



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



BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
January 22, 2024

1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, S. Ayala, Derbigny, Hines, 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. The Intermediate School gave a gift to each Board member.

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

3. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

A. **Report attached 1-22-24.**

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Budget attached 1-21-24.**

B. **Resolution attached 1-22-24.**

E. **Calendars attached 1-22-24.**

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

A. **Personnel Approval**

- Sarah Zamora - New Hire as the Classroom Supervisor at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year
- Cristian Estrada - Resignation as a 6th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School effective December 31, 2023
- Jayden Romero - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2023-2024 school year
- Riley Remick - New Hire as an Itinerant Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year
- Misty Pounds - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School effective January 19, 2024
- Courtney Estrada - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year
- McKinna Cuckow - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School effective January 18, 2024
- J.J. Horn - New Hire as a Junior High Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2024 season
- Danny Aragon - New Hire as a Junior High Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2024 season
- Rick Lovato - Resignation as Superintendent effective June 30, 2024

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

C. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for 2023-2024**

D. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2023-2024 School Year**

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Heather Huckaby, Business Manager, presented a quarterly report for October, November and December 2023 to the Board. She said the general fund doesn't include the tax revenue as it is received throughout the remainder of the school year. 46% of the budget has been used, which shows the budget is tracking well. Ms. Huckaby explained the food service funds are not always received monthly which explains why expenditures are higher than revenues. The preschool fund shows the change with UPK (Universal Preschool) doing away with the school district as a flow through of funds. There was a slight carry over from last year that is being used this year. There will be a transfer from the general fund to the insurance reserve fund due to the insurance being paid at the beginning of the year. A request for funds will be made for the grants fund which shows 48-49%, which is where it should be for the 2nd quarter. Ms. Huckaby said there is no activity in the bond fund right now. She shared the activity fund is being worked on by

the auditor, who is here this week working on the audit. Director Derbigny asked if the district is done with all the ESSER monies. Superintendent Lovato said ESSER III is all that is left and that will be finished this year. He also explained the first columns on the financial report are quarterly and the second column shows year-to-date. He also stated there will probably be adjustments from the auditor. **THE FINANCIAL REPORT WAS APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

7. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the Special Meetings on December 4, 2023 and January 9, 2024 **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

8. PRESENTATIONS

Technology Update – Dakota Vaile

Dakota Vaile, Technology Director, said things are going well in the technology department with not too many issues. He shared a website coordinator has been hired and he is currently training and working on updating the website. Mr. Vaile informed the Board he is hoping to begin using the app that is attached with the website. Director A. Ayala asked for the estimated target date on when the website will be overhauled and functional. Mr. Vaile said he is currently working with the principals for content and is hoping by spring break to have a lot of adjustments made. He said his focus now is on the calendar and events schedule. Director Derbigny asked about school board meetings being streamed and if that would fall under the technology department duties. Mr. Vaile said it would, however, he does have concerns regarding streaming meetings and being able to accommodate all needs. He also said to get that up and running properly could be a big expense. Superintendent Lovato said streaming meetings is on hold for now until the rules and requirements are clear. Director Derbigny said she feels that might help with parental involvement and could make a difference if parents could watch the meetings. Director Leyba asked if there are fines for each occurrence of non-compliance. Mr. Vaile said he isn't sure how much the fines would be. Director Leyba stated if meetings do get streamed, she would prefer YouTube versus Facebook. She also asked Mr. Vaile if the website app is compatible with Infinite Campus. He said it is not and the communication between the two would have to be done manually. Director Leyba asked if the district is in a good rotation for technology. Mr. Vaile said he will request Chromebook tablets for the Primary this year and everything else is doing good. Director A. Ayala asked if students get to keep their laptops upon graduation. Mr. Vaile said not right now. Superintendent Lovato said he is considering implementing a technology fee with the hope that will encourage students to take care of their computers. Director A. Ayala asked what the fee would look like. Superintendent Lovato said it would be similar to the athletic fee structure. Director Derbigny asked if kids receive a new computer if theirs breaks with no questions. Mr. Vaile said the Junior/Senior High School is having students who deliberately abuse their computers complete some community service. He said he does invoice parents for the replacement cost, but usually doesn't receive any money. Director A. Ayala asked if the younger kids are still using tablets. Mr. Vaile said they are and they also have a lab to learn keyboarding. Director A. Ayala asked if there is a lot of turnover for tablets. Mr. Vaile said no, he doesn't have to replace those as often. He shared it is mostly junior high aged students that he has a lot of issues with. Director Leyba asked how many staff make up the technology department and Mr. Vaile said there are three.

Intermediate School Report –Claudia Apodaca

Mrs. Apodaca, Intermediate School Principal, shared the Dibels mid-year data with the Board and explained the data is listed by cohort. She said every grade level showed good growth. This year a new Dibels assessment was received and administered. Mrs. Apodaca said the new test only gives students one passage to read and the previous assessment gave three passages and averaged the students' score between the three. She stated she feels the new assessment doesn't give a clear picture of where students are at. The sixth grade data was affected by the new assessment and shows less growth than usual. Mrs. Apodaca said fluency and accuracy are both areas that showed good growth.

Mrs. Apodaca said Intermediate students are working on the Science Fair. She said there are a dozen entries this year at the Intermediate. She also shared there is a team effort this year with parents and teachers. The group of teachers in charge of the Science Fair are excited to keep it going. The Science Fair will be held in February.

