



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
June 26, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING OF FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET - A public hearing was held for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning the annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. There were no comments or concerns brought to the Board's attention.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba. Director Backes was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - **Lavona Tyscka - Resignation as Counselor at the Junior/Senior High effective June 23, 2023**
 7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. **Final Budget and Appropriation Resolution attached 6-26-23**
 - B. **Supplemental Budget and Appropriation Resolution attached 6-26-23**
 8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Break down of funds added 6-26-23**
 - I. **Intermediate School Flooring added**
 4. **CONSENT AGENDA** - **APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Jill Dellinger - District Designated Election Official for 2023 (Official Notice of Intent to Participate in Coordinated Election and Designation of Election Official is attached)
 - Lourdes Bagacay - Resignation as ELD Teacher at the Intermediate School effective May 25, 2023
 - Rayann Remick - Resignation as Counselor at the Junior/Senior High School effective June 8, 2023
 - Amy Salazar - Resignation as Public Relations and Communications Assistant effective May 31, 2023
 - Elena Ramsay - Resignation as Paraprofessional at Tiger Trades Academy effective May 25, 2023
 - Rebecca Fraker - Resignation as Special Education Teacher at the Primary School effective July 5, 2023
 - Angelie Bacolod - New Hire as Elementary Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Raquel Romero - New Hire as Elementary Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Dayna Bender - Resignation as Counselor at the Intermediate School effective June 7, 2023
 - Nicole Haberman - New Hire as Special Education Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Sarah Voigts - New Hire as Counselor at the Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Michelle Goodrich - New Hire as Student Advocate at the Primary School for the 2023-2024 school year
 - Duane Grasmick - New Hire as the High School Girls Basketball Head Coach for the 2023-2024 season
 - Lavona Tyscka - Resignation as Counselor at the Junior/Senior High School effective June 23, 2023
 - B. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2023-2024 School Year**
 - C. **Approve Revised Policies EF, EF-E-2, and EFC on Second/Final Reading**
 - D. **Approve Revised Policy GDBD on Second/Final Reading**
 - E. **Approve Resolution Authorizing Signing of Checks/District Bank Accounts at Colorado Bank and Trust**
 5. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 22, 2023 and Special Meeting on June 13, 2023 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

6. PRESENTATIONS

Building Safe School Reports:

- Jennifer Foxhoven, Junior/Senior High School Principal, explained discipline decreased this year with 51 suspensions. She said the Responsibility-Centered Discipline (RCD) program is making an impact in the school. The program helps build relationships between staff and students as well as putting responsibility on the students for their behavior. Mrs. Foxhoven said there was one expulsion. Enrollment is up at the Junior/Senior High with four students attending S.E.A.L. Academy. The dropout rate is less than 1%. Daily average attendance was at 89% for the year. Ms. Hallie Romero, district social worker, is working on a plan to hopefully increase attendance next year. She wants to be proactive instead of reactive.

There was one dropout with 25 students moving to another Colorado district and three students moving to districts outside of Colorado. Mrs. Foxhoven said she is hoping to add a student advocate to her staff.

Teachers are looking at their pacing charts to ensure all units are aligned to RIT scores. There were 40 junior high students who attended summer school. It was recommended junior high students attend summer school if the student failed one or more class. Mrs. Foxhoven thanked Chartwells for providing breakfast and lunch for the students. Twenty-four high school students recovered at least one semester during summer school.

There was \$1.6 million in scholarships received by the senior class. 85 seniors committed to college, one enlisted in the Navy, there were four apprenticeships and one exchange student in the class. There were 68 11th grade students who received services from the Gear Up program and 51 10th grade students. Mrs. Foxhoven is hoping to have the program return for next year.

On Wednesday, August 9, there will be a 7th grade orientation breakfast. Director Ayala said the Children's Theatre brought a lot of people from the community into the Junior/Senior High School. She said she heard comments regarding the shape of the building and how the floors shined. The only thing she requested was the air conditioning be turned on next year while the kids are practicing during rehearsal week. Director Derbigny asked what the Gear Up program is. Mrs. Foxhoven said it helps students become career and college ready. She said there is a liaison that comes from Otero College to help students choose classes. Director Ayala asked Mrs. Foxhoven to pass along to Mr. Grasmick, the Athletic Director, that she was super impressed on the schedules being out early. She said this gives parents plenty of time to prepare. Director Derbigny asked about the new music teacher. Mrs. Foxhoven said his name is Joshua Ferguson and he will be holding an informational night for band. The details will be released soon.

- Ken McNerney, Tiger Trades Academy Principal, said there were 48 suspensions which was down from last year and no expulsions. He said a way has been found to work with the kids and keep them in school collaborating with Mrs. Foxhoven and Superintendent Lovato. Tiger Trades Academy requires online students to attend at least two classes on campus. There were 17 junior high students taking online classes and ten on campus full time. There were 50 high school students online with 69 on campus. The dropout rate is less than 1%. Mr. McNerney said attendance is low and plagues alternative school settings throughout the state. Mr. McNerney said he is looking at innovative ways to take attendance for the online students.

