



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
January 23, 2023

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel and Derbigny (via telephone). Director Leyba was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **AUDIENCE**
Lenea Ortiz and Crystal Ortiz introduced themselves to the Board as the President (Crystal) and Vice President (Lenea) of the Colorado Chapter of the CEA. They explained their goal as union members in the district.
4. **BOARD RECOGNITION**
In honor of School Board Recognition Month, the Board of Education was acknowledged for their volunteered service and dedication to the school district. Ms. Gimeno's 2nd grade class sang two songs to the Board and the Primary School gave a gift to each Board member.
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - **Aubrey Ayala - Transfer from Junior/Senior High Health Aide to Junior/Senior High Bookkeeper for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year**
 7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Budget added 1-23-23**
 - B. **Resolution added 1-23-23**
 - C. **Contingency Reserve Resolution added 1-23-23**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA WITH AN AMENDED MOTION**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Juan Garcia - New Hire as an Assistant Junior High Wrestling Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - Duane Grasmick - New Hire as Assistant Junior High Girls Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - Duane Grasmick - New Hire as Assistant High School Boys Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - Kaden Ramirez - Resignation as Special Education Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School and Junior High Head Track Coach effective January 12, 2023
 - Kristy Ojeda - Resignation as Bookkeeper at the Junior/Senior High School effective January 26, 2023
 - Stephanie Flakes - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Jeremy Horn - New Hire as Assistant Junior High Wrestling Coach for the 2022-2023 season
 - Joe Gamez - New Hire as Assistant High School Wrestling Coach for the remainder of the 2022-2023 season
 - Frank Magana - New Hire as Assistant High School Wrestling Coach for the remainder of the 2022-2023 season
 - John Haberman - New Hire as Assistant High School Wrestling Coach for the remainder of the 2022-2023 season
 - Aubrey Ayala – Transfer from Junior/Senior High Health Aide to Junior/Senior High Bookkeeper for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - B. **Approve Resolution to Appoint Rick Lovato as Authorized Representative for Federal Programs**
 - C. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2021-2022**

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Superintendent Lovato shared the 2nd quarter financial report as well as the month to month expenditures. He pointed out in the maintenance portion under purchase services, \$245,000 was spent in October for the pool roof repair. He explained the district paid the vendor directly and the insurance also paid the vendor directly. The district is in the process of getting the money reimbursed. Superintendent Lovato reviewed the percentage of expenditures year-to-date as follows: Intermediate – 58%, Primary – 52%, Tiger Trades Academy – 31%, Junior/Senior High School – 51.7%, Central Office – 49.78%, Maintenance – 70%, and Transportation – 48.3%. Superintendent Lovato said in February discussion will begin on bumping up the teacher base salary to \$40,000. He said the sustainability will need to be closely looked at. Director Backes moved to approve the financial report for December 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Bickel. Director Backes asked if a specific December report will need to be approved at a later date. Superintendent Lovato said the December monthly report is included in the quarterly report so another report is not necessary. He clarified the statute only requires a quarterly report for Board approval. **THE FINANCIAL REPORT WAS APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

8. MINUTES – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 12, 2022 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

9. PRESENTATIONS

Chartwells Update – Amanda Gingrich

Amanda Gingrich, Chartwells Food Director, briefed the Board on the food service program. She shared a newsletter and stated Chartwells has begun to receive hydroponic lettuce from Swink and Mrs. Gingrich said it is very good. It is being used at the elementary schools for now to see if the students like it, which they do. January is the Great American Road Trip, which features spiced peaches, tater tot hot dish, Chicago style hot dog and Boston baked beans. At the Junior/Senior High School students have been able to choose what they would like from the grill. The winner chosen was the honey mustard grilled chicken sandwich. Mrs. Gingrich said Chartwells did some fun things before Christmas, i.e., waffle bar. Mrs. Gingrich said Mr. Strenger will be doing a discovery kitchen pop up, where samples of different foods will be served.

