



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



BOARD WRAP-UP

**Board of Education Regular Meeting
June 24, 2024**

PUBLIC HEARING OF FY 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET - A public hearing was held for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning the annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. There were no comments or concerns brought to the Board's attention.

1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, S. Ayala, Derbigny, and Leyba. Director Hines was absent.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- **Adriana Juki - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year**
- **Britney Smith – New Hire as an Art Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2025 school year**

8. NEW BUSINESS

- i. **Approve the Purchase of a Battery Backup System - added 6-20-24**

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

A. Personnel Approval

- Belinda Apodaca - New Hire as an Elementary Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
- Tamara Rabenseifner - New Hire as 8th Grade Science Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2025 school year
- Francisco Viescas - New Hire as Industrial Arts Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2024-2025 school year
- Rebecca Griffin - New Hire as a Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2024-2025 school year
- Rick Salazar - New Hire as Technology Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2024-2025 school year
- Heather Estrada - Resignation as PE Teacher at the Intermediate School effective May 23, 2024
- Carlos Rangel - Resignation as Jr High Football and Track Coach effective May 23, 2024
- Jacob Martinez - Resignation as Track Coach effective May 28, 2024
- Aaron Torres - New Hire as Route and Activity Bus Driver for the 2024-2025 school year
- Emilee Weirich - New Hire as the District Nurse for the 2024-2025 school year
- Wyatt Buhr - New Hire as Physical Education Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
- Tina Pearson Austin - New Hire as Route Bus Driver for the 2024-2025 school year
- Adriana Juki - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year

B. Approve Fall Sports Extra Duty Assignments for the 2024-2025 Season

C. Approve Revised Policies AC, GBAA, and JBB on First/Revised Reading

D. Approve Revised Regulations AC-R-1, AC-R-2 and AC-R-3 on First/Revised/Final Reading

E. Approve Revised Policies GDBD and IC/ICA on Second/Final Reading

F. Approve Activity Funds Bank Account and First National Bank Funds Resolution

5. **MINUTES -**

A. Minutes of May 13, 2024, May 20, 2024, June 10, 2024 and June 13, 2024. APPROVED AS PRINTED

B. Approve Corrected Minutes for Special Meeting on April 10, 2024. APPROVED CORRECTION AS PRINTED

PRESENTATIONS -

District Safety Update (Richard Romero)

Richard Romero, Safety and Security Coordinator, shared the district received one Safe2Tell report this past school year, which was received by the building administration.

Mr. Romero said reunification training will be held July 22-23 and the Colorado Rural Safety Project has provided \$6850.00 to help pay for staff in attendance who are not on contract days. Mr. Romero also shared there are three people coming from the Colorado Department of Public Safety. He has applied for a safety grant and is hoping this will help in obtaining it. The district will continue drills once per quarter.

With the E3 app, some bugs are still being worked out. An update occurred early this year, which took care of some issues. This app is used by staff for fire and lockdown drills, and in the event of an emergency.

There are 181 security cameras throughout the district. Mr. Romero said he is looking at replacing some of the older cameras that have been in service since 2017. Some cameras were also lost due to power outages and he is working on getting those replaced as well.

All buildings have main entry access control. All doors at the Intermediate and Primary are access controlled. Mr. Romero said he would like to get all doors at the Junior/Senior High and Tiger Trades Academy to be access controlled as well.

The annual maintenance on the cameras and access control was performed last week. The annual burglary and fire alarm maintenance will take place in July.

The fire alarm system at the bus barn has to have the board replaced due to the power outage knocking it out. It will be replaced this Wednesday. The fire alarm system at Tiger Trades Academy is very old, but still functions. Any changes to the system will require an upgrade which could be very expensive. The Intermediate School's system has been updated over the last few years, which has taken care of most of the issues. The Junior/Senior High School system is running fine as well as the Primary School.

The burglary systems are aged and dated with the exception of the Primary School due to the renovation. All the panels were replaced two years ago, however, the door magnets and motion detectors are aged. Mr. Romero is currently working with an alarm company to upgrade these devices.

