



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**September 22, 2025**

1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, S. Ayala, Kolomitz, and Leyba. S. Hines was absent.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **CELEBRATIONS – 4-H** - 4-H students from each building were recognized for their projects. Tiger Trades Academy is the only school in the state to have a 4-H school-sponsored group. The Board congratulated the students on their achievements.

**CELEBRATIONS – COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL RECOGNITION** - The Board congratulated Oakley Jones and Isabella Ortiz on their academic accomplishments for receiving the College Board National Recognition Program award. The prestigious award highlights the hard work, academic achievement, and leadership of students across the nation.

4. **AUDIENCE** - Scott Kurtz spoke to the Board regarding student safety and the possible employment of a substitute teacher. Angela Kurtz spoke to the Board regarding her concern over student safety with the possible employment of a substitute teacher.
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
  - A. **Personnel Approval**
    - Shawna Daniel - New Hire as District Nurse for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Gannon Hart - New Hire as Lifeguard at the La Junta Junior/Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year
    - Lanae Tafoya-Reeves - New Hire as an Activity Bus Driver for the 2025-2026 school year
  - B. **Approve Winter Extra Duty Assignments for 2025-2026 School Year**
7. **FINANCIAL REPORT – APPROVED FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED**  
Sarah Siegrist and Kim Griego, with Abacus, reviewed the July and August financials.

The balance sheet and income statement summary were reviewed. Ms. Siegrist said the revenues collected in July and August were \$1,115,668.64. The largest amount collected this time of year is from the state equalization, which is the funding from CDE based on the projected student count. This amount will be adjusted according to the October student count. Ms. Siegrist said in August, budget lines should be about 17% budget to actual. Regarding expenses, Ms. Siegrist explained the property line item is at 168% budget to actual. On this line item, there is \$164,295.18 in open purchase orders. She explained that account coding is being worked on with staff for accuracy. The food service fund was reviewed as well. Grant reimbursement requests will begin being received early in October. Director Leyba asked what grants are included. Ms. Siegrist said the grants are Title funding, EASI grant and special education services funding. Ms. Siegrist said she can get the Board a list of the grants that have been awarded to the district and the amounts of each grant. Fund 23 (athletics) is currently not showing any funding at this time. Abacus is working on bringing athletics into SDS (Specialized Data Systems). The Junior/Senior High School is currently using their own software program. Fund 43 shows a transfer that will be coming from Fund 10. This fund represents capital improvement projects.

Regarding the balance sheet, Ms. Siegrist said the fund equity in Fund 10 is \$1,725,599.62. She said that number represents the net fund change. The net fund change is showing a current loss of \$663,491.48. She explained there are several different funding sources that still need to come in such as grants. The food service fund balance is close to \$1,000,000 and it was suggested to pull down some of those funds by using indirect costs incurred by the district. Fund 23 will be where the Booster Club monies will be shown. Ms. Siegrist shared it is a good thing that activity monies will be moved into the SDS software. Director Leyba asked why Booster Club money will be shown in our budget as it is not our money to spend. Ms. Siegrist said the district is only managing the activity money and it can't

