



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



BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Regular Meeting
July 29, 2024

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1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, S. Ayala, Derbigny (via telephone), and Hines. Director Leyba was absent.
 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA - AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - **Kaden Ramirez - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year**
 - **Jaye Senner - New Hire as a Special Education Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year**
 5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - C. **Approve the GoGuardian Renewal**
 4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Sarah Zamora - New Hire as Assistant High School Girls' Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 season
 - Wyatt Buhr - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Football Coach for the 2024-2025 season
 - Melinda Ramos - Resignation as 3rd Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School effective July 3, 2024
 - Caitlyn Nuschy - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Joshua Ferguson - Resignation as Music Teacher effective July 19, 2024
 - Hannah Gomez - New Hire as English Teacher at the Junior Senior High School for the 2024-2025 season
 - Sharee Flakes - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Riley Remick - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Victoria Rivera - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Bianca Good - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Jasiel Marquez-Barraza - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2024 season
 - Dianna Marquez - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2024 season
 - Estrella Leyva - New Hire as Secondary Social Studies Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Donna Darnell - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective July 31, 2024
 - Cierra Sisson - Resignation as High School Assistant Softball Coach effective July 19, 2024
 - Kaden Ramirez - New Hire as a Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Jaye Senner - New Hire as a Special Education Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2024-2025 school year
 - B. **Approve Compliance Report for the 2023-2024 School Year**
 - C. **Approve List of Substitute Teachers for the 2024-2025 School Year**
 - D. **Approve Out-of-District Students for the 2024-2025 School Year**
 - E. **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 First/Revised Reading**
 - F. **Approve Revised Regulations AC-R-1, AC-R-2 and AC-R-3 on First/Revised/Final Reading**
 - G. **Approve Revised Policies AC, GBAA, and JBB on Second/Final Reading**
 5. **MINUTES** -
 - A. Minutes of June 24, 2024. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -

Superintendent Blincoe updated the Board on summer projects. He said he has visited with Crispin Miell, Maintenance Director, and Mr. Miell will give a full report at the August Board meeting. He shared the cupulas on the Intermediate as well as the outside trim have been painted. The first floor hallways and the office at the Intermediate have all had tile installed. At the Junior/Senior High School, the gymnasium has had walk off carpets installed. The Tiger Trades Academy gym has had FRP panels installed on the walls, with the trim work being completed in the next couple of weeks. The Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP) was contacted and came to inspect the roofs at the old Columbian School (CDS) and the Junior/Senior High School. We are currently waiting on their report. Superintendent Blincoe said Tecta America has been contacted to get quotes for roof repair. They did indicate the work that needs to be done may require the district to apply for a BEST Grant, which covers costly projects. Concrete repairs were made at the Intermediate School and Tiger Gym Stadium repairs will begin next week. Director Derbigny asked if the memorial in front of the Intermediate has been painted yet. Superintendent Blincoe stated it has not and he will have Mr. Miell check into it and report on that as well next month.

The first week of July, the Superintendent and Principals attended training at the University of Virginia. Superintendent Blincoe informed the Board they worked on "big rocks" (a 90-day improvement plan). He said he and the principals went through leadership workshops and read the book, "Spark" by Danny and Chip Heath, which is about turning around an organization and making improvements. Superintendent Blincoe also said they met with Sam Schneider (Colorado Department of Education) and Mr. Schneider will be attending the September Board meeting. Mr. Schneider will be working with the Intermediate School as well as the entire district. Ashley, from UVA, has been assigned to the district and will be visiting campuses throughout the year. The district is in the UVA program for two years. Superintendent Blincoe said staff will be heading to Oklahoma City in January for a workshop, then back to Virginia next July and back to Oklahoma City the following January. He shared this will help our schools become better schools and get off of turnaround status. Director Derbigny asked what Ashley's title is from UVA. Superintendent Blincoe said she is the District Support Chief for the UVA partnership. Director A. Ayala stated she assumes this falls directly into what is required for turnaround status and also asked what was done with the information from the surveys that were completed. Superintendent Blincoe said he didn't know, but thought it is probably part of the plan. He said he and the principals were guided through 90-day plans by the Colorado Department of Education. He also shared there were four or five districts from Colorado in Virginia and felt this was a good trip.

