



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**October 28, 2024**

1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, S. Ayala, Hines and Leyba. Derbigny and Leyba were absent.
2. **PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW THE UNIFIED IMPROVEMENT PLAN**  
Superintendent Blincoe explained the purpose of the public hearing is an opportunity to review the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) with those who are interested. He said the UIP is a plan that each building, as well as the district, turn in to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). It is a plan to show CDE how the district will work on academic improvement. This summer, Superintendent Blincoe and the principals traveled to the University of Virginia (UVA) and made a 90-day improvement plan for their building while they were there. CDE allowed this 90-day improvement plan to be used for the UIP. Mrs. Foxhoven said the UIP seems to be more in depth.  
  
There were no public comments.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **CELEBRATIONS**  
Neveah Rivas, Adrianna Ayala and Nyleh Maceda, all 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students at La Junta Intermediate School presented the solar pizza ovens they created to the Board. They explained how they made the ovens and what they cooked on them.
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
  9. **NEW BUSINESS**
    - E. **Abre Contract attached**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
  - A. **Personnel Approval**
    - Olivia Lewis - New Hire as Math Interventionist at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2025 school year
    - Joel Ortiz - New Hire as High School Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach for the 2024 season
    - Wyatt Buhr - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2024 season
    - Diego Vigil-Reyes - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2024 season
    - Questa Parrish - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2025 school year
    - Kamryn Fisher - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at Child Development Services for the 2024-2025 school year
    - Gilberto Nava - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2024-2025 school year
    - Dalina Leon - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2024-2025 school year
    - Monica Martinez - New Hire as Technology/Maintenance Secretary for the 2024-2025 school year
  - B. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for the 2024-2025 School Year**
  - C. **Approval of District Advisory Council's Master Action Plan and Membership List for 2024-2025**
  - D. **Approve Building Accountability Committee Members for 2024-2025 School Year**
7. **FINANCIAL REPORT - Heather Nelson, Business Manager, presented the Board with the First Quarter Financial Report. She reviewed the revenues and expenditures, and shared the revenues requested have not yet been received. Each fund balance was listed (General, Food Service, Bond, Capital Projects) and reviewed. Finishing off the report were the bank balances (First National Bank, Colorado Bank and Trust, and ColoTrust). Ms. Nelson explained the general fund is housed at the First National Bank, the activity accounts are at Colorado Bank and Trust, and bond investments at ColoTrust. FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
8. **MINUTES -**
  - A. Minutes of September 23, 2024. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

**9. PRESENTATIONS -**

**District Advisory Council Report – John Hannel**

John Hannel, District Advisory Council (DAC) Representative, did not attend the meeting. This report will be placed on next month's agenda. Superintendent Blincoe said there have been two DAC meetings held so far this year.

**CMAS Results/Unified Improvement Plan (Building Principals)**

Ken McNerney, Tiger Trades Academy Principal, said the frameworks are a report from the Colorado Department of Education. He said the purpose of Tiger Trades Academy (TTA) is to take kids where they are and get them ready for a career. The performance indicators for TTA are: Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, Student Engagement and Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness. Mr. McNerney explained that for Academic Achievement and Growth, TTA previously listed as "insufficient data" (due to TTA's small population) is now listed as "does not meet". The Student Engagement numbers are rising as well. Mr. McNerney was proud to announce that he has a 100% graduation rate. TTA has moved from an Insufficient Data rating to an Improvement rating, which is an impressive overall rating of 52.5%.

