



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



**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Regular Meeting  
August 26, 2024**

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1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, S. Ayala, Derbigny, Hines, and Leyba.
  2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
  3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
  4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
    - A. **Personnel Approval**
      - Rachel Ford - New Hire as Assistant Softball Coach for the 2024 season
      - Christina Cook - Resignation as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective August 12, 2024
      - Samantha Jones - New Hire as Paraprofessional at Child Development Services for the 2024-2024 school year
      - Leilani Salazar - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2024 school year
      - Kenny Rivera-Diaz - New Hire as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2024 school year
      - Gilberto Nava - Resignation as Paraprofessional at Tiger Trades Academy effective August 28, 2024
      - Jake Pruyne - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2025 school year
      - Takeesha Ortiz - New Hire as Paraprofessional at Child Development Services for the 2024-2025 school year
      - Sidnee Woodyard - New Hire as Paraprofessional at Child Development Services for the 2024-2025 school year
    - B. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2024-2025 School Year**
    - C. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for the 2024-2025 School Year**
    - D. **Approve Extra Duty Assignments for the 2024-2025 School Year**
  5. **MINUTES** -
    - A. Minutes of July 29, 2024 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
  6. **PRESENTATIONS** -  
**Crispin Miell, Maintenance Director**

Crispin Miell, Maintenance Director, updated the Board on maintenance projects for the district. He informed there is a fully staffed janitorial department. There is one employee out on FMLA, but the job is being covered. The maintenance department has four staff members, with one out on worker's comp leave. The work orders have been completed quickly at the start of school and Mr. Miell said his staff have been working hard on getting them completed.

Mr. Miell reviewed the following projects:

*Tiger Trades Academy*

- The FRP has been installed on the upper portion of the gym walls and portable basketball hoops have been ordered
- Three pickle ball courts have been painted outside and the basketball lines are in progress
- Mr. Miell will be looking to find a contractor to enclose the existing fencing
- Flooring has been installed to replace the existing carpet with the last room being completed tomorrow

*Intermediate School*

- Flooring has been installed on the north and south wings on the first floor and in the main office. Classrooms will be looked at next.
- Interior painting will continue on the first floor during breaks
- The cupolas and exterior have been painted and the concrete in the front repaired from the lift damage

*Junior/Senior High School*

- Walk off carpet installed in the gym entrances

Mr. Miell shared with the Board the roofing issues in the district. He said the roof at Columbian School had been leaking and after checking into it, the drains were clogged. However, after further inspection, the gym roof is in need of repair as it is buckling. Mr. Miell contacted CSDSIP, the district's insurance company, and an adjuster came to inspect the Columbian roof as well as the Junior/Senior High School roof and the vocational roof, which have both been leaking as well. The insurance adjuster will be sending an engineer to get core samples from roofs. Mr. Miell isn't sure yet if a claim will be filed. He told the Board he contacted the roofing company, Tecta America, who previously roofed the Tiger Gym swimming pool roof. They came and looked at all three roofs needing work. Mr. Miell shared the estimated quotes: 1) \$2.7 million to replace the Junior/Senior High School roof; 2) \$86,000 to roof vocational; 3) all three roofs at Columbian \$455,000. This totals \$3.3 million dollars. Mr. Miell suggested the district look into getting a BEST Grant to help cover the cost. He said the district match will be 10% to 20% of the cost, but he will get more information. Director A. Ayala asked if the newly installed air conditioning units on the Junior/Senior High School roof will have to be removed and Mr. Miell said no, they are up off the roof enough to work under them. He did share that there may be some things that might have to be re-routed which could increase the cost.

The Primary School parking lot has cracks and Mr. Miell is looking at resurfacing the lot. He said he will get quotes for that work.

Director Hines inquired if additional quotes for roofing will be obtained. Superintendent Blincoe said an RFP will be released for the work. Director S. Ayala asked if the interior ceiling tiles will be replaced and Mr. Miell said yes, once the leaks are repaired.

Director A. Ayala asked what a typical day looks like for a maintenance staff worker. Mr. Miell said it depends. Director A. Ayala asked if jobs such as weed pulling in the rocks, curb painting, etc. are worked into their schedule. Mr. Miell said being short one employee makes it tough, but they are trying to get jobs done the best they can.

