



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
July 28, 2020

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Bickel, Derbigny and Leyba.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **AUDIENCE**

Ezequiel Rangel, an incoming Senior, spoke to the Board regarding his desire to return to school. He explained he wants to experience Senior life, see his friends, and participate in athletics. He said he understands there is a pandemic and the district has to be careful, but he would like to have the option to attend school and allow parents to have the option to decide for their student.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS UPDATED**
 2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **ADDITION - Adalida Foxhoven - New Hire as 7th Grade Science Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2020-2021 school year**
 - **Kelley Jones - New Hire as 5th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2020-2021 school year**
 5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - B. **Approve Odysseyware Renewal - Quote attached 7-27-20**
 - D. **Policy EBCE added 7-28-20**
 - E. **Approve Revised Policies - Policies EBBA and JH added 7-27-20**
 - F. **Added Name of Title IX Coordinator**
 - J. **ADDITION - Declare a Critical Shortage for School Bus Drivers**
 - K. **ADDITION - Approve Purchase of Student Desk Partitions (Added during meeting)**
 - L. **ADDITION – Approve Purchase of Webcams and Headsets (Added during meeting)**
 - M. **ADDITION - Approve Purchase of Food Service Equipment (Added during meeting)**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Adalida Foxhoven - New Hire as 7th Grade Science Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Kelley Jones - New Hire as 5th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2020-2021 school year
 - B. **Approve Resolution to Define Actively Engaged in the Educational Process and Student Attendance for the 2020-2021 School Year**
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, said the fund balance, which includes a June 2019 to June 2020 comparison, as well as the cash flow are attached. She said with the month's revenue and expenses, we are in the black \$583,542. She said this does not include the May food service. This hasn't been deposited in the bank yet, but when it is it will be an additional \$186,000. She said they are still working on getting the summer program set up into the new system, so none of the June summer sales have been entered. July will be finished up later on. Mrs. Reisch said hopefully in the next couple of days or early next week the June sales will be finished. Director Leyba asked about the new system Mrs. Reisch referenced. Mrs. Reisch said emergency claims were put into a spread sheet due to COVID, but now have transferred to the regular summer program food service app but they are still working in the 2019-2020 school year. Usually summer programming is input into the next school year. Once it is updated, then claim submissions can be input. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Lovato said there are a few things that are being worked on which are not COVID related, such as revising the consolidated application and Read Act funding, which added a different component to the budget this year.

He said everything has been centered on what the district is going to do for school. This is a state- and country-wide topic. He said he has been working with other districts in our area, as well as the S-CAP partner districts. There is a division regarding face to face versus remote delivery of instruction and this is a legitimate social issue. He said he is respectful of that and wants to be clear about offering an online plan for those who have any reservations or health condition that will prohibit students from feeling safe in the buildings. Superintendent Lovato said not all districts are able to offer this as an option and he is proud that our district can. The online instruction will look different for students in grades K-4 than for students in grades 5-12. The K-4 availability will be interactive with a homeroom classroom teacher from our school who will be in the building.

Superintendent Lovato is aware there are a number of teachers who have health or high-risk issues and concerns and the district is trying to accommodate them as well. He said there will be a mask for every student and a mask and face shield for every teacher. Also, if the back to school plan passes, there will be desk partitions in every elementary classroom. He said he is trying to take every single precaution.

Most importantly, there are a lot of personal opinions and beliefs that need to be respected and honored in the process of choosing school for students. He respects this and has spent a lot of time deciding what could best benefit our students. He said this is a parent decision, not a school decision. Education seems to be the only profession where every aspect is expected to be accommodated. Superintendent Lovato said this is our profession and in this profession, there are inherent risks that are beyond control. In larger cities, there are teachers who are refusing to come to work and have major health concerns, and we have that as well just not on as large of a scale. Superintendent Lovato said he respects that and is working with teachers to accommodate those needs also. In the event of another school closure, teachers will be able to teach from their classrooms through technology and take their own children with them to their classrooms instead of having to find daycare. This is one of the accommodations for teachers that will be implemented.