Claudia Apodaca, Intermediate School Principal, shared the purpose of the Intermediate School: "At La Junta Intermediate School we have an ethical responsibility to establish quality and equitable education for our students. Every day we strive to encourage, challenge, and support each other as we aim for the same goal and cross the line together through collaboration, trust, building relationships, safety and respect! Students will be equipped to serve their community successfully through engaging and rigorous learning experiences that will enable high levels of achievement!" Mrs. Apodaca said this purpose was created while at the University of Virginia (UVA) this summer. She shared data that Mr. Sam Schneider, with the Colorado Department of Education, reviewed at last month's meeting. This data shows the Intermediate School had a 9% overall improvement from last year. Mrs. Apodaca said the Intermediate will be required to present to the State Board of Education the plan for improvement. She said when the Intermediate School moves up another category on the accountability scale, that level will have to be maintained for two years in order to get off the accountability clock. Mrs. Apodaca said she and Superintendent Blincoe have met with partial managers (TNTP, Relay, or UVA), which has been recommended by CDE to obtain. The CDE Commissioner will be at the Intermediate School on February 4, and she will share her observations from this visit with the State Board of Education. The hearing in front of the State Board will possibly be February 12 or 13. Mrs. Apodaca said feedback will be requested from parents, students and community. This information will be shared at the State Board hearing as well. The Big Rocks for the Intermediate are: Big Rock #1-Systems for knowledge and clarity of standards aligned planning and instruction and Big Rock #2-Systems for Observation, Feedback, and Coaching (the Instructional Learning Team is doing weekly walkthroughs). The next two year's goals that are being looked at are: Tier 1 Grade Level Instruction in Math + ELA, Accelerating Student Learning in Foundational Reading Skills, Sustain a culture of belonging for staff, students, and teachers, and Teacher development, recruitment, and retention. She said math curriculum is being looked at, and all curriculum being reviewed are on the CDE recommended list.

Julie Miller, Primary School Principal, shared the Primary School's vision: "At La Junta Primary School it starts with us. We will help change the performance trajectory of East Otero School district by preparing our students both socially and academically for third grade and beyond. Through teamwork and collaboration, we will ensure that our students feel accepted, loved, valued, capable and challenged. We will promote trust, remove barriers and create pathways for every student to thrive. We collectively believe that all of our students can achieve anything they aspire to and therefore they will." She said the Primary student's do not state test, but the Primary is required to report Dibels data to CDE. The Dibels data showed in three years' time, an increase in school wide Dibels reading data from 60% to 79% of students' school wide being at benchmark by the end of the year. Mrs. Miller shared that in three years' time, the Primary has cut the total number of students on READ plans from 121 students at the end of the 2021-2022 school year to 67 students at the end of this past school year 2023-2024. She said that's nearly half and so far for the 2024-2025 school year, there are 35 students who require a READ plan. Mrs. Miller reviewed the NWEA data. The Primary's Big Rocks are: 1) Systems for Knowledge and Clarity of Standards-Aligned Planning and Instruction and 2) Systems for Observation, Feedback, and Coaching. Mrs. Miller said the 90-day plan also aligns with the Primary UIP.

Jennifer Foxhoven, Junior/Senior High School Principal, shared the Junior/Senior High School purpose statement: "La Junta Jr/Sr High School is the place to be! Students are nurtured to clearly communicate, to take responsibility, and to adapt through a comprehensive education that prepares them for post-secondary education, military and/or workforce readiness. We aim to empower students and adults to lead lives of purpose and impact by fostering a culture of inclusion, respect, and forever learning. Our collaborative approach ensures that everyone feels valued and supported in our shared journey to success." This statement is read at building meetings and is being pushed out to the community. The Junior/Senior High School's School Performance Framework (SPF) Plan Type is: Improvement Plan 43.8%. The three Indicator Rating Totals are: 1) Academic Achievement-Does Not Meet; 2) Academic Growth-

Approaching; and 3) Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness-Meets. The Test Participation Rates-Meets 95%. The 90-Day Plan/UIP Goals are: 1) Increase ELA Proficiency, 2) Increase Math Proficiency, and 3) Maintain Graduation Rate. Mrs. Foxhoven shared the plan to catch students up 1.3 years' academic growth are: 1) Create a Culture of Belonging-Support Structures; 2) Deliver Consistent Grade-Level Instruction-Data-Informed Instruction; and 3) Build Coherent Instructional Program-Coaching Culture. A district infra-structure is being put into place: UVA-PLE, a Partial Manager, the CDE and Strategic Planning.

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -**

The total enrollment is at 1283, which is slightly down. Each grade level is hovering around 100 students.

Dr. Sam Schneider will be in the district tomorrow and walk-throughs will be done.

Superintendent Blincoe said he will be looking at the applications that have been submitted for the Chief Academic Officer (CAO). He will hopefully have that on the agenda for next month's approval.

