



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
March 27, 2023

1. **ROLL CALL** –Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba. Director Ayala was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **NO CHANGES TO THE AGENDA; APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA** – **APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Teresa Sanchez - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at Child Development Services for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year
 - Abram Lopez - Verbal resignation as Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy effective January 10, 2023
 - Dan Nuschy - Retirement as Assistant Superintendent effective June 30, 2023
 - Jackie Schiferl - Retirement as Science Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 25, 2023
 - Gundelina Allumbaugh - Retirement as First Grade Teacher at the Primary School effective June 30, 2023
 - Maria Jenaldine Huberit - Resignation as Math Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective July 31, 2023
 - Justin Miller - Resignation as Art Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 25, 2023
 - Kristi Hartless - Resignation as Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy effective April 1, 2023
 - B. **Approve Revised Policies ADD, JKA, JLCDC, DJE, GCO, and GBGF on First/Revised Reading**
 - C. **Approve Revised Regulations JKA-R, JLCDC-R, and GCO-R on First/Revised/Final Reading**
5. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 27, 2023 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
6. **PRESENTATIONS**

Ryan Siefkas

Ryan Siefkas, FFA Sponsor, spoke to the Board regarding the FFA program. He said he just completed the FFA program approval and it was recommended by the state program director that he speak to the Board about some items. This is the 2nd year of the program and Mr. Siefkas said it has grown and grown quickly, as the La Junta chapter is in the top third in numbers state-wide. The program approval is a process that is gone through for the CTE program and shows the program is in compliance with state expectations. A significant amount of documentation is required for this review. There is a one-year conditional approval for a new program to get everything in order, then typically a five-year approval is given. However, after the review, the La Junta FFA program was given another one-year conditional approval instead of a five-year approval. Mr. Siefkas said he and his advisory committee have worked together for the last year going through the national quality program standards, as well as the Colorado quality program standards/expectations. This is where the data for the program came from. Many stakeholders were involved in the process. The advisory committee, administration and student leadership were all involved in the approval process. In the work flow portion of the review, a comment was made by the state program director that stated due to the ag shop not being in ADA compliance led to the conditional approval. If the ADA compliance issue is not fixed, the state won't be able to give another conditional approval. Without state approval, the program will have to cease. Superintendent Lovato had communicated with Mr. Siefkas that the ADA compliance is currently being worked on. Mr. Siefkas said 100% of the ag students have a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). He said on his advisory committee, there is an ex officio space and Mr. Siefkas invited a Board member to fill that spot.

Superintendent Lovato said he did not receive any official ADA noncompliance issue notification. He said this will be taken care of and said there may be some gaps in communication. Superintendent Lovato asked if Ms. Morlan, the CTE Director, was aware of the noncompliance issue. Mr. Siefkas said she is and she is the one that had to submit the review and receives the comments as well. Superintendent Lovato stated the need for accommodations is due to a wheel chair bound student who is in the program. He also clarified that this is not like an OCR complaint. Director Backes asked if this will be a ramp and Superintendent Lovato said he is looking at a chair lift for the stairs. Director

Bickel asked if the student is able to participate like every other student and Superintendent Lovato said yes. Director Derbigny asked that once the student gets into the shop if they have access and Mr. Siefkas said yes he has arranged things for the student. Director Leyba asked Superintendent Lovato if Mr. Miell could come and give the Board an update on where things are at construction-wise in the district.

Superintendent Lovato said he feels it is a good idea for a Board member to serve on the FFA council. The meetings are the third Tuesday of the month in the evening. Mr. Siefkas shared the Project Auction will be on May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Lovato said he received an email that the two heaters are in for the bus barn. The sprinkler system is in place and the heads need to be installed. The dry wall has been hung and Superintendent Lovato feels May 1 is the projected date of completion.

The Primary plumbing project is extensive. H.E. Whitlock, the general contractor on the renovation, is taking responsibility for half of the project and the other half is due to cast iron pipe corroding. They will have an independent contractor come and look at the project. Superintendent Lovato said the intrusion to the building will be extensive. This will affect summer school and a preliminary summer school plan is for those students who are in intensive reading will be offered face-to-face instruction. An online option will be offered for other students as well. The online portion wouldn't be graded and will be up to the families to monitor. Director Leyba asked if students will be provided their Chromebooks to take home. Superintendent Lovato said a better accountability system will be put in place in order for students to take them home. He said a deposit system will need to be added due to the number of damaged technology. There is currently a technology form that is signed, but it does not allow the district a way to hold the student/parents accountable. Director Leyba asked if the district could prevent a student from walking in the graduation ceremony due to outstanding bill owed to the district. Director Derbigny asked what percentage of students end up in summer school. Superintendent Lovato said the district has been generous in the number of students who attend and that has been about 80 students for both the Primary and Intermediate schools, which is about 20 percent.

Superintendent Lovato said a financial report will be presented to the Board next month. He said the business office is close to completing the state submission approval.

Superintendent Lovato said he would like to have a work session and also a special Board meeting in April. He said he received a quote for a new scoreboard for Tiger Stadium and didn't feel he could bring it to the Board at the last minute. The scoreboard needs to be ordered soon in order to get it installed by fall. Mr. Nuschy has been working with local businesses to contribute to the cost of the scoreboard. The work session will be to begin budget discussions as well as staffing patterns. He said he is planning to have a work session every month until the end of June. The policy audit that was performed last year also needs to be addressed. Superintendent Lovato said he is not predicting a high turnover of staff at the elementary levels but there may be a slightly higher turnover at the secondary level.

Director Leyba asked how payroll went. Superintendent Lovato said there was one issue that was major. It was a wire transfer that needed approval due to the amount of extra duty this month which exceeded our limit. There were also three employees who received a false email to change their direct deposit numbers. ADP got that taken care of and the bank handled the increase in the limit. Superintendent Lovato said there are some glitches that are still being worked on. Director Derbigny asked if the auditor will come back to check and make sure things are right once everything is fixed. Superintendent Lovato said the auditor is doing that now and the goal is to have all accounts balanced by June 30. He said CDE is helping the business office learn the financial systems. This should lead to a routine maintenance schedule.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Share Results of Board Self-Evaluation
- b. Approve Capturing Kids Hearts Renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,250.00 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Administrative Staff Employment Renewals - Resolution 2023-1 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

9. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said there are a lot of retirements coming and we will miss all of the teachers, but with Mr. Nuschy announcing his retirement at the conclusion of this school year, he wanted to personally thank him for being able to step in and taking on a lot of the things that he would not have had the time to go through, along with the

BOARD WRAP UP – March 27, 2023

Page | 3

finance piece he has tackled this year. Superintendent Lovato thanked him, not only for what he has done for him, but for what he has done for the district. He told Mr. Nuschy he will be missed.

- ✓ Director Leyba echoed Superintendent Lovato's comments. She said having children go through the school, Mr. Nuschy has had to be the heavy, but he is also kind. She said he has had a big positive impact on the district and there will be a lot of staff and kids that will remember working with him.

10. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:16 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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