Superintendent Blincoe said while he was in Virginia, he had several conversations and believes the district needs an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. He said he will be asking the Board for this position to be approved at the next meeting. He also elaborated the district has had this position in past years. In general, Superintendent Blincoe said this position would lead all UVA initiatives, would lead curriculum and make sure it aligns with state standards, would use the "get better faster" approach, would assist principals in day-to-day supervision of teachers, supervise all instructional coaches, assist with testing (NWEA and Dibels-formative assessment and CMAS/SAT-summative assessments). This position would also be second in command of the district if Superintendent Blincoe is out. Director Derbigny asked Superintendent Blincoe to provide a job description prior to the next meeting. He said he will and he is working on combining two job descriptions into one position. Director A. Ayala said she can recall the district having one assistant superintendent since she has been on the Board. She asked what this person was paid. Superintendent Blincoe said he wasn't sure, however, this position would be the second highest paid position in the district and would be on a 200-day contract. Director A. Ayala asked where the money is coming from. Superintendent Blincoe feels the extra \$400,000 put into the capital reserve fund could be used. He also added he would like to hire an instructional coach for the Junior/Senior High School. Superintendent Blincoe said if the Board wants to turn the district around, these positions are necessary. Director A. Ayala asked if the person that will fill this role is coming from in-house or outside. Superintendent Blincoe said both internal and external applications would be reviewed. Her concern is funding this position when the district can't afford raises to current staff. She added she didn't see any district improvements with the assistant superintendent position in the past. Superintendent Blincoe stated this isn't a poor district and he intends to look at inefficiencies and correct them. Director A. Ayala said she agrees the district isn't poor, but is fiscally conservative. She said the extra \$400,000 was set aside for roof repairs. Director A. Ayala explained the City of La Junta taxpayer situation and how it was difficult to get a tax increase for the city passed. She stated she agrees the district needs the positions, however, she is worried about money. Director Hines asked if the Junior/Senior High School used to have an instructional coach but gave that position up in order to have another assistant principal. Mrs. Foxhoven said when Mr. Romero went to Central Office, that left a void for discipline at the Junior/Senior High, which is why that decision was made. Director Derbigny said she feels Superintendent Blincoe needs to make his case so the Board thoroughly understands. Director A. Ayala said

she feels better about what the district has internally before new hires are made and shared she is going to pinch the pennies. Director Hines asked how much is in the capital improvement fund. Ms. Nelson said \$895,000 and Director A. Ayala said the fund is usually kept at \$500,000 and the extra money was put in the fund this year for the Junior/Senior High School roof, knowing the project is upcoming. Director Derbigny said she would like to keep teachers and paraprofessionals' salaries in mind. Director A. Ayala stated she thinks we have a great staff and it bothers her that the district can't give a cost of living adjustment. Superintendent Blincoe said the district does have step increases every year. He would also like to pay teachers and staff more and feels he can find ways to save money. Director A. Ayala asked what the plan is if the positions can't be funded. Superintendent Blincoe said it will be to do the best we can and stretch everyone thin. He stressed one person is needed to align the curriculum and work with the principals every day. Director Derbigny asked if these positions can be funded by grant money. Superintendent Blincoe said if a position is paid for with grant funds, then when the grant funds are depleted, so is the position. He said he will do his best to find the money in the budget. He stated one thing that would increase revenue is to stop students from leaving the district and to do that, our schools need to become better improving schools. Director A. Ayala clarified how many positions are needed and for how long. Superintendent Blincoe said two positions and they are needed forever. Director A. Ayala asked when the district is off the clock and things are where they need to be, then what would this person do. Superintendent Blincoe said continue working with new teachers and onboard new teachers. He said there will always be something for this position to do. Director Hines asked if there is a scenario where the instructional coach and the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction could be combined. He said yes, but he does want two positions eventually. He said one position this year would be good. Director Derbigny asked if the funding coming out of capital improvements funds will be used for this position, how will the rainy day funds be kept up. Superintendent Blincoe said there may be other dollars that can be found and shared he and Ms. Nelson discuss the budget every day. Director Hines said with the roof estimate coming soon, that will give a better idea of if the extra in capital improvements can be used. Superintendent Blincoe said the roofs are two different projects in his mind. He said a foam filling may be able to be used for repair and the second project would be re-roofing, which will be expensive. He said he may have to try to get a BEST grant and for smaller projects, a higher percentage is typically paid.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Willow Tree Counseling Services Renewal (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve NWEA Renewal (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,925.00 AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve the GoGuardian Renewal (Blincoe) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,548.00 AS PRESENTED**

8. BOARD COMMENTS

- ❖ Director A. Ayala is excited to get school started. She formally welcomed Dr. Blincoe and shared she is thankful for the teachers and their positive attitudes. She said she appreciates their efforts in getting ready for school. She is looking forward to the positive changes for this year.

9. ADJOURNMENT – **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:32 p.m.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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