



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**

**July 28, 2025**

1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, Hines, Kolomitz and Leyba. S. Ayala was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA** - **APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
  - A. **Personnel Approval**
    - Julia Martinez - New Hire as 2nd Grade Teacher at the Primary School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Francisco Viescas - New Hire as Custodian for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Rebecca Griffin - New Hire as a Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Jake Pruyn - New Hire as a Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Ethan Leyba - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Football Coach for the 2025 season
    - Courtney Estrada - New Hire as a 5th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Diego Vigil-Reyes - New Hire as a 6th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Sidnee Woodyard - New Hire as a 6th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Scott Cuckow - New Hire as Social Studies Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Aaron Torres - Resignation as Bus Driver effective July 15, 2025
    - Michael Andrews - New Hire as 6th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Robin Montano - New Hire as Route Bus Driver for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Hannah Gomez - New Hire as Secondary English Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Gwynn Root - New Hire as Special Education Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Vicky Masar - Resignation as District Nurse
    - Martin Valdez - New Hire as Counselor at Tiger Trades Academy for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Theodore Guerra - New Hire as Student Advocate at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Elena Ramsay - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Stacey Selby - New Hire as an English Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - MaKynna Martinez - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year
  - B. **Approve Compliance Report for the 2024-2025 School Year**
  - C. **Approve List of Substitute Teachers for the 2025-2026 School Year**
  - D. **Approve Additional Out-of-District Students for the 2025-2026 School Year**
5. **FINANCIAL REPORT** - **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

Sarah Siegrist, with Abacus, explained she and Kim Griego have been working on the books in order to get things ready for the 2023-2024 audit, which is currently in the hands of the auditor. She said once the 2023-2024 audit is completed, the 2024-2025 audit will begin. The plan is to have both audits complete by the December 31, 2025 state deadline.

Ms. Siegrist shared the balance sheet with the Board and explained the balance sheet gives a good map of the health of the District's finances. The income statement was also reviewed. The income statement shows the revenues and

expenditures. She explained the financial reports provided come directly from the accounting software used. This eliminates errors that can occur when transferring numbers to a different format. Director Kolomitz asked what the timeline is for finishing the 2023-2024 audit. Ms. Siegrist stated that since so many deadlines for completion were missed, the District is now on the auditor's timeline and he is working us in his schedule. She said the auditor does know the District's property taxes are being withheld until the 2023-2024 audit is finished. Director Leyba asked about any further extensions. Ms. Siegrist said the extensions expired on February 28. She also said that the Colorado Department of Education won't give districts more than two consecutive years of extensions and that is why it is very important to hit all the mile markers needed.

Director Leyba asked about the single audit. Ms. Siegrist said a single audit is required when districts receive more than \$750,000 in grant monies. She said ESSER funds triggered larger districts to have to complete single audits as well.

Director Leyba asked about internal controls. Ms. Siegrist said she is looking forward to working closely with the new leadership so he has a good handle on the district's finances.

Ms. Siegrist shared that there were misstated numbers in the first balance sheet she sent for the meeting. This balance sheet showed a loss of \$1.3 million dollars. Over the course of the weekend and continuing to clean things up, duplicative entries were discovered and removing them, the general funds now shows a loss of \$22,000 instead of \$1.3 million. Ms. Siegrist said the auditor does have concerns that the 2022-2023 audit numbers might not be accurate.

Ms. Siegrist went through the balance sheet and explained each fund to the Board. She explained the Board can check to make sure staff is doing their jobs correctly is on the income statement. She said the general fund year-to-date activity (profit or loss) should match the net fund change on the balance sheet. She said sometimes those are off. Ms. Siegrist told the Board that going forward, the Board will have both of these reports monthly. This will keep the Board up-to-date on the finances and will show if the books are being maintained.

Director Leyba said she is worried about the 2022-2023 audit not being correct. Ms. Siegrist explained the current auditor has to verify the numbers from the previous auditor on the 2022-2023 audit. She said the payroll accrual number that was found was not verified.

Director A. Ayala clarified that the district will be completely caught up by December. Ms. Siegrist said that Abacus is on track.

Director Leyba reiterated the district has funds, but is experiencing a cash flow problem due to property taxes being withheld. Ms. Siegrist said that is correct and there are funds coming in. She also said the district will receive those tax dollars once the audit is complete. Ms. Siegrist pointed out that the district has \$2,099,308.52 in unassigned funds. This means that this amount hasn't been designated for a specific purpose and can be used as necessary. She also added it costs the district \$7,000 for daily operations.

Director A. Ayala asked how many past audits will have to be verified. Ms. Siegrist said the current auditor will only have to verify the previous audit he didn't complete.

Ms. Siegrist stated grant funds are an important funding source, such as Title funds. She said many positions are funded through grants. There are reports that show if grant reimbursements are being requested. Director Leyba asked if there is any logical reason why reimbursement requests aren't being made. She asked if this falls into the internal controls area. Ms. Siegrist suggested this has happened due to staff turnover, lack of communication and receipt coding not being done properly. Ms. Siegrist said thankfully CDE allows districts to request past funds that were awarded to them.

Director A. Ayala asked if Abacus is helping with payroll as well. Ms. Siegrist said they have a team that is helping the current staff member with their practice to shore up practices and policies. Director A. Ayala asked if there is an expected timeframe for payroll to be cleaned up as well. Ms. Siegrist said payroll is the number one top issue being focused on. She said payroll and benefits is the biggest expense the district has and it must be correct. Director Kolomitz agreed. Director Leyba asked if there is a checklist that is followed for payroll. She said she is frustrated because payroll errors can hurt employees. Ms. Siegrist said there is a checklist that was shared with the staff. She said she would like this checklist to be shared monthly with the administration for verification that the items have been completed. She added verification for the entire finance department has to occur. Mr. Romero shared that he and

Mr. Wilson want to implement back up staff in the event of someone being on vacation, etc. to provide coverage. Director Leyba asked that a standard operating procedure be put in place for the finance department. She asked if the building bookkeepers meet with the finance department. Mr. Wilson said there has not been regular meetings in place and they are looking at implementing that.