Mr. McNerney said 30 students participated in summer school and 34 credits were earned, however, he is leaving the online program open until the end of the week.

The old greenhouse will not be torn down and a new location will be found for a new greenhouse. Mr. McNerney shared Mrs. Hale will introduce soap making into her curriculum next year. He said Mrs. Hale is very good at finding things students are interested in. Director Ayala suggested the students sell the items at the games. She also praised the end of year awards ceremony at Tiger Trades Academy. Director Derbigny asked if the gym repainting has begun. Superintendent Lovato said it hasn't begun yet but will soon. Mr. McNerney shared it will be painted with black and orange being incorporated and he would like to add a mural as well.

- Claudia Apodaca, Intermediate School Principal, said enrollment was at 417, which was lower than last year. The average daily attendance rate increased to 91.55%; the average class sizes were 20 students; there were 58 suspensions, which was lower than last year. Dibels testing showed 64% of 3rd grade students, 51% of 4th grade students, 57% of 5th grade students and 77% of 6th grade students being at or above grade level.

Mrs. Apodaca said summer school was done a little different this year with students receiving targeted instruction and followed by lit camp. Students took an assessment on the first day in order to find out what skills needed work. The first part of their day was spent on working on those lacking skills and the second part was lit camp. Mrs. Apodaca said the teachers liked that approach. She said there were 50-60 students in attendance in grades 3-6. There was better attendance this year and the time was used really well. The younger kids had 89% attendance with the older kids at 64%. Some kids on the summer school list weren't required to attend and didn't come. Mrs. Apodaca also thanked Chartwells for providing breakfast and lunch for the students. The plan was to have pre- and post-data for summer school, however, a power outage caused the cancellation of the last day of school so no post-assessment was able to be administered. Director Derbigny asked if the students who weren't required to attend summer school initiated by the parents or teachers. Mrs. Apodaca said teachers recommend students for summer school, but the decision was the parents. There were some students required to attend summer school due to their attendance throughout the year. Director Derbigny also asked about the literacy program. Mrs. Apodaca said she collaborates with the director. Director Derbigny asked if any of the students test out of the program or if the student's grades went up with program participation. Mrs. Apodaca believes some tested out of the program, but didn't have that information on hand. She said there were some students that did well at the end of the year. Director Derbigny said when the literacy program first began, most of the tutors were retired teachers. She said she isn't sure what happened, but most of them left because they didn't like the program. Mrs. Apodaca said tutors this year were high school student volunteers. Director Derbigny asked if this program is in place as a requirement from the Colorado Department of Education. Superintendent Lovato said it is not and the initial grant to fund the program has expired. He said it is up to the district if the program continues.

The Capturing Kids Hearts curriculum will continue. Mrs. Apodaca said 27 total district employees went to the Classroom 180 training in Denver last week. Classroom 180 training helps teachers understand trauma and gives them tools, strategies and techniques to use in the classroom. Mrs. Apodaca said a music teacher has been hired and will be the band teacher at the Junior/Senior High School as well. Intervention was strong with a strong team in place. Mrs. Apodaca said next year math will be added to the intervention schedule. The special education department will look different next year as they will be using a more collaborative teaching style. A special education teacher will be assigned to 3rd, 4th and 5th grades with 6th grade being split among them.

The SCAP committees met every month. The communication committee worked on the school newsletter. The common vision and consistency committee worked on the school handbook and having consistent school-wide expectations. The climate and culture committee worked on improving staff morale by having planned staff activities and the curriculum committee focused on reading. Director Derbigny said it looks like there has been a lot of improvement. Mrs. Apodaca agreed and shared the number of students in the intensive range have decreased. Director Ayala suggested it might be beneficial for students to participate in the mock town hall. Mrs. Apodaca said she is planning on having the 5th grade students involved next year. Mrs. Apodaca also added another positive was having students participate in the Science Fair.

- Julie Miller, Primary School Principal, said the Primary School enrollment is down with a total of 280 students. She said class sizes are between 16-18 students. The average daily attendance rate is at 89.99%. Ms. Romero, district social worker, has done a really good job targeting kids that are truant and habitually tardy. Mrs. Miller said attendance numbers are getting better and she would like to get the attendance rate back up to 90% or higher, which were pre-Covid numbers. Regarding discipline, there were 19 out of school suspensions and one in school suspension. That student had a truancy issue and she said that in school suspension was a better option.

The Primary Dibels data showed the highest total percentage of students at or above benchmark with 70%. Mrs. Miller said this is due to what teachers have done. She said the intervention and special education teachers have worked hard.

Mrs. Miller wanted to highlight that the Primary School staff have invested in the Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) program and the school was recognized as a CKH Rising Star. She said teachers worked hard building relationships with the students. Mrs. Miller said there is an upcoming CKH2 training and she is hoping to find grant funds for this. She said this training is specifically designed to support teacher retention. Mrs. Miller said the health professional grant that BOCES received last year benefitted the Primary School by the addition of a sensory room. She said this has been a great addition and she is excited that BOCES received the grant

again. Mrs. Miller elaborated that the sensory room is not only used by high needs students but also students with behavior that just need a break.

