



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting

March 8, 2021

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **AUDIENCE**

Karen Gacnik, community member, spoke to the Board regarding the community indoor swimming pool located at the La Junta Junior/Senior High School.

Lauren Engebrecht, community member, spoke to the Board about the importance of the swimming pool at the Junior/Senior High School.

Harley Stokes, high school swimmer, encouraged the Board to repair and keep the swimming pool at La Junta Junior/Senior High School open.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Personnel Approval - Additions

C. Additions to the Extra Duty List

D. Approve Resolution in Support of Suspending State Assessments for the 2020-2021 School Year

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fund Balance Attached

8. NEW BUSINESS

E. Approve Purchase of Replacement Swimming Pool Filter

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

A. Personnel Approval

- Orlando Estrada Ruiz - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year
- Eva M. Rodriguez - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year
- Jennifer Quintana - New Hire as Health Aide for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year
- Christine Moreno - Resignation as Student Advocate at the Intermediate School effective May 28, 2021
- Kyle Schrock - Resignation as Junior High Math Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 28, 2021
- Brian Amaya - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year
- Michelle Montoya - New Hire as Head Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 season
- Bianca Good - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 season
- Adalida Foxhoven - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 season

B. Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for the 2020-2021 School Year

C. Approve Additional Extra Duty Assignments for the 2020-2021 School Year

D. Approve Resolution in Support of Suspending State Assessments for the 2020-2021 School Year

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, said the financial documents for February are attached to the agenda and show the month-to-date income and expenses both at \$1.2 million and in the black by \$7,500.00. The CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) reimbursement was approved for the fiscal year and reimbursement will be

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coming for the snack and supper program. The snack reimbursement for January was received and was over \$10,000.00. The funds were received after the February report was completed and they will be shown on the March report. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 8, 2021. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lovato said there was a slight miscommunication last month regarding the bus barn in terms of what was reported and the status of construction. He said the district is very happy with what White Construction has been able to do over the past few months. There were some hiccups getting started and Superintendent Lovato said he thinks that was documented long after the fact but he is very happy with things. The roof should be on before the end of the week and then the interior slab work will begin.

Summer school plans are similar to what has been done in the past but will be more in depth and most likely more students will be offered summer school than normal. Superintendent Lovato said this is due to the fact that a lot of face to face instruction was missed. He said summer school will not just be reading and writing. Superintendent Lovato feels the loss during Covid had more to do with socialization and kids not being able to do things than academics. He said on top of the remedial math and reading that typically goes on, work is being done to plan outings for the kids and making time for them to do fun things in the summer as well. He is excited about that and thinks this will be a great opportunity to work with kids not just academically but getting them out and doing things.

The state is working on a waiver to lessen the testing. The proposal that the state has come up with is grades 3, 5, and 7 will take English/Language Arts (ELA) assessments and grades 4, 6 and 8 will take Math assessments. Parents can choose to opt out of testing completely or if they would like their student to take the Math assessment instead of the ELA assessment, for example, they could opt in for that assessment. For now, the district is planning to test as normal.

Superintendent Lovato took a moment to recognize the district's retirees. The retirement ceremony will be held on April 30 and will be a luncheon. The April staff work day has been moved to the 30th in order to allow all staff the opportunity to attend. The 2020 retirees are Tammy Evett, Jody Harrington, Carol Morgan, Patty Schaff and Kelly Jo Smith. The 2021 retirees are Rod Bickel, Kelly Maik, Christine Moreno and Patti Rodgers. Patty Schaff and Kelly Jo Smith worked on a unique contract this year, but officially retired in 2020. Superintendent Lovato said he wants to make sure the retirees know how much they will be missed and are thanked for their service.

Superintendent Lovato recognized the activity bus drivers and full-time substitute teachers. He said these staff were unintentionally left out of the Christmas bonus appreciation and were not recognized at that time. He said these staff members will receive the \$500 bonus and he took a moment to recognize them.

