



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**April 24, 2023**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Derbigny and Leyba. Director Bickel was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **RECOGNITION OF THE 2023 CO-VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIAN** - The Board of Education recognized the following students for their hard work and achievement at La Junta Junior/Senior High School:
  - 2023 Co-Valedictorian – Alizeh Frazier
  - 2023 Co-Valedictorian – Jay Grimsley
  - 2023 Salutatorian – Logan Gearhart
4. **RECOGNITION OF THE FBLA NATIONALS QUALIFIER** - The following student was recognized for her outstanding performance in FBLA. She qualified to attend the National Conference which is in Atlanta, GA June 27-30, 2023.
  - Elah Backes – Organizational Leadership
5. **RECOGNITION – FBLA ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR** – Jennifer Foxhoven was recognized by the Board for being named the 2023 FBLA Administrator of the Year.
6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
  2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
    - A. **Personnel**
      - Duane Grasmick - New Hire as Athletic Director for the 2023-2024 school year
  7. **NEW BUSINESS**
    - D. Updated quote added 4-23-23
    - G. Wendy Peabody added 4-20-23
7. **CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
  - A. **Personnel Approval**
    - Kristina Ruiz - Resignation as Student Advocate at the Primary School effective May 25, 2023
    - Joshua Ferguson - New Hire as an Elementary Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year
    - Thebe Lay - New Hire as Head Volleyball Coach for the 2023-2024 season
    - Jason Wilson - Resignation as Maintenance Worker effective April 17, 2023
    - Duane Grasmick - New Hire as Athletic Director for the 2023-2024 school year
  - B. **Approve Revised Policies ADD, JKA, JLCDC, DJE, GCO, and GBGF on Second/Final Reading**
8. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Superintendent Lovato informed the Board the district is very close to completion of the audit and state submission. There are no more errors and currently four warnings to verify fund balances from 2021 to 2022. He said he would like to table the quarterly financial report and have a special financial board meeting as soon as the district is clear with the state and auditor and can move forward. **THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT WAS TABLED UNTIL THE AUDIT HAS BEEN COMPLETED**
9. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 27, 2023 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

## **10. PRESENTATIONS**

### ***Chartwells Update***

Amanda Gingrich, Chartwells Food Service Director, said Chartwells have been feeding the track and baseball athletes as well as all other students. She praised her staff for their hard work. She shared Chartwells fed the coaches and staff at Tiger Relays. Mrs. Gingrich said Chartwells is going to be a sponsor for the new scoreboard.

The summer food program will only be held at the Intermediate this year and will be a grab and go format. Mrs. Gingrich said the state is moving to permanent non-congregate feeding (students don't have to stay and eat on the premises) and the option just needs to be applied for. To help with the integrity of the program, one breakfast and lunch per day will be served with Friday's meals being handed out on Thursday. Mrs. Gingrich said the kitchens at the Junior/Senior High School and Tiger Trades Academy will be used to help prepare meals.

Chartwells have also been making lunches for field trips. Mrs. Gingrich said things have been very busy and it will continue through the month of May.

Director Leyba asked if parents can pick up food to take home to the students without the student being present and Mrs. Gingrich said parent pickup is allowed. Mrs. Gingrich said they will try to make hot meals as well as cold meals for lunch. She said the window for feeding will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and options will be available.

Director Ayala said she received a call from a parent regarding worms in radishes. Mrs. Gingrich said she spoke to the parent who complained. She explained it can be occasionally missed. Her staff have begun to cut radishes in half to help with that problem.

Director Leyba asked if a dinner program can be started. Mrs. Gingrich said athletes and students receiving tutoring are fed and that constitutes the dinner program.

### ***Maintenance Update***

Crispin Miell, Maintenance Director, provided updates about projects. The bus barn interior plumbing and rough in has been completed and the electrical is ongoing. He said heating has been installed and next week installation of the exhaust system for the buses will take place.

The HVAC equipment has all been installed, with the exception of the Intermediate gym cooling system and it should arrive in June. The controls are up and working and Mr. Miell will look at them at Tiger Trades Academy. The maintenance team will attend a training in May from Trane. He said there are still kinks to iron out in the controls and getting things regulated. When it was installed, the temp is set to a blanket 74 degrees.

Mr. Miell shared the upcoming summer projects:

#### ***Primary:***

- Outdoor and indoor plumbing
- Cracks in asphalt repaired
- Filling in engineered wood fiber in playgrounds

#### ***Intermediate:***

- Carpet squares installed on main level
- Re-tile the commons area
- Painting – commons, hallways, classrooms

#### ***Junior/Senior High:***

- Plumbing repairs; currently replacing cracked pipe in basement
- Painting

#### ***Tiger Gym:***

- Gym floor refinishing began today; possibly complete by graduation. If not, in case of bad weather, Otero College could be back up location.