Director Hines asked how many are local applicants for the CAO position. Superintendent Blincoe said there are four in-district applicants and four out-of-town/out-of-state applicants.

**11. DISCUSSION -**

**Discussion on Building Roofs**

A discussion was held regarding the condition of the roofs needing repaired/replaced in the district. Mr. Garrett Hall with the Garland Company attended the meeting. Superintendent Blincoe said it would be very difficult to take on the roof project with all of the focus being on academics. He explained the lengthy process for BEST Grant application. Garland Company came and inspected our roofs that are in need of repair. Mr. Garrett shared the conditions of the roofs at the Junior/Senior High School and Columbian School. Mr. Garrett explained four different replacement options, each at a different cost. If the district decides to work on obtaining a BEST Grant to help with the roofing costs, the submission is due February 10, 2025. Superintendent Blincoe said two to three different bids will need to be obtained. He stated if the district is going to move forward for the BEST Grant, CDE will have to be notified soon. There is a review period and the project may or may not be approved to receive the funds. Superintendent Blincoe said he will give the Board a closer number of the district's percentage of the cost. He said it usually falls between 10-20%. Director A. Ayala asked why the only roofs looked at were the Junior/Senior High School and Columbian School. Superintendent Blincoe said these roofs were in the worst shape in the district. Director A. Ayala asked if the Primary roof leak has been repaired and it has. She asked Mr. Hall if the roof's lifespan have been exceeded. He said yes and at the Junior/Senior High School the roof has failed. Director A. Ayala asked if the cost includes having to move the air conditioner units. Superintendent Blincoe said the units don't have to be moved and Mr. Hall said the quote does include those types of things. Director A. Ayala said she feels this is something that can't be put off. Superintendent Blincoe said he will add this to the next agenda for the Board's approval to move forward. Director Hines asked about the possible insurance money for Columbian. Mr. Miell said he hasn't heard back from the Colorado School District's Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP) yet.

**Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Instruments**

Superintendent Blincoe said he had a Zoom meeting this morning regarding an electronic evaluation instrument (SuperEval). He explained this is a company from the east coast and is currently working with one school district in Colorado. A short video was shown explaining SuperEval. Director S. Ayala asked if this has a quarterly update option. Superintendent Blincoe said this evaluation tool gives each Board member a voice. There is a cost, which is \$2300 plus \$400 set up fee. Currently, since they are breaking into the Colorado market, this year the annual fee is \$1150. Director Hines said she likes the idea of adding evidence throughout the year to fairly evaluate the superintendent. She explained as a new Board member last year, she didn't have the knowledge to fully evaluate the superintendent. Director A. Ayala asked what the rubric is on this instrument. Superintendent Blincoe said there are four ratings.

**Update on a Partial Manager**

The district will need to hire a partial manager due to the accountability rating. Superintendent Blincoe said he and Claudia Apodaca have had several virtual meetings with different partial managers. He shared there are four being looked at and this will be on the agenda next month for approval.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for School Resource Officer (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,480.00 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the Purchase of Teacher Computers (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,980.00 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Finalsite as the New Website (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,340.00 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Independent Contract with Redlands Accounting and Advisory, LLC (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,000.00 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve the Abre Contract (Blincoe) **APPROVED ON AN AMENDED MOTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,965.00 AS PRESENTED**

**13. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director A. Ayala applauded staff and thanked the principals for their presentations. She feels this is the type of leadership needed. She also thanked Superintendent Blincoe for his hard work. She thanked everyone for their open collaboration.
- ✓ Director S. Ayala thanked Mrs. Apodaca for the Fall Festival as well as Chartwells for the food. She said it was fun and she likes seeing the kids so happy. She also thanked parents that helped with the event. Mrs. Apodaca thanked the community for the donations and shared there were over 600 meals served.
- ✓ Director A. Ayala thanked the presenters for coming to the meeting.

**14. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:36 p.m.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*DEE LEYBA, President                      ANGELA AYALA, Vice President*  
*DARLENE DERBIGNY, Secretary/Treasurer                      STACEY AYALA, Director*  
*SARA HINES, Director*