Mr. Romero shared the district has had some burglaries, with the most recent being the 4-wheeler at the Junior/Senior High School, as well as some chairs. In addition to the 4-wheeler burglary, the shed at the stadium was broken into and a Ranger side-by-side was stolen (recovered in another town), tools stolen from the scoreboard installers, and one of our track coaches was assaulted. Mr. Romero voiced a concern regarding a compound across the street from the Junior/Senior High School stadium. He said the homeless foot traffic on or around the Junior/Senior High School and stadium has considerably increased and they all go over the compound. Mr. Romero said he is working with local authorities to get help with the compound issue. Director A. Ayala commented her own mother had a run in with the people from the compound and said they are very brazen. She suggested the community speak with the County commissioners due to the property being in the county. She also said this is a concern for our students and their environment.

Director Derbigny asked if the staff from the Colorado Department of Safety regularly attend trainings. Mr. Romero said no, they heard about the training and asked to attend.

Director A. Ayala asked if the E3 app is compromised. Mr. Romero said no, it wasn't hacked, it was a staff member who took a screenshot and sent it to the press. He said he is going to suggest to E3 that they build a feature into the app that will record who takes a screenshot. Director A. Ayala asked about the training. Mr. Romero said it is a 2-day training, one day in the classroom and the second day going through a reunification drill. He said he feels this will be good and beneficial.

Building Safe Schools Report (Building Principals)

Jennifer Foxhoven, Junior/Senior High School Principal, was unable to attend the meeting. There were 31 suspensions this year at the Junior/Senior High School, with three students expelled. Enrollment was at 554 students: 7th grade had 107 students, 8th grade had 104 students, 9th grade had 96 students, 10th grade had 95 students, 11th grade had 77 students and 12th grade had 75 students. The average class size was 15.8 students. The dropout rate continues at less than 1%. The average daily attendance rate was at 89.23%.

Ken McNerney, Tiger Trades Academy (TTA) Principal said TTA had 51 suspensions this year, with five expulsions. He said there were some behaviors mid-year that he hasn't had to deal with before. A total of 141 students were enrolled: there were 17 middle school students who were hybrid online/campus) and 18 full-time on campus; there were 41 high school students who were hybrid (online/campus) and 65 full-time on campus. The dropout rate was less than 1%. The average daily attendance rate was 74.69%.

Director Derbigny asked what an itinerant substitute is. Superintendent Lovato explained they are substitute teachers who are working toward a degree. She asked Mr. McNerney if he had data that showed TTA students who are proficient and below level. Mr. McNerney said TTA students do take the NWEA assessment. Director Derbigny asked if the gym at TTA is being worked on. Mr. McNerney said yes the panels are in the process of being replaced, however, maintenance is down staff members, so if they are called somewhere else they have to go so it is taking some time to complete.

Director A. Ayala asked if Mr. McNerney keeps track of how many students return to the regular classroom from attending TTA. Mr. McNerney said he does, however, he did not bring that data with him. He did share some of the students struggle with the transition while other thrive. Mr. McNerney said Hailey Romero, district social worker, has prepared a document that tracks this.

Mr. McNerney completed his report by sharing there will be two students who should finish earning their graduation requirements early next year. He said the TTA 4-H team recently attended state and came in 3rd in the team category.

Claudia Apodaca, Intermediate School Principal, was unable to attend the meeting. The Intermediate School enrollment was at 447 students for the 2023-2024 school year. The average daily attendance rate was 92.49%. The average class size for Intermediate students was 22 students. This year there were 76 suspensions at the Intermediate.

