



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting

June 14, 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 Approval**
 - **Kylie Miller - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High for the 2021-2022 school year**
 8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - L. **Approve the Purchase of Chromebook Computers - Revised Quote attached**
 - M. **Approve the Purchase of Chromebooks for Paraprofessionals - Added**
 - N. **Approve the Purchase of the Apptegy Website - Added**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Jill Dellinger - District Designated Election Official for 2021 (Official Notice of Intent to Participate in Coordinated Election and Designation of Election Official is attached)
 - Jasmine Erickson - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Lourdes Bagacay - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Skye Sisson - New Hire as the Reading Specialist at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Trisha Ortega - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Krystal Vigil - New Hire as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Karen Gates - New Hire as Registrar Secretary at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Martin Valdez - New Hire as Counselor at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Kelly Grasmick - Resignation as 3rd Grade Teacher at the Intermediate school effective June 3, 2021
 - Michaela Romero - Resignation as Special Education Paraprofessional at the Primary School effective June 3, 2021
 - Norma Eckhart - Resignation as Special Education Paraprofessional at CDS effective June 7, 2021
 - Chris Ludwig - Resignation as Science Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective June 8, 2021
 - Toni Maes - Resignation as Human Resources/Payroll at Central Office effective June 21, 2021
 - Kylie Miller - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High for the 2021-2022 school year
 - B. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2021-2022 school year**
 - C. **Approve Surplus Resolution**
5. **MINUTES**

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 13, 2021. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, reviewed the financial reports that were attached to the agenda. She said the month-to-date expenses for the month of May was \$1.3 million and the income was \$3.4 million, which shows a positive balance of \$2.15 million compared to last year's positive balance of \$1.73 million. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. PRESENTATIONS

Michelle Murphy, Legal Rural Services

Superintendent Lovato introduced Michelle Murphy to the Board. Ms. Murphy will be the new legal counsel for the Board of Education and district. Ms. Murphy presented her background to the Board, which includes extensive work in school law. Ms. Murphy is currently the Executive Director/Attorney for the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance. She said she will not be leaving the Rural Alliance, but her role will shift to a legal and advocacy role. She will continue her work at the capitol. Ms. Murphy stated her annual retainer is \$2000, billed quarterly. This fee includes five hours per quarter and if a matter exceeds those hours, a reduced billable hourly rate would be in effect. Ms. Murphy said she has a similar practice to our outgoing legal counsel and she doesn't waste time or money.

Director Leyba said she likes having someone that fights for the smaller districts and appreciates the information Ms. Murphy shares. Director Leyba also feels Ms. Murphy amplifies our rural voice.

Director Backes inquired if Ms. Murphy holds sessions for new Board members. She said she is familiar with that presentation and will be happy to do that.

Ms. Murphy also informed the Board she does staff trainings on legal requirements from the state.

Building Safe School Reports:

