



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting

January 27, 2025

1. **ROLL CALL** – S. Ayala, Hines, Kolomitz and Leyba. Director A. Ayala.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **CELEBRATIONS**

Primary School Math Club presented their financial literacy projects to the Board. The Math Club is an after school GT (Gifted and Talented) program. Mrs. Diana Remick is the teacher and she shared the Colorado Financial Literacy Program follows state and national standards, along with behavior management and real life skills. The students shared their real life experiences they have learned.

The Board congratulated the Junior/Senior High School Cheerleading Squad for earning 7th place at the State Spirit Competition. They presented a certificate to them for their accomplishment.

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. Superintendent Blincoe thanked the Board for their hard work and efforts. The Junior/Senior High School gave a gift basket to each Board member. The items in the gift basket were made by the Junior/Senior High School Small Business Enterprise class.

5. **AUDIENCE**

Mrs. Diana Remick began by thanking the Board for their dedication, love and support provided in the recent loss of Mr. William Remick. She shared two initiatives with the Board. First, the Dress for Success program which will help students who may not have the means receive professional clothing to help with their success. The second initiative is the hope that students could receive CPR training. She said she would be willing to look into grants to cover the cost and would like this to be named "Remick Rapid Response" to honor Mr. Remick and his son, Ryan, who performed CPR on his dad.

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

A. **Personnel Approval**

- Jake Pruyn - Transfer from Paraprofessional to High School Science Teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year
- Leilani Salazar - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective January 6, 2025
- Jake Pruyn - New Hire as Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach for the remainder of the 2025 season
- Teresa Sanchez - New Hire as Paraprofessional at Child Development Services for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year

B. **Approve an Additional Substitute Teacher for 2024-2025**

C. **Approve an Additional Out-of-District Student for 2024-2025 school year**

D. **Approve Resolution to Appoint Heather Nelson as Authorized Representative for Federal Programs**

E. **Approve Resolution Authorizing Signing of Checks/District Bank Account at First National Bank**

8. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Heather Nelson, Business Manager, reviewed the financial report for October, November and December 2024. She stated the general fund shows revenue at a little over \$9,000,000 and expenditures at \$7,700,000. The local revenue is higher due to receiving tax dollars and she explained transfers still need to be made. The insurance fund shows a payment to CSDSIP (Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool) of \$499,000 and it also shows a \$1,000 deductible payment for a claim that was made. The preschool fund shows revenue of \$61,000 which will cover the payroll of paraprofessionals employed through the district. The food service fund shows a revenue of \$842,000 and expenses at \$717,000. Ms. Nelson said it can take 1-2 months to receive reimbursement for food service. The grants fund

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shows a revenue of \$761,000 and expenses at \$1,200,000. Grants also takes time to receive requested funds. The bond revenue is at \$475,000 and expenses at \$413,000. The capital projects fund shows \$750,000 budgeted in and a transfer will be made. Mr. Kolomitz asked how much is in reserves. Ms. Nelson said \$5,700,000. She will send a sheet that shows that amount to the Board. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

9. MINUTES -

A. Minutes of December 9, 2024 and December 13, 2024. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

10. PRESENTATIONS –

CTE Update:

Rebecca Morlan, CTE (Career and Technology Education) Coordinator, shared a background on CTE. She said the purpose of CBE is to provide learners access to quality CTE programs that align with industry demand and lead to high wage, high demand and high skilled employment. Ms. Morlan said enrollment numbers in the program have increased over the last five years.

There are four level of business program pathways. Ms. Morlan reviewed the levels and said level one is required before a student can move to other levels.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) has a current membership of 58 students (47 last year). The District Leadership Competition will be held on February 4 at Otero College. There are 42 members attending, each competing in two events. The State Leadership Competition will be April 21-23 at Gaylord of the Rockies event center in Aurora. In order to qualify for the State Leadership Competition, members must place in the top four at the District Leadership Competition. The officer team will compete to go to nationals with Peak V. The National Leadership Competition will be held in June in Anaheim, California. Members qualify at the State Leadership Competition to be able to attend the National Leadership Competition. The officer team will compete in the Stock Market game, Virtual Business Management and Personal Finance. Ms. Morlan reviewed the community service projects FBLA students can complete.

Ms. Morlan reviewed the agriculture program pathways. Students must begin at Intro to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Then they can move to Ag Power, Structure and Technical Systems or Ag Science (Plants, Animal and Natural Resources). Then students take level 3 classes and the 4th year are capstone courses.

Currently, there are nine students working on Industry Certifications, with five seniors already completing their certifications. Eighteen students are currently in the program and have earned their OSHA 10 Cards.

