



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting

August 9, 2021

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Personnel**
 - **Monica Sanchez - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year**
 - **Claudia Aragon - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year**
 - B. **Revisions to Junior High Football Coaching staff**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA** - **APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH DIRECTOR BICKEL ABSTAINING**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Janet Zamora - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School effective July 31, 2021
 - Cassie Sanchez - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School effective July 22, 2021
 - Raquel Romero - New Hire as the Registrar at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Nikolas Carson - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Marisa Dickerson - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School effective August 1, 2021
 - Kendall Robbins - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Kayla Schmelzer - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Eva M. Rodriguez - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective July 27, 2021
 - Donna Darnell - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Rod Bickel - New Hire as Part-time Social Studies Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Angel Ramos-Caltzontzin - New Hire as Art Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Caroline Finkner - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Raquel Martinez - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Misty Pounds - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Janet Greene - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Rachel Nason - New Hire as a General Education Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Christopher Garcia - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Dakota Vaile-Claudio - New Hire as the Technology Director for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Monica Sanchez - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Claudia Aragon - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - B. **Approve List of Substitute Teachers for the 2021-2022 school year**
 - C. **Approve Revised List of Extra Duty Assignments for the 2021-2022 school year**

BOARD WRAP UP – August 9, 2021

Page | 2

- D. Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2021-2022 school year
- E. Approve Revised Policies CBB, GDBC, IC/ICA, IHCDA, JEB, JLCB, and JLCD on Second/Final Reading
- F. Approve Revised Regulation GCBD-R on First/Revised/Final Reading

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, said the fund balance for July shows the comparison fund balance as August of last year due to August and July being combined in the report last year. She informed the Board that money continues to come in and May and June's summer food program funds have been received as well as May's snacks, fresh fruit and vegetable funds. Mrs. Reisch said she still needs to enter the budget for this year so the reports have last year's information listed until she can get that updated. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

6. MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 12, 2021 and Special Meeting on July 21, 2021. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lovato began his report with an update on the bus barn. He said in this agenda there is a bid for the approaches and cement work on the outside. He said we have moved away from the prior contractor to try and get the work done faster and TLM Constructors is willing to accommodate the timeline that we have. Superintendent Lovato said Crispin Miell, Maintenance Director, has been doing the electrical. The trench work is done, the interior sprinkling system is being installed and work is being done with the City of La Junta to get the water taps and sewage in place.

The swimming pool is up and running. Superintendent Lovato said the structure of fees for daily use as well as party rental are being looked at and will be revised.

Regarding Tiger Stadium, the geo tech firm took a sample today to approve the concrete substance that was placed. The project manager will be here tomorrow and Superintendent Lovato plans to visit with him. The last time Superintendent Lovato spoke with him he said they were a little ahead of schedule and are confident to move forward. Superintendent Lovato said it is still looking like the first JV and junior high games will most likely be away games instead of home games. He said the goal is to get the first varsity game at home.

The auditorium lighting is on hold due to material and shipping delays. The materials which are needed for wiring, etc. that will be installed by Mr. Miell has arrived.

The S-CAP Diagnostic Review is set in November. Superintendent Lovato said he is working on getting a few things done with that. He said the CMAS individual scores have arrived, but have not yet been reviewed. The information will be shared soon.

Director Ayala asked if two crews are working on the stadium. Superintendent Lovato said that is still the case once approval is received on the sample.

Director Derbigny asked how significant the CMAS scores will be due to the pandemic taking place. Superintendent Lovato said he is not sure and the data will be measured the best it can be, but students didn't take CMAS the prior year so the longitudinal data won't be valid. He said it really is a snap shot as far as how it will be utilized and we will do the best we can to identify where the students are.

Director Ayala inquired if the district will have to incur additional cost since we have deviated from the original contractor on the bus barn project. Superintendent Lovato said the original contractor had about a \$31,000 bid on the concrete work, which did not include any rebar, sidewalks or dirt work on the approaches so he thinks it would be similar to what we would have paid. He said he is trying to get the original contractor to come in to do a punch list on the actual building because there are some issues with the building we would like to look at. There is some daylight coming through at one of the ridge points and he would like that fixed. Director Ayala asked if this will be an extenuating circumstance where the original contractor will have to be hounded. Superintendent Lovato said they have been being hounded for a month and a half on the approaches. Director Ayala asked if there is anything that can be done to expedite that and Superintendent Lovato said not much. He said the only leverage point the district has is to basically not utilize that contractor again.

BOARD WRAP UP – August 9, 2021

Page | 3

Director Backes asked with Mr. Miell completing the electrical work on the bus barn how much has been saved with the work being done internally. Superintendent Lovato said he does not know without obtaining outside bids for the work. He said Mr. Miell is a huge asset to the district with having his electrical certification.