- Repair concrete around the gym
- Scoreboard installation, currently working on electrical now

#### ***Tiger Trades Academy:***

- Gymnasium work – wall repair, painting, backboards installed
- Repaint lines on outdoor court to include a pickle ball court painted on as well
- Indoor cosmetic painting

Director Ayala asked Mr. Miell when the estimated completion date of bus barn will be. Mr. Miell said he is looking at June 1.

Director Leyba asked how many staff are in the maintenance department. Mr. Miell said there are three but he does utilize custodial staff. Students from Tiger Trades Academy are usually hired to help in the summer. Director Leyba asked Mr. Miell if he applies for any grants for maintenance/upkeep. He said he doesn't unless it is something he and Superintendent Lovato look at. She suggested Mr. Miell look for any that might help bring life back to Orahod Park. She said she feels this would be a good project for TTA kids. Director Ayala suggested Mr. Miell reach out to local businesses to donate trees to the park.

Superintendent Lovato said staff have been trying to figure out how to get water to the existing trees in the park. Last year the trees were watered by hand. He also shared it is not feasible to repair the existing greenhouses, however, Mr. Miell has found some greenhouse kits and Superintendent Lovato is looking at purchasing one per building depending on the durability of the structures. He said this would be a good project for the Tiger Trades Academy students as well.

Superintendent Lovato also shared the with the Children's Theatre happening at the Junior/Senior High School this summer, he has had Mr. Miell contact a local provider to supply portable restrooms in the event they are necessary. He said some of the plumbing issues are deliberate, with students shoving toilet paper down the drains.

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Superintendent Lovato gave an update on the Meet and Confer requests.

### *Staffing Numbers:*

He said he has met with each principal regarding their staffing wants. In trying to get to the \$40,000 base pay, it is challenging to raise salaries and hire new staff. He said the special education is understaffed and he is trying to add additional support. The pay increase will be about a 5% hit to the budget.

Superintendent Lovato stated he and the insurance committee met with the insurance representative last week and the district is looking at an 8% to 15% increase next year. The budget challenge with that is to try and give staff a salary increase without the increase going to insurance costs. He said he is looking at increasing the fringe benefit, but that will depend on the budget.

### *ADP/Payroll:*

Regarding ADP, Superintendent Lovato said he feels we have hit a stride. There are still some issues with individual deductions, but things are improving. He said he met with ADP this morning and they will be sending him a worksheet to do the liabilities (the payroll deductions that go into a pool and then the district sends a check to PERA, etc.) and align ADP payroll with the district's accounting system. Superintendent Lovato said it is still a work in progress but improvement is being seen.

### *Proactive Communication from Central Office:*

Mrs. Ortiz is now sending out a monthly HR newsletter. Superintendent Lovato said he is working on being more timely with his information sharing. He also told the Board different department heads will be attending Board meetings to give updates.

### *Building Improvements:*

Superintendent Lovato said he is still working on getting a kiln installed for Tiger Trades Academy. He said the challenge is finding a safe spot to place it.

### *HVAC:*

The temperature at the Intermediate School is still not up to par and extreme temperature fluctuations are happening. Superintendent Lovato asked staff to email him and let him know when this is happening. He will forward those emails to Trane so a resolution can happen.

### *District Preschool:*

Superintendent Lovato said district preschool is not feasible right now, although he isn't ruling it out for the future. It will be an expensive endeavor to move/place a modular trailer.

*Insurance:*

The insurance committee is in place and currently working with the insurance broker.

*Salary:*

The pay schedules are being worked on.

*Professional Development:*

Superintendent Lovato is working with The Master Teacher for professional development. He said he will get that option rolled out better to staff.

*Continuation of Tier III Outside Counseling Services:*

Superintendent Lovato is working on a plan once grant funds are done to continue with some form of outside counseling. He said he isn't sure if the district will be able to continue four days a week.

Director Ayala asked if there were any counselors available after the junior high track meet incident. Superintendent Lovato said yes, counselors met the bus upon arrival.

The bus barn update and plumbing issues were addressed by Mr. Miell in his report.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget Update (Lovato)
- b. Approve Revised Exhibit GCB-B - Certified Administrative Staff Salary Schedule (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Purchase of Staff Computers (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,152.40 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Dibels Renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,043.25 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve Primary School Sewer Main Replacement (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,210.00 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve the 2023-2024 District Calendar (Lovato) **MOTION FAILED**
- g. Approve Certified Staff Employment Renewals - Resolution 2023-2N, Resolution 2023-2P and Resolution 2023-3 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**13. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Backes said it was good to have the Co-Valedictorians and Salutatorian here. She congratulated them.
- ✓ Director Leyba said she heard Prom went well and the kids had fun.
- ✓ Director Backes thanked the track coaches for handling the track situation last week well.
- ✓ Director Ayala thanked the entire district with the handling of the junior high track meet incident. Parents received a call before they even knew what was going on. She appreciated the district moving swiftly and having things handled.

**14. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:17 p.m.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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