be transferred to the general fund. Ms. S. Ayala asked if the balance sheet will show the money for each group, i.e., cheerleading, football, etc. Director Kolomitz asked if there were any other databases the district uses for finances. Ms. Griego said there are only the two. Fund 41 will be adjusted after the audit is complete. Fund 43 shows the district has set aside \$746,659.80 for capital use throughout the district and is representing multi-year savings. She said she is looking to see if any of that money is restricted. Director Kolomitz asked if that represented the \$60,000 in this year's budget for capital improvement. Ms. Siegrist said that is reflected in the line below (net change) showing a \$20,296.69 loss. She said anything that occurs in this year will show in the net change line. Director Leyba said she would like to review the liabilities. Ms. Siegrist said liabilities should have money coming in and going out. She said they are live amounts. She said large totals should not be listed there throughout the year. Ms. Siegrist said it has been a project to go through all the different liabilities and rectify the balances that have been put into those accounts year over year. Director Leyba asked if the district is straight with PERA. Ms. Griego said she has been working closely with the district's PERA representative and said he has been very insightful. She said a few employees who have not had PERA withheld from them at all and that is being worked on to fix. The PERA rep has helped to make sure all employees are covered under PERA. She is also working with American Fidelity 125 forms. They have been updated, however, in 2019, PERA made some pre- and post-tax rule changes. Director Leyba asked if this will affect employees and their taxes. Ms. Griego said this affects PERA and PERA will reach out to the employees who will have to choose whether they want to invest in PERA for those years missed. The PERA rep will be completing a PERA audit. The district will owe some back payments to PERA, but the amount owed is not certain yet. Director S. Ayala asked if employees who have left the district will be contacted. The district will deposit the district's portion of PERA into their PERA account. Director Leyba asked about payments that weren't made to PERA and if there were checks outstanding or just not being paid. The electronic payments that weren't submitted to PERA. All payments have been completed to PERA and the district is totally caught up with them. The payments added up to \$30,000. Director Leyba said she would like to know the total amount of fees that the district has had to pay. She said she is curious if internal controls have been implemented. Ms. Siegrist said yes, and a finance compliance checklist was included in the Board packet. Director Kolomitz asked about the Fund 10 equity. Ms. Siegrist said the unassigned balance is at \$1,823,951.10.

Ms. Siegrist said the district is having a hard time producing supporting documents that are needed for the single audit. The auditor has set the single audit to the side for now so he can work on the other two audits first. Ms. Siegrist asked the auditor if the district will have any fees or penalties if fiscal audits are produced without having the single audit addressed. He said the federal government could ask for money back depending on what it looks like and could also look at reducing federal dollars the district would receive. The auditor said he has not ever seen this happen. Director Kolomitz asked if Dr. Krumholz or someone would have to make a decision to go forward without the documents needed to complete the single audit. Ms. Siegrist said auditors are working for a clean judgment and the auditor would not be able to provide that ruling on that audit because he can't support the entire thing with the documents that support the numbers and he would not rubber stamp the audit. She said it is more important to get the 2023-2024 audit done first so tax dollars can be released, then complete this year's audit to keep tax dollars coming in and then deal with the single audit. The 2023-2024 audit had some good momentum going, but unfortunately had to stop because the auditors couldn't tie back numbers to the previous auditor's numbers. Abacus was able to track a payroll check that had been voided in this current year, but it was a payroll check that had been issued in 2023 so it messed up those balances from a few years ago. The auditor is working on other districts and he will begin the 2023-2024 audit within a week. The property taxes will be held until the 2023-2024 audit is completed and submitted to CDE. Director Kolomitz asked Ms. Siegrist if the 2025-2026 audit will be able to be completed in a timely manner. She said it will be and she is adamant about supporting documents being input into SDS and not on someone's desk. Director Leyba commented there were school districts who didn't want to take the ESSER funds due to the complications of tracking. Director Kolomitz asked who has access to the SDS database. Ms. Siegrist said the central office staff, building bookkeepers and principals, however, Abacus limits access.

**8. MINUTES -**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 25, 2025. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION -**

Superintendent Krumholz said he has been meeting with Glenn Gustafson with CDE on financials. He will be working with Mr. Gustafson on the big picture moving forward. This is a free service. Superintendent Krumholz is also working with Tracey Rainey, Colorado Rural Schools Alliance. Director Kolomitz asked how much this training will cost. Superintendent Krumholz stated these are free services. He said he is looking to move forward making sure staffing ratios are correct and said he will have a better picture of the new budget. He will focus on using the district's finances to benefit the students most.

There is a lot to be excited about with accountability. The district moved from Priority Improvement to Improvement status. The Intermediate School is still on Priority Improvement, but also showed gains. The Junior/Senior High School improved. Superintendent Krumholz thanked all of the teachers and administrators for their hard work. He said there is still a lot of work to be done, but we are moving in the right direction.

Superintendent Krumholz informed the Board that if they want to participate in the Homecoming Parade, there is a registration sheet to complete in their packet. He said he hopes to see everyone at the Homecoming Parade.

Director Leyba asked about strategic planning. Superintendent Krumholz said right now he is focusing on the finances. He shared last week he attended a conference and discussion was held regarding strategic planning up and running. He said we are not right there yet, but will be pretty soon.