The Intermediate School is piloting a mentor program in their building. In the past, high school students have come to the Intermediate School to be mentors. Now, fifth and sixth grade students are mentoring third and fourth grade students.

There will be a Colorado Department of Education (CDE) site review on March 5 and 6. This site review is required due to the Intermediate School being on year four of the accountability clock. Mrs. Apodaca said this review will be

similar to the S-CAP review and each classroom will be visited by a review team. She also said a survey will be sent out to parents.

Mrs. Apodaca shared the fifth grade students will again be participating in the Young AmeriTowne on March 11 and 12. She said the kids learn about money and business and it is a good learning experience.

The AgFest will be hosted by the Intermediate School again this year with the fifth grade students helping with that event. It will be April 23 and 24 in the gymnasium.

Director Derbigny asked if the previous Dibels assessment gave a good number on how students are doing. Mrs. Apodaca said she feels it does. Director Derbigny also stated she would like a number range for well below and below benchmark to make the data easier to read. She also asked what subjects the older kids will be mentoring the younger kids in. Mrs. Apodaca said right now, the focus right now is on building relationships.

Director A. Ayala asked how the HVAC is doing in the building now. Mrs. Apodaca said it has been doing well. During the recent cold snap, there were a couple of classrooms that were cold, but it was taken care of immediately. Director A. Ayala also commented on the sewer smell in the building. Mrs. Apodaca said maintenance poured stuff down the drains, which has helped. She said it usually is something that happens once a year. Superintendent Lovato said it seems to happen after extended absences where water running through the drains isn't occurring. He said the janitors will be running hot water down the drains as well.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The S-CAP review was held virtually on January 11. The comments were forwarded to principals and Superintendent Lovato said he and the principals will meet to debrief on that.

The CDE review will be coming up at the Intermediate on March 5-6.

Superintendent Lovato talked about the recent threat to the district. He said he didn't give the threat much credibility, but needed to evacuate buildings on the side of precaution. He said should this happen again things will be done more efficiently. The buildings have been working on getting feedback from parents. One of the issues brought to the forefront by staff was being able to take care of their own children as well. Superintendent Lovato said in order to do their job effectively staff need to know their kids are safe. Superintendent Lovato said there are things that need to be worked on, however, by and large staff did an amazing job. Director Derbigny asked if the source of the threatening email was ever found. Superintendent Lovato said it was tracked to somewhere in Ukraine, but he doesn't know exactly where it originated from. Director Leyba said the situation was volatile with parents and explained these situations can be fluid and changes are made on the fly. She hopes parents reflect on that this was an inconvenience and not a tragedy. She said it is unfortunate that staff were treated how they were. Staff stepped up and some weren't part of the training that took place years ago. Director Leyba said she feels staff did really well. Director Derbigny said as a result, a better plan will be put in place. Superintendent Lovato said this reunification was much shorter than the training a few years ago due to the fact that he was able to split up reunification sites. He said what staff was able to handle that day was pretty remarkable. He shared he couldn't have been prouder of the staff on how they handled things. Director A. Ayala said she was one of the first parents to arrive at Otero College. She said from a school board perspective, a lot of people stepped up. She shared it is difficult to keep a level head in these situations. She feels utilizing communications that are in place needs to be a priority. She also stressed parents should be happy they got their child home and that this was not a real situation. Mrs. Hines said part of the revamping should focus on communication. Superintendent Lovato agreed and shared Mr. Romero has already put pre-recorded calls in place. He said assumptions were made that the buildings would send out a message, but that didn't happen. He said a different alert system is also being looked at to be able to reach all parents, which would include those who don't have telephone access. Director A. Ayala asked if we are working with any active trainings. He said Mr. Romero has an additional module training and is also looking at a summer tabletop training. Superintendent Lovato said this training will focus more on law enforcement with possibly utilizing some student volunteers. He said he will be working on getting staff trained. Director Hines gave kudos to the Primary School. She said they did a good job on efficiently reunifying students with their parents. Superintendent Lovato said it will be better should a situation occur again.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve 2023-2024 Final Budget (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Appropriation Resolution for the 2023-2024 Budget (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the Contingency Reserve Resolution for 2023-2024 (Lovato) **DIED DUE TO LACK OF MOTION AND SECOND**
- d. Approve Out-of-State Girls and Boys Wrestling Trip Request (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve First Reading of 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Calendars (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- f. 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**
- g. Superintendent Search Process (Leyba) **INFORMATIONAL; NO ACTION TAKEN**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- Director Derbigny asked who created both calendars. Superintendent Lovato said the calendar committee and then calendars were sent to the buildings. He said parents gave feedback in accountability meetings. Director S. Ayala said that was very helpful and noticed the feedback is represented on the calendar.
- Superintendent Lovato said ADP still hasn't sent their W-2's. He shared the business office is continuously working on this to get it resolved.
- Director Ayala is concerned with maintaining the integrity of the buildings. She asked if the maintenance crew is stretched too thin to keep the infrastructure maintained. Superintendent Lovato said a lot of times the district is reactive versus proactive due to costs. He shared there is an annual capital improvement list that is worked on.

12. Executive Session regarding student discipline per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(h), discussion of four individual student matters, because public disclosure of these confidential student discipline matters would adversely affect the persons involved. **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:47 P.M. MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:55 P.M.**

13. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

<i>DEE LEYBA, President</i>	<i>ANGELA AYALA, Vice President</i>
<i>DARLENE DERBIGNY, Secretary/Treasure</i>	<i>STACEY AYALA, Director</i>
<i>SARA HINES, Director</i>	