Director Leyba said she appreciates the financial reports the Board will be getting are coming from the system.

Director Hines asked how the Board will know payroll is running as it should. She said the Board has been told problems have been fixed, when staff tells them they are not. Ms. Siegrist said the Board is on oversight and the administrators will be checking on payroll. She said there should be small amounts listed in the payroll liabilities on the financial report. If there are large amounts, that indicates a problem. Ms. Griego said new payroll approval processes have been implemented.

Director A Ayala thanked Abacus for the detailed report. Director Leyba said she thinks it is important for the Board, as well as the community, to know what is going on.

Director Kolomitz asked about the Contra account. Ms. Griego said fund 90 is considered a reporting fund. It reports to CDE the interest rate on bond issuances. She will gather further information and report on it when she gets it.

**6. MINUTES -**

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 23, 2025 and Special Meetings on June 25, 2025 and July 11, 2025.  
**APPROVED AS PRINTED**

**7. INTERIM COMMITTEE'S UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS -**

**Operations Update – Richard Romero:**

Mr. Romero began by thanking Abacus and their help with the district's financials. He feels we would be remiss to let them go too soon. He said he would like to have Abacus fill the business manager spot for now. Mr. Wilson shared the ladies are passionate about finances.

Mr. Romero shared he was in the buildings and they were in summertime shambles. The custodial staff were able to have things in order in a couple of days. He thanked the custodial and maintenance staff for having things looking good.

The state came last week and removed 76 pounds of mercury from the chemical lab at the Junior/Senior High School. Ms. Korbitz with the Health Department is working on securing grant funding to have the rest of the outdated chemicals removed. Mr. Romero said this has been a huge feat to get this done.

The telephone system is being updated. This will allow internal calling to happen from building to building.

Mr. Romero shared he did not receive the school security disbursement grant. Their funding was deeply cut and we were not selected. He said he will apply again next year.

Mr. Romero thanked the Board for putting their trust in him as an interim committee member. He said he learned a lot in the last few months. He feels things were accomplished during this time. He also thanked the principals for their help as well.

Director A. Ayala asked how much Abacus' fees are compared to what the business manager was being paid. Mr. Romero said they receive \$6,000 per month, which is a savings for the district.

Director Kolomitz asked that the website get updated and improved. Mr. Vaile said the new website went live on July 1 and his website coordinator have asked each department for their updated documents so they can post them. Director A. Ayala asked if Mr. Vaile has a list of compliance items that are required to be on the website. The website coordinator has a list from CDE.

**Chief Academic Officer Update – Jared Wilson:**

Mr. Wilson said he has been continuing to work on the consolidated application. The district will receive a decrease in Title I funds, which will be around \$800,000. Titles II, II and IV still have not been released so he doesn't know if we will have cuts in those funds. He said a large portion of Title I was salaries and also a large portion was used for

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S-CAP. He said he felt S-CAP funding could be cut instead of staff and is looking at doing an internal version of S-CAP. Director Leyba asked if that is the same thing we are doing with strategic planning with TNTP and UVA. Mr. Wilson said S-CAP provided external reviews and he is thinking about having the reviews come from teachers of the other buildings in order to continue to provide that feedback.

Building leaders attended a conference with TNTP in June. At this training barriers were identified in order to help us maintain our goals.

In July, administrators traveled to Virginia for a UVA conference. The team discussed how they could mesh UVA and TNTP.

Josh Smith, the TNTP director of school partnerships, explained he will be the primary support partner for the Intermediate and Primary Schools. He said there have been meetings in May, June and July to identify needs. The focus is on the two big rocks: 1. Instructional materials and supporting teachers, and 2. Strengthening consistency and quality of instruction. He said he is thrilled to be in this partnership with the district. Director Leyba asked if there is a document that shows the three big rocks and where things are at so the Board can see the progress and follow along. Mr. Smith said his work so far has been focused on partial management work with the Intermediate School. He said he is aware there is some district strategic planning as well and he will work with Mr. Wilson on this and get back to the Board. Mr. Smith said he will get a document to the Board regarding the status.

Mr. Wilson also told the Board he appreciates them putting him in the interim leadership role. He said it was a great opportunity to learn and thanked them for that.

#### **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Approve Revised Policies JF, GBGD, JICJ, IJ, KEC, ACA, JICA, JLCD, JLDAC, and KFA on Second/Final Reading  
**APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve the technology upgrade equipment **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,749.66 AS PRESENTED**  
b. Approve roof repairs at the Junior/Senior High School **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,939.00 AS PRESENTED**  
c. Approve Superintendent Contract **TABLED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025**

#### **10. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Leyba thanked Mr. Wilson and Mr. Romero for everything they have done. She said she can't imagine the stress and how they handled the situation so admirably. She said they are both assets to the district. She also welcomed Dr. Krumholz pending contract approval.
- ✓ Director A. Ayala echoed Director Leyba's sentiments for both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Romero. She said she appreciates them helping to keep things going.
- ✓ Director Kolomitz also agreed and thanked the gentlemen.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*DEE LEYBA, President*                      *ANGELA AYALA, Vice President*  
*SARA HINES, Secretary/Treasurer*                      *STACEY AYALA, Director*  
*GREGORY KOLOMITZ, Director*