Julie Miller, Primary School Principal, was unable to attend the meeting. Her report showed an enrollment of 289 students. The average daily rate of attendance increased this year to 90.01%. There were a total of 14 suspensions, with one of those being an in school suspension. Dibels data showed 86% of the Kindergarten students at or above benchmark; 85% of the First Grade students are at or above benchmark; and 69% of Second Grade students at benchmark or above. Altogether, the average was 79% of Primary students at or above benchmark.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -

The summer lunch program is going well. Mrs. Gingrich reported there have been families from all over the valley picking up meals and around 36,000 meals have been served. She said the district receives a reimbursement of \$2.98 for breakfast and \$5.00 for lunch. The heat has been an issue and on hot days, the hours were changed to protect staff. Superintendent Lovato said food service has come a long way and the district changing to Chartwells as the food service provider has been very good. Director A. Ayala asked for a comparison to previous years. Mrs. Gingrich said last year around 700 breakfasts and lunches were served daily. This year there has been around 1000 of each daily. She added this year there is a non-congregate waiver that allows a drive through and pick up versus having to go in and eat in order to get the food. Director Derbigny asked Mrs. Gingrich if she worries about running out of food. Mrs. Gingrich said that is always a worry, but she does her very best to never run out.

Summer school ended last Thursday and Superintendent Lovato said he hasn't received any statistics yet. He said he didn't receive any calls, which is always positive.

Regarding summer projects, the exterior painting on the Intermediate has been held up due to not being able to get the lift for painting the cupola until July. However, the flooring continues to be laid in the Intermediate. One thing that is hard for maintenance and custodial staff is having to work around events scheduled in the buildings during the summer months. Superintendent Lovato said he is hoping in July the buildings will be open for them to complete their work. Superintendent Lovato took a moment to thank the City of La Junta and Otero College for the use of their mowers. The district's mowers were all out of commission and due to the help, the lawns were still able to be mowed. A new mower has been purchased from a local dealer, which will be helpful with maintenance and the warranty. Superintendent Lovato also took a moment to thank the maintenance and custodial staff for working shorthanded and finding a way to get things done.

Director Derbigny asked about the memorial in front of the Intermediate needing new paint. Superintendent Lovato said there has been discussion on what to use for paint so it will weather better. Director Leyba asked what data base is used to track the district-owned equipment. Superintendent Lovato said there is a depreciation schedule.

However, prior to the district taking over the maintenance/custodial department, not everything was logged. Purchases are also tracked through Specialized Data Systems (SDS), but that only goes back to 2013. Superintendent Lovato said something needs to be looked out for better tracking. Director Leyba asked about technology and Superintendent Lovato said all technology is logged through the technology department. He also shared each building is responsible for their own inventory and has shared that if something is expected to be replaced, it needs to be inventoried.

Director A. Ayala asked if trees are being actively planted in Orahod Park. Superintendent Lovato said there is not as there is no watering system in place currently. He said the maintenance department is looking at tree placement as the trees are very close together. Director A. Ayala said she would like to see something done to preserve the trees that are there. She said the museum has funds and people that would help. Director Leyba asked Mr. McNerney if this could possibly be a 4-H project. Mr. McNerney said it could and he will look at some ideas.

Director A. Ayala said as far as the summer school program goes, she enjoyed the extra enrichment programs for the older kids. She said she appreciates staff for putting those on.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve the 2024-2025 Final Budget and Appropriation Resolution (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the Preschool Fund Appropriation Resolution (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve 2024-2025 Consolidated Federal Programs Application (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the Copperpoint renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,937.00 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the 2024-2025 CASB Membership Dues (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,548.00 AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve 2024-2025 Chartwells Renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve the Apptegy renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,500.00 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Approve the 2024-25 CSDSIP renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$499,037.00 AS PRESENTED**
- g. Approve the 2024 Microsoft Office Suite renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,736.80 AS PRESENTED**
- h. Approve the Infinite Campus annual renewal (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,208.00 AS PRESENTED**
- i. Approve the purchase of Security Camera Battery Back Up (Lovato) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,750.00 AS PRESENTED**

10. RECOGNITION -

Superintendent Lovato was recognized for his service to the District. The Board thanked him for his time and efforts during his tenure as Superintendent. They sent best wishes to him on his future endeavors. Director Leyba said he has planted many seeds and will be missed.

Superintendent Lovato thanked the Board for always keeping kids first.

11. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:43 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ANGELA AYALA, Vice President

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