There are seven students who are applying for their Colorado FFA degree. Kinsley Mayo placed 2nd in the state Rangeland Evaluation for the Society of Rangeland Management based on a case study of the May Ranch, the first week of February. The Range team placed 3rd at state. In June, Sadie Buhr traveled to the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. to spend a week immersing herself in servant leadership principles. She and other district officers will be presenting two workshops to the FFA members in our district on February 5. Charly Jones should be in line to receive the scholarship to attend this summer. Ms. Morlan shared 22 members recently attended the 1st Annual Ark Valley Ag Expo where 33 Ag Businesses showcased their products and students were able to discuss career and training opportunities.

The FFA District Leadership Conference and Quiz Bowl will be held on February 5. FFA Week will be February 15-22. February 26 is District Parliamentary Procedure. March 26 will be the District Career Development Events. April 28-29 will be the State Career Development Events. In May, the project auction will take place and June 3-5 is the State FFA Competition.

Director Hines asked if there are plans for other CTE programs. Ms. Morlan said conversations have begun possibly in the healthcare related fields. Superintendent Blincoe said he would like health sciences to be introduced, but it is extremely difficult to obtain an instructor at the high school level. Mrs. Foxhoven shared students do take healthcare classes at Otero College.

Director Leyba asked Superintendent Blincoe if the CTE Advisory Council can be reactivated. He said yes, and this would be a group that could recommend new programs. Ms. Morlan said Ag and Business have advisory committees. Director Leyba said per Policy BDFD, there should be a district-wide CTE Advisory Council.

Concurrent Credit Update:

Shawna Frankmore, Junior/Senior High School Academic Counselor, updated the Board on the concurrent credit program offered at the high school level. She said the relationship with Otero College and La Junta Junior/Senior High School is very good. When students become juniors and seniors, she sits down and reviews with them their complete course plan. Students can do concurrent enrollment, post-secondary enrollment or online courses.

The fall semester concurrent enrollment numbers showed: 27 students enrolled in AP Lit and Composition and 27 students received Otero College credit; 13 students enrolled in Public Speaking, with 11 of those received Otero College credit; 23 students enrolled in Advanced US History 121 and 23 students received Otero College credit; 24 students enrolled in English Composition (Pre-AP English) and 24 students received Otero College credit; 9 enrolled in College Algebra and 9 received Otero College credit; 24 students enrolled in Personal Finance and 20 received Otero College credit. Students who did not receive Otero College credit may have chosen to not take the credit due to their future plans. Mrs. Frankmore said she is working with Otero College as the Spanish teacher is trying to get some Spanish classes to be concurrent.

Mrs. Frankmore reviewed the spring semester concurrent enrollment numbers, which is very similar to the fall semester. 27 students are enrolled in AP Lit and Composition with 19 students receiving Otero College credit; 16 students enrolled in Public Speaking, with 10 receiving Otero College credit; 32 students enrolled in Advanced US History 121 with 4 students receiving Otero College credit; 39 enrolled in Personal Finance with 19 receiving Otero College credit; 23 students enrolled in English Composition (Pre-AP English) with 2 receiving Otero College credit; 9 enrolled in College Trig with 5 receiving Otero College credit; and 14 enrolled in Math for Liberal Arts with 1 receiving Otero College credit. These are the classes taught on campus at La Junta Junior/Senior High School.

There are post-secondary opportunities for our students with 13 students taking advantage of them in the fall semester and 19 in the spring semester.

Director Kolomitz asked if Otero College credits transfer easily. Mrs. Frankmore said most credits transfer to most colleges. Superintendent Blincoe said any public college in Colorado has to take the credit, but a private college does not have to accept them. He asked if they are guaranteed transfers. Mrs. Frankmore said the majority of them are.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Blincoe talked about ICE and the possibility of them coming into our buildings. He sent a fact sheet to the Board and encouraged them to review that.

On February 4, the Colorado Department of Education Commissioner, Suzanna Cordova, will be in the district. Dr. Sam Schneider will be in the district Monday-Wednesday of next week. He will be working with the administration on the presentations.

Director Kolomitz asked about snow days and late start. He wanted to know how it is communicated to families and staff. Superintendent Blincoe said the process begins at 4:00 a.m. with the team. Once a decision is made, Superintendent Blincoe sends out the information which is then distributed to staff and families. Director Leyba said she prefers as best practice the notice to go out preferably the night before if possible. Superintendent Blincoe said he will do his best to accommodate that.

Director Kolomitz asked about the timeline of the BEST grant. Superintendent Blincoe said it is due on February 10. Then the grants will be read through by CDE. About a month later, feedback will be received by CDE and the district can polish the grant request. Superintendent Blincoe said he believes April 11, 12 and 13 a Zoom call takes place and the districts explain why they need the grant money. Then the following week districts are informed if they receive the grant.

