



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
November 10, 2025

1. **ROLL CALL** – A. Ayala, S. Ayala, Hines, Kolomitz and Leyba.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **AUDIENCE** - Joe Ayala spoke about his wife's service to the Board of Education. He stated this is a volunteer position and it is more than just filling a chair. He stated this can be stressful and his wife gave because she cares and believes in our children, our teachers and La Junta.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA** - **APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Teagan Mendoza-Werner - New Hire as High School Assistant Swimming Coach for the 2025-26 season
 - Kalie DeHerrera - New Hire as Junior High Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach for the 2025-26 season
 - Iliana McMillan - Resignation as Kindergarten Teacher effective December 19, 2025
 - B. **Approve an Additional Substitute Teacher for the 2025-2026 School Year**
 - C. **Approve Building Accountability Committee Members for 2025-2026 School Year**
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – **APPROVED FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED**

Kim Griego, with Abacus, shared the October financial reports. She began with the finance compliance checklist and stated the Medicaid reporting was finalized. Ms. Griego complimented Shea Peteque on her hard work with this reporting.

The cash flow report was discussed. Ms. Griego said a new line which shows current student count was added to the report. Superintendent Krumholz shared that the final October count number is 1189. Ms. Griego said at this time of year the district should be at 33% of the budget and it shows to be right in line. Director Kolomitz asked when the impact of the lower student count will be felt. Superintendent Krumholz said when the budget is revised. Director Kolomitz said last month there were 82 days of cash on hand and this month it shows 77 days. Ms. Griego said federal funding hasn't been received yet. She said money has been moved out of the operating checking account and has been moved to ColoTrust in order to gain as much interest as possible.

Director Kolomitz asked about the pupil activities line item in the general fund compared to the pupil activities line in the activity account. It was explained the pupil activities in the general fund are for class dues. This money is put back into the general fund as that is where the purchases were made for class supplies. The pupil activities in the activity fund reflects the athletics/clubs revenue.

Ms. Griego stated she spoke with the auditor and he is actively working on the audit. Director Hines asked if there was a completion date on that. Ms. Griego said she doesn't have a date right now. She said when she receives a question from the auditor, she responds as soon as possible. Director Hines asked if an extension has been requested. Ms. Griego said a request will be made next month, but she isn't sure if the request will be accepted by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). She said Superintendent Krumholz is working with Glenn Gustafson, School Finance Program Manager.
7. **MINUTES** -
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 27, 2025. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

8. PRESENTATIONS -

Building Report/Update (Jennifer Foxhoven)

Jennifer Foxhoven, Junior/Senior High School Principal, began her update by stating there are a lot of good things happening at the Junior/Senior High School and shared fall sports are closing and athletes are getting ready for winter sports. Mrs. Foxhoven stated the Drama Club had a great production. The cross country competition was fast this year. Mrs. Foxhoven said the kids are out and about making it happen and that's really good.

Mrs. Foxhoven shared walk-throughs are happening and being connected to the PLC's (Professional Learning Communities). This leads to coaching conversations being had with teachers and giving them the support they need. This Friday is a professional development on academic ownership and English language development strategies. The special education department is also completing walk-throughs to give the paraprofessionals some support and strategies to use in the classroom. This was added this year.

The roof repairs were good. There are a couple of spots being watched.

Regarding behavior, a new behavior matrix is being followed with major and minor behaviors. An in-school suspension (ISS) was implemented this year with the student advocate. This has resulted in a little over 50% decrease in out-of-school suspensions (OSS). Mrs. Foxhoven shared the contributing factors in the decrease of behaviors are teachers actively greeting students at the door and making those connections, there is a tracking system in place of all the minor behaviors and triaging the supports kids need right away. She said students are having better conversations about their behavior expectations on the consequences of their actions.

The teachers are making caregiver contacts. The goal is to make 100% contacts each quarter. Over 96% positive contacts were made the first quarter. This can lead to a sense of belonging which is a strategic priority for the Junior/Senior High School.

An outside counselor will begin coming to the building. This counselor has years of experience in school counseling and will help define the processes.

Mrs. Foxhoven shared this year has the biggest number of student participants in the Student Teacher Parent Organization (STPO). She said this group will be split into Junior High and Senior High groups due to the size and different needs. Parents have been volunteering to help with the Junior High incentive trips.

The concurrent offerings have increased. Last fall there were five concurrent classes at the high school and this fall there are now over twelve. Second semester last year there were seven and second semester this year, there will be thirteen offered. Director Leyba asked what the new courses are. Mrs. Foxhoven said there is Spanish Lit, Technical Writing and others. She will send the complete list out.