Director Bickel thanked Chartwells for the goodie bag for Board recognition. She asked if they knew the difference between a hot dish or casserole. Director Bickel explained the difference is simply what part of the country you live in and what it is called.

Director Ayala asked about the 6th grade running out of entrees and if that has been resolved. She also asked if teachers are receiving an appropriate sized serving. Mr. Strenger said staff can sign up for a staff meal at each building if they would like and they do receive an adult sized serving. Mrs. Miller said she is satisfied on how much food she receives.

Director Bickel asked if parents receive the newsletter. Mrs. Gingrich said she sends it to be posted on social media and the district website.

Elementary Principal's Report – Julie Miller/Claudia Apodaca

Mrs. Miller, Primary School Principal, reviewed the mid-year testing data. She began with the Dibels data and said it is the primary assessment used to group students. She said it also determines reading plans and intervention placement. The Dibels assessment assesses reading fluency. Mrs. Miller said the Kindergarten end of year (EOY) last year was at 78% and this year's middle of year (MOY) testing students are already at 89%. The interventions are showing good gains with intensive at 26% at beginning of year (BOY) with now only 1% at the intensive level. The 2nd grade EOY last year was 60% and this year's MOY is at 60%. Mrs. Miller said the teachers are working very hard and it has helped immensely to have the reading specialist full time in the building.

The NWEA data is easier to read and gives much more information. Mrs. Miller said NWEA measures vocabulary and other components of reading. The NWEA data is not matching up as much as to what is being seen in Dibels, but it has been enlightening. Mrs. Miller stated the NWEA assessment is not an achievement test, but a growth test.

The annual Sweetheart luncheon is making its return in full on Valentine's Day. Mr. Shiflett, the Primary School art teacher, is hosting an art show. The Primary School student's art work will be judged. Mrs. Miller also shared there will be some Primary students participating in the local Science Fair, which will be on February 10, 2023. Parent-teacher conferences will also be held on February 16-17, 2023.

Director Derbigny asked what percentage students read per day. Mrs. Miller said students receive a 2-hour reading block daily which consists of 30-minute small group reading, whole group instruction with their class and OG time. She estimated independent reading to be 20-30 minutes daily. Director Derbigny asked Superintendent Lovato about the status of the state intervening due to accountability ratings. Superintendent Lovato said the Primary students don't take the CMAS test so there is little intervention. Any interventions that come will come from the district level and not the state level as the district is not on the accountability clock.

Mrs. Apodaca, Intermediate School Principal, reviewed the Intermediate student's mid-year data. She said the Intermediate is the same as the Primary as far as using the Dibels assessment. She said there is good retention from 5th to 6th grade. There was some loss from 4th to 5th grade and 3rd to 4th maintained better. The MOY data is as follows: 6th grade at 66% of students at or above level, 5th grade at 50%, 4th grade at 51% and 3rd grade at 48%. Mrs. Apodaca said students are heading in the right direction.

Mrs. Apodaca said the NWEA assessment is a brand new test and staff is still working on reading the data. She said it is more rigorous than the STAR assessment and it mirrors the CMAS assessment. Mrs. Apodaca feels it will be good for the kids to get used to and it will better prepare them for the CMAS assessment.

Director Ayala asked if there is a plan in place for kids that are average and above average to challenge the students. Mrs. Apodaca said the Wonders curriculum challenges the students. She said she is looking at revamping the Special Education department which will also help to keep higher level students challenged. Mrs. Apodaca also said the writing curriculum is something that needs to be reviewed. She said staff is working on vertical alignment and rubrics will be created for consistency. Superintendent Lovato said he recently met with Erin Loftin, with the Colorado Department of Education. She asked him if it would be helpful to bring in more outside entities. Superintendent Lovato said he told her staff needs time to see if what we are doing is working first.