## **10. PRESENTATIONS -**

### **Colorado Department of Education - Dr. Sam Schneider:**

Dr. Sam Schneider with the Colorado Department of Education, said he is happy to be here and has two hats on today. The first is as the district's support lead for CDE and also as the transformation manager. He said this is an important role.

He explained the accountability framework. He said districts receive points on academic achievement, academic growth and postsecondary and workforce readiness. He said each of these are weighted in a different way. Academic achievement shows to what extent students are achieving at grade level, academic growth shows to what extent students are improving their performance from year to another and postsecondary and workforce readiness shows to what extent students are successfully ending their K-12 career.

Dr. Schneider said in February, La Junta Intermediate had a successful hearing with the Colorado State Board of Education. He said the State Board were big fans of the plan that was put forth.

Dr. Schneider shared some accountability data. He said from 2023 to 2025, the district moved from Turnaround status to Improvement status and rose from 38.6% to 46.2%. He said the Intermediate School and the Junior/Senior High School have both increased the percent of points earned from 2023 to 2025 (Intermediate rose from 25% to 36% and the Junior/Senior High rose from 44.1% to 49.8%). Dr. Schneider said Tiger Trades Academy decreased in points and is less than 2% from Improvement status. Since 2023, the Intermediate School has increased more than 10%. He said that is a really great jump. He said the three previous frameworks were at 25%. They have also shown two consecutive years of growth and achievement. ELA (English Language Arts) achievement has been a steady step up. Math achievement has also shown a steady step up, however, showed a slight decrease last year. Dr. Schneider said the Intermediate School recognized in the spring of 2023 there were some gaps in how students were receiving math tasks and they made some meaningful pivots to make sure students were receiving math content. A worthy curriculum was chosen by the district to implement. The ELA growth data showed Intermediate students had a double-digit increase last year and went from 35 to 46. Math growth data showed a slight decrease last year from 33 to 31.

Dr. Schneider said CDE continues to do quarter progress monitoring alongside TNTP and UVA. He said the district received the EASI grant for financial sustainment. He said the work with TNTP will last as long as the Intermediate School is on the accountability clock. He said the Board governance training will begin soon with Dr. Dan Jorgensen.

Director Kolomitz asked how long the UVA partnership will last. Dr. Schneider said it will last until the end of this school year.

Director Leyba asked Superintendent Krumholz if he is waiting for Board training for the new Board or will he begin it now. Superintendent Krumholz said it will begin when the new Board gets on. Dr. Schneider said that makes sense.

## **11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Approve Revised Policies AC, KLG and JRA/JRC on Second/Final Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Purchase of a Kubota RTV (Krumholz) **TABLED INDEFINITELY**

## **BOARD WRAP UP – September 22, 2025**

**Page | 4**

### **12. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve NWEA Renewal (Krumholz) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,600.00 AS PRESENTED**

### **13. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Cast and crew with Tiger Theater (Viviana Herrera, Mikayla Martinez and Emily Malec) invited everyone to come and watch the fall production, Beetlejuice Junior, the musical. The production will be October 23 and 24 beginning at 7:00 p.m. as well as October 25 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.
- ✓ Director Kolomitz gave huge congratulations to the faculty and staff. He thanked Dr. Krumholz, the transportation department, the band and cheerleaders and anyone else who participated in the Early Settler's Day parade. He said that was great. Director Kolomitz said the 911 Ceremony at the Intermediate was good. He also gave a shout out to Tanya Ramsay (Gonzales), a La Junta graduate, who is the softball coach at Discovery Canyon in Ft. Collins. For the last number of years, she brings her team here to play La Junta, then they have dinner together.
- ✓ Director S. Ayala thanked the 4-H students and leaders for coming to the meeting and all their hard work. She also reminded everyone about the Tarantula Fest this weekend.
- ✓ Director A. Ayala also shared that the Tarantula Fest parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. She encouraged everyone to attend. She congratulated staff and thanked them for their hard work.
- ✓ Director Leyba said there are a lot of great things happening and it is exciting to see the growth. She said she is also excited for the new Board.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:18 p.m.**

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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