Director Leyba asked about the freezers. Mr. Miell said when the Primary was remodeled, the district didn't replace the freezer and cooler and should have. The freezer is in need of repair. He contacted a refrigeration equipment company out of Pueblo to have them come and look at it. They will get a quote on replacing the interior as well as replacing the freezer. Mr. Miell said food service funds can help with this expense. At Tiger

Trades Academy, the issue has been with the controllers inside the freezer. Mr. Miell said those are getting dialed in.

Director Leyba wanted to know about vehicles for the maintenance department. Mr. Miell said he would like another pickup for a backup as one of the older pickups is being auctioned off. He said they are using vans that are no longer allowed to transport students.

Director A. Ayala inquired about the use of the maintenance shop. Mr. Miell said his office is there, a woodshop and the middle bay is used for storage. On the other side of the middle bay, the mowers and ground equipment is being stored. The ceiling has been shored up and where Mr. Miell's office and the woodshop are, there was no damage. Director A. Ayala asked if that roof should be looked at for re-roofing as well since there are spots that leak. Superintendent Blincoe said the leaks aren't bad and he wouldn't recommend spending the money. Director A. Ayala asked what is stored in the middle bay where the roof leaks and Mr. Miell said cleaning supplies, filters, plumbing stuff, some old turf from Tiger Stadium, etc. Director Derbigny asked what it would cost to fix the roof. Director Leyba asked if it would be possible to get a quote for repair.

Director Derbigny asked if the air conditioning at Tiger Trades Academy has been repaired. Mr. Miell said there are still a couple of rooms on the second floor that aren't getting cooled. She asked about the hot tub at the swimming pool and the plans for it. Mr. Miell said he will look into the cost of repair.

Director S. Ayala asked about the greenhouse at Tiger Trades Academy and why it hasn't been repaired for use. She feels it would be invaluable for the 4-H club. Mr. Miell said the caulking holding the glass in contains asbestos. He said it would be more expensive to replace the glass due to abatement than tearing it down completely. Mr. Miell said possibly looking into a grant for that would be a good idea.

Mrs. S. Ayala asked if the new Board members could get a tour of the district buildings. Mr. Miell said he will look into setting up a time.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -**

Superintendent Blincoe said is looking at a company called Frontline, which has an online application system. He said this will help cast a broader net and they also have a national job board. He feels this will be a good investment for the district to clean up the hiring process. The first year cost will be \$5,637, which includes a \$3000 set up fee and training. Every year after that, it would cost \$4,400. Superintendent Blincoe said if the district receives more applications and gets more certified teachers, it will be worth it.

There will be a surplus sale of the vehicles that were surplussed last December. Bids are open now.

Superintendent Blincoe said he and Director Leyba met with Dr. Henry Roman, with McPherson and Jacobson. Dr. Roman would like to meet with Superintendent Blincoe and the Board to establish main objectives. He is looking at October 1 or 2 for a work session beginning at 6:00 p.m. After looking at schedules, the Board will meet on Tuesday, October 1. Director Derbigny will call in for the meeting.

The Board meetings will begin being broadcast next month through YouTube. Mr. Vaile has received the equipment in order to facilitate this. Director Derbigny commented there was trouble with accurate script in the past. Superintendent Blincoe said for now just broadcasting will occur and then we will move to closed captioning. He shared many districts broadcast without captioning.

Superintendent Blincoe informed the Board he will be attending the CASE conference September 17-20, 2024.

Dr. Sam Schneider, with the Colorado Department of Education, will be in attendance at the September Board meeting. He will be reviewing the steps of the improvement plan. Superintendent Blincoe said the district should have test scores by then.

There will be a UVA site visit on September 26 and 27. The Board has been invited to attend.

Director S. Ayala asked if the online applications will be available for substitute teachers also. Superintendent Blincoe said yes. Director Derbigny asked if this will be an annual contract and it will be. She also asked what will be discussed when Dr. Roman comes. Superintendent Blincoe said this will be the time when the Board sets goals for him, which can then lead into his evaluation to see if things were accomplished. He elaborated that this is part of the services provided by McPherson and Jacobson as well as part of their superintendent search guarantee.