The swimming pool has been well maintained for a long time. Superintendent Lovato researched to find out when certain maintenance was completed. He said the pump house area was neglected and some of the things in there are original to the build. He said there were several people who wanted a quick fix in order to finish out the swim season, but there wasn't any kind of guarantee to fix it quickly. Superintendent Lovato said the pool is on schedule to get repaired. The electrical will be upgraded as well as a structural issue being taken care of. He said the district will welcome any support but he said he does anticipate an increase in fees. Once the approval is received, it should take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete the job.

Regarding staff wellness, the staff work out area is almost complete. There was some equipment that wasn't delivered in the first shipment, but should be arriving tomorrow. The work out area should be open and available for use by the end of the week.

The audit has not gone very well, not in terms of black and red as the district is in good fiscal condition, but there has been a hard time getting the numbers to agree with the reporting system at the state. There are a lot of pieces to that, but Superintendent Lovato said we will own it and it is our job. The audit will be completed, however, there are internal things, such as grants not covering the entire cost of a program or item, which requires money needing to be transferred from the general fund to help offset the expense. Superintendent Lovato said we are working on the agreement with the reporting system that the state uses. He said the state has more of a bulk, with everything falling into what is called the 22s, which is the grant fund, and our grants are broken down by individual grants so it has taken longer than we wanted it to. Superintendent Lovato said he is not happy and he and Mrs. Reisch are going through it daily and it should be done very soon but just didn't make it at the deadline. He explained the district's tax revenue reimbursement is on hold from the state until the audit is complete. Superintendent Lovato

said he wanted to be upfront and own it. There are a lot of moving pieces to it but ultimately we have to get that done.

Director Leyba asked Superintendent Lovato to address who gets to use the staff work out area. Superintendent Lovato said staff and their immediate families may use it, however, he asks that only adults use the elliptical machines, bikes and treadmills. He said staff will be responsible for who they bring with them and cameras are in place. The work out area will be open and available from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Director Ayala asked Superintendent Lovato that once the bus barn is complete, but buses will no longer be on the basketball courts and playground equipment will be installed. He said the buses will be moved and the type of playground equipment will be determined by the age group attending Tiger Trades Academy. He stated there is still playground equipment in place. Director Ayala also asked if there is anything else that needs upgrading in the pool area. Superintendent Lovato said the locker rooms were redone a year ago, anti-skid coating has been applied the to the deck. The liner had a couple of holes that were patched.

Director Derbigny inquired about the hot tub. Superintendent Lovato said the hot tub could be possibly removed. It hasn't worked, the heating element is bad and there have been supervision issues with it.

Director Bickel asked if the swimming pool is included in the athletic facility update rotation. Superintendent Lovato said yes and the improvements have included the deck and liner.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policy JJJ on Second/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Share Results of Board Self-Evaluation (Leyba) **DIRECTOR LEYBA READ THE BOARD SELF-EVALUATION THAT WAS DISCUSSED AND COMPLETED DURING THE WORK SESSION. THIS EVALUATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE LOCATED AT EAST OTERO SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE.**
- b. Approve Purchase of New Kitchen Equipment (Lovato) **APPROVED QUOTE 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$198,729.00 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Purchase of the Naviance Program (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,515.50 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve the Purchase of Synthetic Turf Replacement (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$462,433.00 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve the Purchase of the Replacement Swimming Pool Filter and Necessary Repairs (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,495.36 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve Administrative Staff Employment Renewals – Resolution 2021-1 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Backes thanked the audience for their comments and sharing their perspectives regarding the swimming pool. She said it is good to hear from stakeholders and students and that it is good to have people actively involved and speaking to the Board directly. She congratulated the swimmers who are going to state.
- ✓ Director Bickel said she was emotional due looking back at this same time last year.
- ✓ Director Ayala said, "Go Team!"
Superintendent Lovato said good luck to the swimmers and the Tiger Talkers who had an exceptional weekend. Overall, being back in person has been tremendously emotional for everybody. The reception and support from the community-at-large has been awesome. Superintendent Lovato thanked the Board for taking the time to call him and ask questions. He really appreciates that and wants people to feel comfortable to call him.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 p.m.

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| <u>BOARD OF EDUCATION</u> | |
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