- Dan Nuschy, Junior/Senior High School Principal, said enrollment is down at the Junior/Senior High School due to Covid. The enrollment number is at 470. He said suspensions went down considerably and attributes some of that to the change in movement in the building. He said he will keep that one-directional traffic flow in place for next year. The attendance rate is holding at around 90%. The dropout rate is at 1%, but Mr. Nuschy would like that to be lower. Mr. Nuschy feels enrollment should increase to about 600 students next year.
- Ken McNerney, Tiger Trades Academy Principal, said he ended the year with 219 students enrolled. He said the number would have been higher, however, several students returned to the buildings. There were 106 9-12th grade students and 54 7-8th grade students completing online education. Mr. McNerney said he doesn't feel that there will be that many online students next year. Tiger Trades Academy had nine suspensions and one expulsion. He said daily attendance could have been better, but it was definitely a learning curve with online attendance. This process will change next year. Director Backes asked about the junior high kids added during the school year in the report. Mr. McNerney confirmed 67 additional junior high students were added. Director Ayala asked about the two dropouts listed and wondered if additional services were provided to them before they dropped out. Mr. McNerney said both students were over the age of 17, one moved out of the area and did not enroll in another district and the other was unable to be located. Superintendent Lovato said there were thirty Tiger Trades Academy students who graduated this year. Mr. McNerney said it was a district effort to get some of those students to graduate. Director Ayala asked for those students who are identified who may not make it, if there are any additional resources used to get them to graduation. Mr. McNerney said there was online tutoring offered as well as on site tutoring. Director Ayala asked how many 5th year Seniors will there be in the upcoming school year. Mr. McNerney said right now there are three. Director Ayala asked if Tiger Trades Academy students receive SEL (Social-Emotional Learning). Mr. McNerney said next year there will be an on-site counselor available.
- Gina Griffy, Intermediate School Assistant Principal, broke down the total enrollment of 466 students at the Intermediate with 112 3rd graders, 129 4th graders, 115 5th graders and 110 6th graders. The average daily attendance rate was at 91.7% with the 6th grade having 94% and the average class size was 23 students. There were 21 out of school suspensions with most of those being 6th grade students. No 4th grade students were suspended. Ms. Griffy reviewed the Dibels data and said every grade level had pretty good growth, with the largest growth taking place in 4th grade. Director Backes pointed out the percentages are showing quite a few students well below benchmark and asked Ms. Griffy what is being done to get those students to move up. Ms. Griffy said progress monitoring takes place every seven days and next year flooding will happen as well as interventionists coming back. Director Derbigny asked if flooding happens every day. Ms. Griffy said flooding takes place 30 minutes per day on top of student's regular reading time and continues for the entire year. Director Backes asked if the newly hired reading specialist will be shared by both the Primary and Intermediate Schools and Ms. Griffy clarified it is a shared position. Director Ayala pointed out that the same class, year after year, has discipline problems. She asked if anything is being done with that group of kids. Ms. Griffy said the 7 Mindsets program is used as well as drug and marijuana presentations. Director Backes asked if the suspensions are related to those topics and Ms. Griffy said a good portion of them are.

Director Ayala inquired if anything is proactively being done to target them or are these students receiving the same general education as the others. Ms. Griffy explained this group of students have moved on to the Junior/Senior High School. Superintendent Lovato said the discipline numbers for that group of students have decreased. He said a big part of that decrease in the 2019-20 year was due to an In-School Suspension being held at Tiger Trades Academy. He also added that the suspensions were a little over a handful of students. The same students were getting into trouble. Director Derbigny asked what plans are in place for the grant that was received. Ms. Griffy explained the health team has weekly meetings to discuss students who need additional behavioral or emotional support and to create plans for them.

- Julie Miller, Primary School Principal, reviewed her report with the Board. She said enrollment for Primary was as follows: 99 in Kindergarten, 101 in both 1st and 2nd grades. Seven Primary students attended S.E.A.L. Academy. The class size was at 18 students. The average daily attendance rate was lower this year coming in at 89%, however, nine students were awarded perfect attendance. Regarding discipline, out of school suspensions were at 12, which was up from 2018. Mrs. Miller explained she did not add data from the 2019-20 school year, as it was incomplete due to the pandemic. Mrs. Miller said the Dibels assessment data is not where staff wanted it to be, but it was not lower than previous years. Flooding (an all staff reading intervention effort) will begin again next school year as well as intervention. She said these things weren't allowed this school year due to Covid. Director Derbigny asked if the Dibels assessment is administered to every Primary student or only those below level. Mrs. Miller said it is and the data from the Dibels assessments is reported to the Colorado Department of Education and it is what determines the student's Read Plans. Director Derbigny asked if the CDE requires testing three times per year and Mrs. Miller clarified it is. Director Derbigny stated she feels if a student is at or above level, they shouldn't be tested more than once. Mrs. Miller said this data tells staff how to group students in order to provide them with what they need academically. Director Ayala said she feels 85% for the Kindergarten assessment rate is impressive due to the Covid circumstances.

Regarding discipline and behaviors, Director Leyba questioned when the SCAP work is taking place and the strategic priorities are being built, if there is a three-pronged approach with a universal prevention so everyone gets the education. She said there are some kids that need extra (strategic prevention) and some that are past that point and need intervention. Director Leyba would like something to be presented to the Board to show how all three areas are being addressed. Mrs. Miller said the health grant (the grant is through BOCES) is a good start with that. There is a tracking document with tiers. Tier 1 is universal SEL, Tier 2 is students referred by teachers and the health team discusses strategies to help the student to support them, and Tier 3 would be outside services (mental health providers, DHS reports). Mr. Nuschy said the same thing is being done at the Junior/Senior High School. Director Leyba asked if students are screened (home life, etc.) in tracking and is the impact made being documented.