Mrs. Miller told the Board that a very strong focus on reading will continue next year, but she also wants to work on aligning writing curriculum. She said rubrics are being created as well as collaboration with the Intermediate School. Mrs. Miller wants NWEA to drive instruction as it is a better indicator on how well students will perform on the CMAS assessment.

Director Derbigny asked how long the CKH2 training will be and if traveling is involved. Mrs. Miller said it is a one-day training and the trainer will come to the district. However, there is a 60-person cap and Mrs. Miller would like all of her staff to attend. There are additional fees for any over the cap. Director Derbigny asked how the sensory room operates. Mrs. Miller said it is attached to the life skills room and usually a paraprofessional is with the students while they are in the room.

Mrs. Sisson shared an update on summer school. She said lit camp curriculum had been purchased for students who lacked a skill set for building reading skills. She said students were divided by their skill levels and not their grade level, which allowed teachers to push them in all skill sets. Mrs. Sisson said teachers kept the summer camp feel and had “campfires” and sang songs. 98 students were invited to attend but students had to commit to attend at least 11 out of the 12 days. 54 out of the 98 students said they would come and only four out of the 54 didn’t show up. The highest attendance rate was in 2nd grade. Mrs. Sisson said she purchased some prizes for the students in order to keep kids motivated to attend. Every Thursday, students received the prizes for attendance. The first week, students received popsicles, the second week swim pool toys and the third week students received a swim pass for the Wipe Out. Students who only missed one day also received a pass. Director Derbigny voiced a concern regarding Mrs. Sisson purchasing the prizes with her own money. Superintendent Lovato said there are funds available for that. Mrs. Sisson said she felt teachers enjoyed summer school and they will be looking at their skills when they come back to school. She said the goal of summer school is to prevent summer slide. Director Derbigny asked if teachers are needing anything in order to align writing. Mrs. Miller said the schools have the writing curriculum they just don’t have alignment in expectations. She said teachers will use the state standards to create a K-3 rubric that will build on each other so 2nd grade teachers will know what 1st grade teachers have taught. Mrs. Miller said she wants a visual piece in place for students and parents.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summer school was covered in the principal’s reports.

The bus barn is nearing completion. Superintendent Lovato said the compliance items are being worked on: ceilings, drains and the fire suppression system. Bathrooms need to be completed with fixtures being installed and the doors need to be hung.

The plumbing project at the Primary School has been an extensive project. There are five holes in the floor with the longest being 20 feet in length. The contractor picked up the majority of the cost, however, there were some new issues discovered with old cast iron pipe. Superintendent Lovato said since the pipe was exposed he wanted it to be fixed right. He said hopefully this will put things in a better position moving forward.

The maintenance and custodial crews are working on projects. At TTA, a plan is being made on how to repair the gym and get it repainted. Upgrades continue in the buildings. Superintendent Lovato said the bathrooms at TTA could use some work also.

Superintendent Lovato took a moment to thank Dee Rangel for her hard work. He said the district had an audit to complete for the transportation department going back to 2017-18. Mrs. Rangel took on the task of helping with this audit on top of her regular duties.

Superintendent Lovato also thanked his staff at Central Office for their patience and support. He said he is still working with ADP to get corrections made on the PERA payments. He said he will make sure the PERA and tax corrections are being addressed.

Director Ayala asked for an estimated completion date on the bus barn. Superintendent Lovato said realistically the second week of July. He said it is to the point of just buttoning things down and elaborated that the cosmetic stuff in

the offices don't hinder the buses. Director Ayala asked what the plan is for the old bus barn. Superintendent Lovato said that will remain the maintenance shop and is also being used for storage.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve the 2023-2024 Final Budget and Appropriation Resolution (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Supplemental 2022-2023 Budget and Appropriation Resolution (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve 2023-2024 Consolidated Federal Programs Application (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the 2023-24 Educator Effectiveness Assurances (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Chartwells Contract (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve CSDSIP 2023-2024 Renewal Proposal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$402,386.00 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve CopperPoint Insurance 2023-2024 Insurance Premium (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,789.00 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve the Purchase of Chromebooks (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,500.00 AS PRESENTED**
- g. Approve the 2023-2024 Infinite Campus Renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,644.00 AS PRESENTED**
- h. Approve Classified Staff Employment Renewals - Resolution 2023-4 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- i. Approve Intermediate School Flooring (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,379.60 AS PRESENTED**

10. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Derbigny asked who decides when the district has to do a request for food service proposal. Superintendent Lovato said the state requires it every five years.
- ✓ Director Bickel informed the Board that BOCES will be moving into a new office at the old Lincare building on 4th and Santa Fe. She said they have entered a 15-year lease.

11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:49 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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