Superintendent Blincoe said he has been talking to Ryan Hess with Studer Education. Mr. Hess will be attending the October meeting. Studer Education would work with the Board to set strategic plans and goals. Superintendent Blincoe said this is a good way to be organized and be focused moving forward. He said there is a cost, but it could possibly be covered by EASI Grant funds. He has some documents he will send to the Board.

## 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policies GBA, GBJ, GCE/GCF, GDE/GDF, IKFB, IKF, JB, JF, JICA, JICDD, JICDE, JIH, JLCE and KDE and Adopt Policy ACA on Second/Final Reading (Blincoe) **APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policy JLCD on First/Revised Reading (Blincoe) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Job Description (Blincoe) **ITEM DIED DUE TO LACK OF A MOTION**
- c. Approve Hiring an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction (Blincoe) **ITEM DIED DUE TO LACK OF A MOTION**
- d. Approve Special Needs Bus (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$169,214.00 AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve the Purchase of a MiniBus (Blincoe) **APPROVED ON A 4-1 VOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$102,545.00 AS PRESENTED**
- f. Select Replacement CASB Delegate **DIRECTOR DERBIGNY WILL CONTINUE AS THE CASB DELEGATE**

## 10. BOARD COMMENTS

- Director Leyba said she would like to speak on the job description for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. She said she believes the district needs a director of curriculum and instruction and not an assistant superintendent. She would like to have a work session so a more robust conversation can be had on the job description and what the expectations are. She said the district has a lot of new teachers and long term subs, and student achievement is low. She does feel we need to provide support for our educators in this area. She would like to take a look at just a curriculum director of instruction and there is a lot that she wanted to discuss further. She said she appreciates Superintendent Blincoe's time spent on creating the job

description. She said the answer is not no, but not tonight. Director Leyba said she would also like to take into consideration what CDE says and would like to see what else the district is doing with UVA. If this could all be combined she would like to see how it all ties together and then use that information on how best to support our teachers. She is wondering if we couldn't have a director of curriculum and instruction and an instructional coach at the Junior/Senior High School and would like that to be looked into.

- Director Derbigny said what Superintendent Blincoe wrote was extensive, repetitive and somewhat redundant. She said she would like it to be very specific so it shows exactly what they would be doing. Superintendent Blincoe stated he doesn't think he can get any more specific than that job description and he provided a lengthy comment on what he felt the job was important. She said she needed more.
- Director S. Ayala said with regards to the same subject, she attends a lot of accountability meetings. She said this has been a request from faculty and she is aware it is needed. She said if we keep doing the same thing, nothing will change. This is for the kids and we already know it is a problem. A position like this needs to be filled and it is very important. She would like a special meeting or work session. Superintendent Blincoe said the October 1 meeting would be a good time for discussion.
- Director A. Ayala said she doesn't think anyone at this table is not taking this seriously, because we are. She said she thinks Superintendent Blincoe needs to realize the type of Board this is, and they don't like being pushed into any decision they are not comfortable with. She said she feels she was crystal clear that the second highest position in this district should not be paid for out of capital reserves and feels that is not a sustained place to pay from. She said we did not become where we are because we spend willy-nilly. She said she thought that when Superintendent Blincoe was hired, he said he would find the money to do what he needed to do. He said he did and there is \$1.65 million in capital reserves. Director A. Ayala said there is also a \$3.3 million roofing project coming up. Superintendent Blincoe said a district should apply for a BEST Grant for that. She said the Board is not saying no, just not right now.
- Director Hines said taking a deep dive into the job description will be a better use of time. She feels if it was discussed tonight, it would still need discussion at a later date. Director Leyba said it will be looked at to have that as a conversation with Dr. Roman.
- Director S. Ayala said it was fair week and she is super proud of all the students who were 4-H Champions. She said it was great to see our students volunteering in the community. She gave a shout out to the cheerleaders at the Police in the Park event. She said they were loud and proud. Director Leyba also mentioned the cheerleaders are having a trivia fundraiser coming up.
- Director Derbigny added we need to remember respect for one another. Director Derbigny added we need to remember respect for one another.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 p.m.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

***DEE LEYBA, President***

***ANGELA AYALA, Vice President***

***DARLENE DERBIGNY, Secretary/Treasure***

***STACEY AYALA, Director***

***SARA HINES, Director***