Director Backes asked about the Safe Schools Report and it being an annual requirement and wondering if other districts lists items in their reports outside of what we report. He said the name of this report used to be the Safety Discipline Indicator (SDI). Superintendent Lovato said the data that we report is what we keep track of.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lovato said the bus barn is not at a total stand still, but wishes things would move quicker. He said we are still waiting on a few things to complete with the fire suppression system. Superintendent Lovato stated he is not happy that it is still not finished.

Summer school is going well and attendance numbers are good.

Superintendent Lovato informed the Board the swimming pool won't open on July 1 as scheduled due to an equipment delay. The opening is delayed until sometime in July and said the materials to manufacture the parts were delayed. Superintendent Lovato said this is a problem that is out of our hands and control. He said concrete work and plumbing that can be done is currently taking place. Director Derbigny asked if the hot tub would be repaired and Superintendent Lovato said that is not on the table right now.

The Colorado Department of Education just released their final budget numbers last Thursday. Superintendent Lovato said the statute states the budget must be approved by June 30 and he is confident there will be a good working plan to start with. The at-risk factors have changed and those have a significant impact on the budget. Director Backes asked if there were any surprises in the numbers received and Superintendent Lovato said the funding did decrease slightly, however, the district received more Title funding.

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Director Ayala inquired about the completion date of the bus barn. Superintendent Lovato shared that date is June 30. She asked if the building is not at the point of completion by then, what the next step would be. Superintendent Lovato said he is working with the contractor but isn't sure there are any consequences as the building is paid for. He said litigation is expensive and it is difficult to find another contractor to complete work if the contractor is fired or walks off the job. Superintendent Lovato said once the concrete floor is finished, it shouldn't be too long for completion. Director Ayala asked if the grounds are being maintained and Superintendent Lovato said they are being maintained as normal, however, the bus barn area is not. Director Ayala said it looks abandoned and she doesn't want people to think the job is not going to be completed.

Superintendent Lovato shared last week 280 lunches were served to students.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Policy GDBD on Second/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve 2021-2022 Accreditation Contract (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve 2021-2022 Educator Effectiveness Assurances (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve 2021-2022 Consolidated Federal Programs Application (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Purchase of a Battery Powered Mobile Column Lift and Pickup Truck Adapter System (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,040.00 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve 2021-2022 CASB Membership Dues (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,608.00 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve Renaissance Renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,171.92 AS PRESENTED**
- g. Approve the Purchase of School Buses (Lovato) **AFTER AMENDED MOTIONS THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS TABLED**
- h. Approve Revised Exhibits GCB-B-E1, GCB-B-E, GCBA-E, GCBA-E2, GDBA-E-1 on First/Revised/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
- i. Approve the Purchase of Computer Carts (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,980.00 AS PRESENTED**
- j. Approve the Purchase of Chromebook Tablets (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,220.00 AS PRESENTED**
- k. Approve the Purchase of the GoGuardian Suite (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,079.00 AS PRESENTED**
- l. Approve the Purchase of Chromebook Computers (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$145,600.00 AS PRESENTED**
- m. Approve the Purchase of Chromebooks for Paraprofessionals (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,200.00 AS PRESENTED**
- n. Approve the Purchase of the Aptegy Website (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,000.00 AS PRESENTED**
- o. Approve Letter of Commitment with Trane (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- p. Approve Emergency BEST Grant (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- q. Approve Special Meeting (Lovato) **APPROVED FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021 AS PRESENTED**
- r. Executive Session regarding student discipline per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(h). **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:27 P.M. MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:34 P.M.**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Ayala said "Go Team!"
- ✓ Director Bickel said graduation was great! It was wonderful and good to have it outdoors.
- ✓ Director Leyba liked the way graduation pictures were taken and appreciates that.
- ✓ Director Derbigny said she wished the fireworks show would have been longer at graduation, but the show was pretty. She said the students seemed to be ecstatic.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:37 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