Director Kolomitz asked what the acronym S-CAP stands for. Superintendent Blincoe said it is the Student-Centered Accountability Program. In this program, educators from other districts come to our district and evaluate our district. We also send educators to other districts to evaluate.

Director S. Ayala asked why the roof at Columbian School isn't being done and why the district keeps Columbian School and continues to pay for upkeep. Superintendent Blincoe said the district doesn't pay that much for upkeep, but he is agreeable to selling the building.

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Director Leyba asked if the S-CAP survey will be used instead of the TLCC (Teaching and Learning Conditions Colorado) survey. Mrs. Foxhoven said we have already done the first round for S-CAP. The S-CAP survey will be coming out soon.

Chief Academic Officer's Report

Jared Wilson, Chief Academic Officer, introduced himself. He said this is his first untraditional start by coming in in the middle of the year.

He shared with the Board his recent trip to Oklahoma for the UVA Winter Conference was the most beneficial professional development he has ever had. He said it set the tone for the UVA upcoming visit., which will be February 27-28.

Regarding S-CAP, he and Superintendent Blincoe went to a meeting last week. He said he will be working with them on website alignment. He has learned that when staff are being sent to observe other schools, they need to be well trained. The S-CAP review for East Otero School District will be on March 10-11.

Mr. Wilson touched on TNTP, which is our strategic planning partner.

On February 12, the district will give a presentation to the Colorado Department of Education State Board. This will include where the district is at, what the district needs and how the district will be moving forward.

Mr. Wilson said he appreciates the Instructional Coaches at the Primary and Intermediate Schools.

Math curriculum is being looked at as the district will be adopting a new one. He said one is more user friendly. He shared he is checking with other districts to see what they are using.

Mr. Wilson thanked the Board for the opportunity. He also said the district has some tremendous administrators.

Director Kolomitz asked if the Board would have a chance to see the presentation for the State Board prior to February 12. Superintendent Blincoe said there will be some practicing done after the CDE Commissioner leaves and the Board is welcome to come to that. The slide show will be shared with the Board. Superintendent Blincoe commended Mrs. Apodaca for all of her hard work. Director Leyba wanted to clarify that the district has been in this position for many years and it has been a long journey. The district has been working on improvement for a long time.

Director Leyba asked what math curriculum is being looked at. Mr. Wilson said Reveal Math and Illustrative Math. TNTP pushed Illustrative Math. Director Leyba asked if this is for math curriculum in general. Mr. Wilson said this will be replacing Saxon Math. This will be for K-6.

12. DISCUSSION -

Colorado School Finance Project – EOSD Annual Report

Superintendent Blincoe said the report was sent to the Board. He said the numbers were interesting. In 1992-1993, La Junta Public Schools had 1881 students and today, there is an enrollment of 1283. La Junta has about a 64.4 teacher per student ratio. We are below the average annual salary in Colorado.

Director Kolomitz asked about the federal funding number. Superintendent Blincoe said the district receives Title funding and we are currently sitting on a lot of Title funds that need to be spent. If the money isn't used, the district will lose it.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policy CBA/CBC on First/Revised Reading (Blincoe) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING**

14. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the 2024-2025 Final Budget and Appropriation Resolution (Nelson) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Engagement Letter for Legal Services (Blincoe) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Revised Policy LBD on First/Revised Reading (Blincoe) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING**
- d. Approve Revised Regulation LBD-R on First/Revised/Final Reading (Blincoe) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED/FINAL READING**
- e. Designate Official Posting Sites for Board Meeting Notices (Blincoe) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

15. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Kolomitz said he knows it was a difficult Christmas Break for the district and families, and feels the administrative team responded well. The high school choir was the entertainment and did a great job at the Chamber Banquet. Director Kolomitz also mentioned Director A. Ayala received the Chamber volunteer of the year award. He enjoyed the math club presentation and the cheerleaders being at tonight's meeting. He also congratulated the Girl's Wrestling Team for winning their first women's championship in school history.
- ✓ Director Hines thanked the Primary School Math Club for sharing their hard work.
- ✓ Director S. Ayala thanked Ms. Morlan and Mrs. Frankmore for their presentations at tonight's meeting. She said she felt it provided clarification.
- ✓ Director Leyba added that if there are any questions of her, she responds to her email.

16. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:13 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DEE LEYBA, President *ANGELA AYALA, Vice President*
SARA HINES, Secretary/Treasurer *STACEY AYALA, Director*
GREG KOLOMITZ, Director