



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**

**January 29, 2020**

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **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. A gift bag from the Intermediate School, which included framed art, were presented to each member by Intermediate Student Council officers: Maribella Salazar, Vice President; Gabby Ojeda, Secretary; Sophia Reger, Color Guard; and Isabella Ortiz, Treasurer. The Intermediate School thanked the Board for everything they have done.

4. **INTERMEDIATE 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS**

Ms. Gonzales' and Miss Herrera's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class presented their projects to the Board they recently completed. Students who present were: Mia Carrillo, Drake Coffield-Bamber, Ericka Kadlecek, Matthew Sohn-Neel and Jordan Martinez. Mia Carrillo began with her presentation on the two states of Utah and Arizona. She shared informative and interesting facts about each state, both with a power point and display board presentation. Drake Coffield-Bamber shared facts about his chosen states of New Mexico and Colorado. Both are students in Ms. Gonzales' class and have been working on their state project for the past two and one-half weeks. Miss Herrera's class has been working on "How To" projects. They wrote an essay and had a display board to explain their project. Matthew Sohn-Neel and Jordan Martinez teamed up for their project, which explained "How To" play basketball. Ericka Kadlecek's "How To" project informed the audience how to make root beer floats. The students were thanked by the Board for being brave and sharing their projects.

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

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

**A. Personnel Approval**

- Tabitha Kinney - Resignation as Paraprofessional at the Primary School effective December 9, 2019
- Sarah Garrett - New Hire as Part-time Health Aide at the Intermediate School for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year
- Adalida Foxhoven - Resignation as Paraprofessional at Tiger Trades Academy effective December 19, 2019
- Thebe Lay - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year
- Socorro Morales, Jr. - New Hire as Custodian at the Junior/Senior High School for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year

**B. Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for the 2019-2020 School Year**

**C. Approve Resolution to Appoint Rick Lovato as Authorized Representative for Federal Programs**

7. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, explained there were more expenses than revenue this month. She said the food commodities didn't arrive at the schools as scheduled. Special meals had been planned, i.e., Thanksgiving celebration, that food had to be bought for which increased food service costs. At this time a different commodities supplier is being sought. Director Leyba asked if the Chartwells newsletters have been posted on the district website or social media. She stated she would like them posted. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

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### **8. MINUTES**

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 9, 2019 and Special Meetings on December 30, 2019 and January 2, 2020. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

### **9. PRESENTATIONS**

Chris Mettes, Excel Energy Group, gave a brief presentation to the Board explaining the benefits of energy efficient lighting for the district. He said Excel Energy Group completed a district-wide audit last fall. To switch the entire district over to LED lighting would cost \$183,343.00, however, the district would save \$39,797.00 in energy and demand savings. LED lighting uses less than 50% of the energy that is used by the existing light fixtures. He explained the LED bulbs should last 20 years and Excel Energy Group has a 10-year guarantee on the light fixtures. Mr. Mettes said Excel Energy Group has completed this service for over 1700 school districts.

### **10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Superintendent Lovato updated the Board on the Primary Construction and Bus Barn Construction projects. Right now, the punch list at the Primary School is down to around 40-50 items. He explained that between now and final approval, discussion of the final payment will be made. Architects are visiting to look at the bus barn.

The Unified Improvement Plans for the Primary and Intermediate Schools are under review at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). The Junior/Senior High School and District plans are due in April to CDE.

Superintendent Lovato would like to have a budget work session in mid- to late February. He explained the bus fleet is aging and needs to be looked at. Some districts are opting to use propane or electric buses.

The Colorado Department of Education has revised the graduation requirements. The Junior/Senior High School Building Leadership Team is reviewing all the options. Superintendent Lovato said there will be some type of exit exam in order to graduate beginning with the class of 2020-21. He also stated ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan) communication needs to be improved so students are aware of their options. There will be parent and informational meetings over the next few months. Superintendent Lovato said the BLT is looking at the policy and have been asked to have a draft by April for approval.

Districts tend to follow Otero Junior College's spring break. For the 2020-21 school year, OJC's spring break will be the week of March 8, 2021. Schools in the area are following suite. The calendar is currently being worked on and is still in draft form. Superintendent Lovato did share there will not be Late Start next year for any grade level. Superintendent Lovato shared he, Mr. Nuschy, Mrs. Foxhoven, Mrs. Addington and Mrs. Apodaca recently attended the S-CAP review in Akron. He said it went well and it was nice to have some of our staff attend a review at another district. He is looking forward to continuing with the process. The district is still working on the strategic priorities. The district has received the Make It Happen Grant, which is the second part of the WISH grant. This grant will allow implementation of the health and wellness plan that was constructed last year. Superintendent Lovato said he and the principals recently attended a Health and Wellness Conference. They came back with a lot of interesting ideas to help develop mental and physical wellness for both students and staff. He said the focus was on moral of the staff and how to better provide things for staff so that stress is reduced. A work out facility for staff is currently in the planning stage.