Superintendent Lovato said the consistency in administrators and staff have helped at the elementary levels.

Mrs. Apodaca also shared the Science fair is coming up. She said the Strengthening Families program is beginning with Ms. Bender, school counselor and Ms. Romero, school social worker. This program will help families with communication and working together. Mrs. Apodaca said dinner and babysitting services will be provided so families can participate in the program. The Intermediate School student council held a fund drive for diabetes and raised \$500. The Intermediate will again host the Ag Fest. Mrs. Apodaca said she is working on getting the building accountability committee up and running and is trying to keep it separate from the PTO committee. Parent-teacher conferences are coming up and Mrs. Apodaca said staff is excited to communicate with parents.

Director Derbigny asked if the Met and Exceeded projected growth is a tool built into the NWEA data. Mrs. Apodaca said it is projected data from NWEA and is another tool to use. Director Derbigny said the percentage of students that made no growth seems high to her. Mrs. Apodaca said this is a concern, however, this is the first time students took the assessment and it was a shortened window. She said she is hoping to see good growth from MOY to EOY. Mrs. Miller said the Primary staff learned the students are used to using cell phones and tablets and are used to clicking to move on to the next question. She said staff is working on how to teach the students to take the test, i.e., reading the complete question before moving on. Mrs. Apodaca said the 5th and 6th grade students will take the CMAS test this year on computers and the 3rd and 4th grade students will take the CMAS using paper and pencil. She said next year all grades will use computers for the assessment.

Director Bickel asked what platform will be used for parent-teacher conferences. Mrs. Miller said the Primary is working on transitioning to student-driven conferences but currently parents sign up for a time to meet with the teacher. Mrs. Apodaca said about half of the teachers at the Intermediate are using student led conferencing but is hoping to have more at these conferences.

Director Derbigny said staff has to give all students basic test taking skills but the best option is mastery of content area.

Director Ayala said she appreciates Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Apodaca working together. Director Bickel said continuity from one school to the next is good. Director Ayala said it is now a streamlined transition.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Lovato said the interior walls are up at the bus barn. He said the big wall is up that divides the bus bays from the office area. The restrooms are also being worked on.

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Superintendent Lovato said this is the longest stretch of the year and there are not a lot of breaks or holidays.

The roof at the high school is being looked at for more leaks. There will be a lot of conversations regarding the plumbing at the Primary where the contractor did not tie the sinks to the main line. Superintendent Lovato said the district will most likely have to pay to get this fixed first as it will take time to get compensated.

Superintendent Lovato said the district is working on feedback from the recent S-CAP review. He said things were brought to him immediately.

Director Ayala asked how much longer before completion of the bus barn. Superintendent Lovato said he the fire suppression system and panel still need to be installed as well as plumbing inspections need to be passes. He would guess late March. Superintendent Lovato shared the local contractor hired to put in the walls has been reliable and doing a good job.

The HVAC project is 90% completed but we are waiting on the cards that control temperatures. They are coming in little by little. Superintendent Lovato said the district is at the mercy of contractors and the supply chain.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve 2022-2023 Final Budget (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Appropriation Resolution for the 2022-2023 Budget (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Contingency Reserve Resolution for 2022-2023 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Designate Official Posting Sites for Board Meeting Notices (Lovato) **DESIGNATED BOARD DOCS ON DISTRICT WEBSITE, CENTRAL OFFICE BULLETIN BOARD, EACH SCHOOL BUILDING, AND NOTIFICATION TO LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND RADIO STATION**

12. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Bickel said she looks forward to having more people come to the Board meetings.
- ✓ Director Derbigny appreciates all the work showing the elementary data.
- ✓ Director Ayala thanked the Primary for the appreciation songs and gifts. She also thanked those who attended the meeting for coming and sharing their comments and feedback.

13. Executive Session regarding student discipline per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(h). **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:52 P.M. MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:57 P.M.**

14. **ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:57 p.m.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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