Mrs. Foxhoven shared the upcoming events. The sophomores will be taking Career Cab Tours, which is a grant-sponsored opportunity. Students will be grouped into categories of interest and will visit coordinating businesses. The Fab Life for Seniors will be held on November 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a financial literacy simulation for students. It gives them real life scenarios where they receive a profile (married, single, salary, etc.) and visit different booths that deal with housing, insurance, groceries, entertainment, etc. Mrs. Foxhoven invited the Board members to help run a table at this event. The Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. and will be hosted by the JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps).

Director Kolomitz mentioned the 7th and 8th grade students were going to be separated and inquired if this has happened. Mrs. Foxhoven said it has and believes this is also a contributing factor to the decrease in negative behaviors. Director A. Ayala asked if students have adjusted to the hall passes. Mrs. Foxhoven said they have and also believes this is another factor in lowering negative behavior. She has had comments stating the halls are quite and not too hectic. Director Leyba asked if the hall passes will be implemented at the Intermediate School and Superintendent Krumholz stated we haven't got there yet.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION -

Superintendent Krumholz began his report by sharing there are two Veteran's Day Ceremonies taking place tomorrow to honor all those who served our country. The Junior/Senior High School will hold their event at 10:45 a.m. and the Intermediate School will have theirs at 1:00 p.m.

Superintendent Krumholz announced Clancy Creede Miller was born on Friday, November 7 to the Primary School principal, Julie Miller and her husband. He congratulated the family.

Glenn Gustafson has been working with Superintendent Krumholz and Abacus. He is helping prepare the administration to come to the Board with next year's budget. He said next year the pupil count funding average will be lower as the district won't be able to rely on larger enrollment numbers from past years due to the average being over a three-year period. He said this will lead to decreases across the board. Superintendent Krumholz said he is working on creating a plan to use our resources to benefit students as best as possible.

The district is currently awaiting the official abstract of votes from the Otero County Clerk and Recorder's office. Once this is received, the new Board members will be sworn in.

Superintendent Krumholz shared the University of Virginia-Arlington (UVA) was in the district last week. He said the visit went well and one of the things UVA shared was how far our schools have come in the last year and a half. They spoke highly of the progress that has been made. Superintendent Krumholz said he and Mr. Wilson will be traveling to Indianapolis next week to a UVA conference. The leadership team will be traveling to Oklahoma second semester. These expenses are paid through grant funds.

Director Leyba asked if there are plans to hire a Business Manager and Human Resources Coordinator. Superintendent Krumholz said no, the district will continue with Abacus. He said he doesn't want any extra expenses now and said there is a plan in place and feels things can be maintained by current Central Office staff.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policies GDD and DKA on Second/Final Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVE ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the 2025-2026 Consolidated Application (Krumholz) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- b. Approve Revised Policies IJ and KEC on First/Revised Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- c. Adopt Policy IJL on First/Revised Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- d. Recognition of Angela Ayala and Dee Leyba (Krumholz)
Angela Ayala (June 2016-November 2025) and Dee Leyba (November 2016-2025) were recognized and thanked for their years of service to East Otero School District as Board members. Superintendent Krumholz said this is an opportunity for the district to thank them for all of their hard work and sacrifice over the last nine years. He said they will both be missed and have been an inspiration to the community. Superintendent Krumholz added that Director Leyba was recently appointed to the Statewide Accountability Workgroup by the CDE Commissioner of Education Suzanna Cordova. Each was presented with a plaque.

12. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Kolomitz thanked Directors A. Ayala and Leyba for their service. He shared they will be missed and he appreciates all they have done. Director Kolomitz stated Dr. Krumholz spoke about the return to the three-year average and said this could be a problem for the district. He said he and Director Hines judged the entrepreneurial fair last week and said a student from Tiger Trades Academy was a finalist and received \$50.00. He was impressed with the projects that were presented and would have liked to see more participation from La Junta.
- ✓ Director Hines also thanked Directors A. Ayala and Leyba for their guidance over the last several years. She thanked them for their time and effort and said it is a lot. Speaking about the entrepreneurial fair, she said there were two students representing Tiger Trades Academy and the winning project was from Springfield and that student received \$1,000.00. She also said she would have liked to have seen more students from La Junta participate. Director Hines said the Career Cab tomorrow will be a good experience for the 10th grade students.
- ✓ Director S. Ayala thanked Directors A. Ayala and Leyba. She said it has been a learning experience with a lot of concerns and stress. Director S. Ayala shared the Tiger Trades Academy 4-H program is available for all students in the district. She said they hold meetings every Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. where activities are completed and discussion regarding upcoming projects take place.
- ✓ Director A. Ayala said she is sad. She said "To our teachers and staff, you are the heartbeat of the district, don't forget it. To our students, you are the why behind every decision. To this community, thank you for trusting me to be a voice at this table. It has been a privilege to serve. Thank you."
- ✓ Director Leyba also said thank you for trusting us. She said it has been an interesting ride and she is excited for everyone and all the new changes.

13. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:18 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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