The EASI Connect for Success Grant has also been received. There is a kick off meeting at the Colorado Department of Education on February 10. This grant will help facilitate the next steps after the Turnaround Leadership in order to improve with our school improvement plan. The district is continuing work with Generation Schools Network (GSN). Superintendent Lovato said the district will receive \$360,000 over the next three years through the grant. \$20,000 will be received the first year (this year), then \$80,000 over the following two years. A lot of those funds will go to GSN, but there is money available to help with our improvement effort and resources. Superintendent Lovato said on March 6 a Health and Wellness event will be hosted at the Primary School. Kevin Hines, a suicide prevention speaker will give a presentation that morning. This speaker is available in conjunction with Otero County. In the afternoon, there will be a kick-off event using the Make It Happen grant where t-shirts and other items will be given out.

Director Ayala asked how late start affects jump start. Superintendent Lovato clarified there will not be late or jump start. She asked about the summer school program and was informed summer school will be mandatory for some of the students due to the READ Act.

### **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Approve Revised Policies BC, BEDA and CBF on Second/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Designate official posting sites for Board Meeting Notices (Lovato) **DESIGNATED BOARDDOCS ON DISTRICT WEBSITE, CENTRAL OFFICE BULLETIN BOARD, EACH SCHOOL BUILDING, AND NOTIFICATION TO LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND RADIO STATION**
- b. Approve Revised Policies BEC, GBEB, ILBC, JLCD, JLCDB, KDB and KFA on First/Revised Reading and Revised Regulations BC-R, GCE/GCF-R, GDE/GDF-R and ILBC-R on First/Revised/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED AND FIRST/REVISED/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve District-Wide Energy Efficient Lighting Project (Lovato) **TABLED WITH AN AMENDED MOTION PENDING RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL BIDS**
- d. Approve Copier Purchase (Lovato) **APPROVED WITH A 4-1 VOTE AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve Boiler Replacement at Columbian School (Lovato) **TABLED WITH AN AMENDED MOTION PENDING MEETING WITH CDS**
- f. Approve the 2019-2020 Final Budget (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- g. Approve the Appropriation Resolution for the 2019-2020 Budget (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- h. Approve the Contingency Reserve Resolution for 2019-2020 (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

**12 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session regarding Personnel Matters per C.R.S. 24-5-402 (4)(f) and Student Discipline Matters per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(h) **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:33 P.M. MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:39 P.M.**

**13. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Backes commented about the Primary School Open House and unveiling. She wanted to say how amazing things turned out and thanked everyone who had that vision and who put in the work. She thanked the Primary teachers for being good sports. She said it is a really neat outcome for all that hard work. Director Leyba commented about how bright and inviting the building is.
- ✓ Director Ayala thanked all the presenters at tonight’s meeting. She said she won’t ever tire of seeing students give presentations to the Board. She loves that the students come and let the Board know what they are doing. Director Ayala also stated that the renovated Primary school gave the same sense of Tiger Pride that the stadium did. She said it was talked about at the Chamber of Commerce banquet. Director Ayala stated it was a job well done by everyone involved.
- ✓ Director Bickel gave an update on the BOCES meeting. She said Sandy Malouff wanted to retire this upcoming year. Brenda Woodyard has been training to take her spot as director. Mrs. Malouff asked to work one more year and Mrs. Woodyard felt she could use one more year of training. Co-director contracts were offered to Mrs. Malouff and Mrs. Woodyard.
- ✓ Directory Leyba shared information on the school health professional grant program. This grant helps districts hire counselors, psychologists or social workers in areas of mental health and must use evidence based programming. This grant can be applied for by a district or a BOCES. Director Leyba said this would be a nice way to bring resources to this area. She said in the southeast corner of the state there has not been a lot of requests for grants.
- ✓ Director Backes thanked the La Junta Intermediate School for the Board thank you gifts. She said they were very nice.
- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said the Meet and Confer meeting will be coming up. He said he and the principals will be pushing “row together”. He explained that when people are rowing together, the boat moves forward. He said this will be a sticking point over the next several months.

**13. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:47 p.m.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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