Superintendent Lovato is asking parents as they contemplate what they are going to do, to see what is best for their child and choose the best opportunity that is available. He said he would love for that to be an East Otero School District choice. He is aware there are a number of online schools, but some seem to be just after the money. He said he would like to keep our tax dollars in the community. Superintendent Lovato said this has been a difficult road and is trying to accommodate needs and wants parents to have a sound choice on what best suites their children.

Director Derbigny asked if the teachers who have concerns will be able to teach remotely. Superintendent Lovato said if it at all possible for remote teaching opportunities, the district will be able to accommodate those needs, but we won't know the number of online students until registration is complete. Director Derbigny also stated that the situation is exactly the same as it was in March except the disease has advanced. Superintendent Lovato said the situation is not the same because in March we were in a stay at home phase and now we are in the safer at home phase. He explained the back to school plan follows the CDC and CDE guidelines and are using their guidance to help decide what is available. He said we wouldn't have a choice if things were the same as they were in March. He said the protect your neighbor phase will include greater choices as well as risks. Director Derbigny stated she and Superintendent Lovato have different definitions of pandemic severity. Superintendent Lovato shared that the health department sets the orders and the district will follow the orders that are in place.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Back to School Plan (Lovato) **APPROVED ON A 3-2 VOTE AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Odysseyware Renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,500.00**
- c. Adopt Regulations EBBA-R and AC-R-2 on First/Revised/Final Reading and Policy GBAB on First/Revised Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Revised Policies GBGA and JII on First/Revised Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve Revised Policies EBBA, JH, JLCC, KI, AC, JBB, IKA, JB, JICDD, JICDE, JICEA and JICEC on First/Revised/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve Revised Regulation AC-R-1 and Exhibits AC-E-1 and AC-E-2 on First/Revised/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

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- g. Approve Purchase of Acer Tablet Cases (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,300.00**
- h. Approve English Language Arts Curriculum Purchase (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$91,798.06**
- i. Approve World History Curriculum Purchase (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,437.71**
- j. Declare a Critical Shortage for School Bus Drivers (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- k. Approve Purchase of Student Partitions (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,930.00**
- l. Approve Purchase of Webcams and Headsets (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,745.00**
- m. Approve Purchase of Food Service Equipment (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,636.07**

9. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Superintendent Lovato said food service will be available to homebound online students, but unlike this summer where any child aged 0-18 could eat, only registered students will be allowed to get food. He said he is still working on putting together protocol and videos that describe and show what a typical day will look like from start to finish. He said one of the struggles that the principals and he and the principals have had, which is not isolated to us, but the plans that have been made for hypothetical situations that never came to be. He said he still plans on communicating. Registration is still open online, but parents won't have to make a decision until August 11 and 12. This is when we would like to know what parents would like, online or face to face. He said staff may need to be shuffled if there is a large amount of online requests. He said the plan that was released is still subject to change. He has heard that on July 30, the Governor will be making more education-based decisions in a press conference. He said we will roll with the punches if things change again. He is thankful for the support that has been received and he is really trying to meet whatever needs may be out there. He said the district isn't the parent and doesn't want to make the decision, but did want to clarify that food service for La Junta students will be available regardless of delivery.
- ✓ Director Ayala said she appreciates all the planning. She said as a parent on the fence, as much information that can be put out there to help parents better make a choice. She said there is too much gray area to fully confident say let's go to school. She said the sooner videos are out, the better. She would rather over saturate than have someone fall through the cracks and wants to give as much information as we can.
- ✓ Director Backes thanked the front line workers that have been providing lunches this summer. She said they have been enduring a lot with the weather conditions. She thanked those have been working diligently on the plans, knowing they can change at any time. Director Backes thanked staff and teachers and anyone else who will become front line workers. She said whatever the case may be, teachers will be considered front line workers at some point and will be joining the front lines. She is thanking them in advance because she knows there are differing opinions and comfort levels. Director Backes thanked those who put the time in on the plan because there is an education experience for every comfort level for each family. She said no one can tell parents or should tell them that their concerns aren't valid. She is happy to offer choices to our stakeholders, students and families.

10. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:16 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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