Director Ayala asked when the first day of school is and how registration went. Superintendent Lovato said the first day of school is August 16, 2021. Regarding registration, most people have figured out online registration and other than paying fees or getting bus passes there really isn't a huge purpose for in-person registration. He said he is looking at how to modify that to be in one central location for those things and having registration entirely online for next year. Enrollment is very preliminary due to not knowing who didn't register. He said Kindergarten was projecting 80 students and 112 have enrolled. Another grade level was expecting 115 and 96 have enrolled. He said numbers won't be solid until the transferring students are stable.

Superintendent Lovato said he does realize the first day of school is early and that the Rocky Ford fair begins next week, but that is how the required seat hours were met. He said he will be looking at absences next week.

Testing at the elementary schools seems to be going okay. Superintendent Lovato stated a written plan and procedurals is being worked on for Covid as well as any sort of disease management that may have to be dealt with. That document should be ready by Thursday or Friday so it can be released to families Friday afternoon. He said right now the lone mandated mask requirement is on school buses. The guidance and suggestions that are in the plans from the CDC will be looked at. He said the health department liaison meets with area superintendents on Thursday and consistency is trying to be maintained through the valley.

There are still a few staff positions to be filled. Superintendent Lovato said we have a teacher from another country who is working on getting into the United States, so some improvisation will need to be made for that position. Superintendent Lovato said Central Office has found a rhythm. He shared a statistic to put into perspective what Merinda Reisch, Business Manager; Billie Waring, Human Resources; and Heather Huckaby, Accounts Payable, have been through. In the past eight working days, they have assisted 17 new staff members and three changing positions in buildings. Superintendent Lovato said combining that with all the other daily items that have to be completed, he gave them kudos on getting things stable.

Director Derbigny asked about the teacher from the other country being a secondary or elementary teacher. Superintendent Lovato said that is an elementary teacher and there is a plan in place just in case. He is hoping that it gets resolved soon.

Director Leyba asked if the new website was up for the S-CAP Diagnostic Review. Superintendent Lovato said the district is focusing on getting the app up and running first and there is a meeting tomorrow with Apptegy. Our current website license is still valid until the end of the year.

Director Leyba inquired if parents are having any issues with signing up for Hazel Health. Superintendent Lovato said he does not know and didn't receive any feedback on that. He said he doesn't know if many parents took advantage of that. Director Leyba said the reason she is asking is because when she was looking for the information about Hazel Health it is not on the district website. She said she was able to find it on Facebook and it was a Google doc. She said if you actually go to Hazel Health's sign in link, it is more in-depth and talks about what medications can be approved, etc. She said the Google doc is just asking parents if they want to participate in Hazel Health or not. Superintendent Lovato said from the district's standpoint what was most concerning is finding out whether or not parents wanted to participate as Hazel Health wanted the district to share family information without consent. The district is not willing to do that. He said he will be asking Hazel Health for some videos or tutorials to obtain better information about the program to share with parents.

Director Leyba reminded Superintendent Lovato to send out the parent link for Child Maltreatment Prevention Taskforce. This survey is an effort to prevent less for review on the Child Fatality Review Team.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Desk Purchase for Tiger Trades Academy (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,252.60 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Desk and Chair Purchase for the Intermediate School (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE CORRECTED AMOUNT OF \$39,922.60 WITH AN AMENDED MOTION AS PRESENTED**

BOARD WRAP UP – August 9, 2021

Page | 4

- c. Approve Concrete Sidewalk and Apron for the Bus Barn (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,813.40 AS PRESENTED**

10. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Ayala stated it was a privilege to be able to serve breakfast to staff members. She said it was nice to see them excited and ready to begin the new year and be back with children. She thinks registration went okay and she didn't hear any huge complaints. She said she thinks the online piece is huge and is something we have been missing for quite a while. Director Ayala said good job to the Central Office for keeping everything running.
- ✓ Director Leyba took a moment to remind everyone again to use their non-pharmaceutical interventions or respiratory etiquette as it is now called: coughing into your elbow, wear a mask, cover your face and don't touch it, wash hands often, mask if separation isn't an option and you are not vaccinated. Also, there will be a parent survey being released by the University of Denver. This survey will help our local Human Services with assessing what needs and resources are necessary for the tri-county area. This is a really important survey to fill out by anyone that is doing anything with children: grandparents, parents, foster parents, or anyone that is in an agency that works with children. It is very important on how it is decided on whether the tri-county qualifies for grant money. The first time this survey went out, out of all three counties, only 40 responses were received. A strategic plan can't be created from 40 responses. Director Leyba asked when you see the survey to share it and encourage others to fill it out. She also shared a Spanish version is being worked on and should be released this week too. Director Derbigny asked how people are reached who don't receive the text or email notification. Director Leyba said paper fliers will be distributed everywhere and on the flier there is a link and a QR code that you can scan on your phone or you can contact Nancy Harrington. Director Leyba also said Good Job to everyone and to Buckle Up!
- ✓ Director Backes said good luck to everyone for the 2021-2022 school year.

11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:03 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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