wednesday or Thursday of this week to continue the audit. Some of the grants funds will need transfers to be made due to not receiving 100% reimbursement for some. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
7. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 14, 2022 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Superintendent Lovato updated the Board on the bus barn project. He said the walls are going up and the bus barn is functional. He informed the Board the district mechanic and transportation secretary have both recently resigned due to obtaining employment elsewhere. The secretary position has been filled.

As stated earlier, the auditor is continuing the district audit. He was here for two weeks but did not finish. An audit extension was filed with the Colorado Department of Education in case it is needed.

Superintendent Lovato stated if a teacher is mentoring more than one teacher, they will be compensated for each teacher they mentor. He said BOCES used to give stipends for mentoring and some of the administrators are mentoring. He is trying to figure that out so they can also receive compensation.

Regarding the HVAC project, the furnaces at Tiger Trades Academy are in and the heater is working in the Intermediate gym. The bigger equipment is being delivered slowly, but surely. The control cards are taking longer to receive, but

BOARD WRAP UP – December 12, 2022

Page | 2

Superintendent Lovato said hopefully soon and the project will be able to be closed. There will be one item left to complete in the spring and that will be the air conditioning in the Intermediate gym.

The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) held their annual convention in Colorado Springs the beginning of December. Superintendent Lovato thanked the Board members that were able to attend. He shared the key note speakers were very good and the last day key note speaker's message resonated with him. Relationships and trust was the topic and Superintendent Lovato said that is what it all really boils down to. He said over the last three years through the pandemic, it has been much harder to gain and maintain that trust on every level.

The S-CAP (Student-Centered Accountability Project) review will be held January 11 and 12, 2023. Superintendent Lovato said organization of the review is going well. He said the review will be intrusive but he is hoping the feedback will be better in this format. Superintendent Lovato said the reviewers will be eating lunch with the students and he will seek feedback on the quality of the food and the amount of time the students have to eat.

Superintendent Lovato would like to have a quarterly work session on January 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. He said dinner will be served. He is also planning on releasing a calendar that will include each Board meeting for the year as well as the quarterly work sessions in January.

Director Derbigny asked about the Board meetings being videoed. Superintendent Lovato said he wants to make sure the district is compliant will all requirements for disabilities (closed-captioning, etc.) before videoing further meetings.

Director Ayala stated she hasn't seen a follow up regarding soccer. Superintendent Lovato said Mr. Nuschy is looking into a possible girls' soccer program and likely next summer will begin exploring that. Girls' soccer is a spring sport and there is already track, tennis and golf offered. Superintendent Lovato said it is likely one of the existing programs will be removed in order to offer soccer. He said right now, this is the middle of a two-year CHSAA cycle so nothing can be done yet. Superintendent Lovato shared with the Board he has been in discussion with Lamar administration who is looking into creating a boys' swim team. They have inquired about using our swimming pool. Superintendent Lovato said Lamar would manage the team and reimburse the district for the use of the pool. Director Derbigny asked Superintendent Lovato if the hot tub will be repaired and Superintendent Lovato said probably not.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the Mill Levy certification as presented. Total Mill Levy has been certified at 27.723. (Lovato) **2022 MILL LEVY CERTIFIED AS PRESENTED**

10. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Ayala congratulated the little entrepreneurs that attended the meeting. She praised the future leaders and said they are amazing. Director Backes hopes the students understand how much inspiration they brought to the community. She said there were a lot of people inspired by their good will for their classmate and pushed through true equality. She said it is pretty exciting to see.
- ✓ Director Backes said she attended the delegate assembly at the CASB convention and shared the main items that were accomplished. She said it was agreed that the CASB Board of Directors will appoint a committee to review the CASB by-laws, which have never been updated. The committee would then make recommendations to the delegate assembly to vote on any amendments next fall. She said it was recognized that the by-laws did not address voting remotely. She said this will be beneficial to make sure there is equitable representation at the voting table.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said the difference between equal and equitable was discussed at CASB and he gave an example of each. He shared Erin Loften with the Colorado Department of Education will be attending the S-CAP district review. He and the administrative team will meet with Ms. Loften to discuss what will happen if the Intermediate does not get off the accountability clock. Superintendent Lovato also shared with the Board that the flu and RSV are now in the same arena as Covid.
- ✓ Director Backes said she appreciates the work Superintendent Lovato has done with the financial report.
- ✓ Director Ayala congratulated the cheerleaders for their excellent show at the state competition.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said he has been asked why the annual basketball shoot out tournament isn't being held. He explained it is due to CHSAA changing classifications, with La Junta now being in the 4A classification and it has been difficult finding 4A schools to compete in the tournament. Superintendent Lovato said La Junta and Lamar are both struggling to fill their basketball schedules and are still short games.
- ✓ Director Leyba said she received an email from Jordan Benson with the Custer County School District. She read Mr. Benson's letter out loud which commended the La Junta Jr/Sr High School boys' varsity coach and how he encouraged his team. She said she wanted to share this recognition for our staff and students and believes any good news or positive feedback should be shared far and wide. Director Leyba did ask Superintendent

BOARD WRAP UP – December 12, 2022

Page | 3

Lovato to make sure the camera is working so games can be televised. Superintendent Lovato said a storm knocked the camera out last game, but it has been repaired and is functioning.

- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said he received a change order today for the bleacher repairs at Potter Park. Apparently the metal supports need to be replaced and the approximate cost will be \$6,000. He is hoping the City of La Junta will pay half.

11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:27 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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