



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

**Board of Education Meeting
December 8, 2025**

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1. **SPECIAL MEETING ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Hines, Kolomitz and Salzbrenner.
 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 3. **OATH OF OFFICE**
Newly Elected Board Members (Dellinger) **JILL DELLINGER ADMINISTERED OATH OF OFFICE TO ROD BICKEL, GREGORY KOLOMITZ AND CAMERON SALZBRENNER**
 4. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**
Organizational Meeting to select officers of the Board (Board of Education) **BOARD OFFICERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**
 - President – Sara Hines
 - Vice President – Cameron Salzbrenner
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Stacey AyalaStacey Ayala will serve as the district’s BOCES Representative and as the CASB Legislative Representative and Voting Delegate. Gregory Kolomitz will serve as the CASB Legislative Representative and Voting Delegate alternant.

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1. **REGULAR MEETING ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Hines, Kolomitz and Salzbrenner.
 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 3. **CELEBRATIONS – VETERAN’S DAY POETRY WINNERS**
The Board congratulated Intermediate School students, Reagan Smith (3rd Grade winner), Sadie Goldsberry (4th Grade winner), Robbi Penrod (5th Grade winner) and Jennylynn Zamora (6th Grade winner) for being the Veteran’s Day poetry winners. Reagan and Jennylynn were unable to attend and Robbi and Sadie read their poems to the Board.

CELEBRATIONS – JUSTIN SAMORA

The Board congratulated Justin Samora on obtaining the Outdoor Equity Grant for summer programming. Mr. Samora said he will take students on a total of eight fishing trips. The Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program (OEGP) funds organizations and projects that improve access, representation, meaningful participation, and quality experiences for youth and their families in the Colorado outdoors. This grant is sponsored by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - **Additional Substitute Teachers added**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Erin Spear - New Hire as 1st Grade Teacher at the Primary School for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year
 - Hannah Gomez - Resignation as English Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective December 19, 2025
 - B. **Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for the 2025-2026 School Year**
6. **MINUTES -**
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 10, 2025. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

7. PRESENTATIONS -

Building Report/Update (Claudia Apodaca)

Claudia Apodaca, Intermediate School Principal, began by congratulating the new Board members. She shared a few updates and said new this year, the Intermediate School PIE (Partners in Education) is joining forces with the Primary PIE since the focus in each building is the same and both committees have most of the same parents. She said the committee will meet monthly to get a good focus on goals. The FSCP (Family, School, Community Partnerships) building committee members will also be joining the PIE meetings to increase family and community involvement. Things such as Math and Literacy Nights will be topics of discussion. Mrs. Apodaca said an idea being looked at is to have the meetings at local businesses instead of in the schools. She said this will support local businesses as well as a more relaxed atmosphere. Director Bickel said he likes the idea of partnering with local businesses. Mrs. Apodaca said this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Regarding Big Rock #1, which is implementation of high quality instructional materials, Mrs. Apodaca said each quarter has benchmarks that are focused on. One benchmark for the end of this quarter is to have 100% of teachers using the high instructional materials assigned for ELA and Math core classes. This curriculum is Illustrative Math and Wonders for Reading/Writing. Another goal is 95% of the teachers tracking their cool down data for math. With Illustrative Math, every day at the end of the lesson, the teachers give what is called a cool down. This gives teachers a snap shot of whether students have comprehended the skill or not. Reteaching takes place if needed. Teachers are keeping a spreadsheet of that data.

A survey will be given to teachers this week regarding PLC (Professional Learning Community) feedback. Mrs. Apodaca wants to know if teachers are finding value in PLC's and is hoping at least 85% of teachers find value in the PLC's. She said this will give her information if things need to be adjusted.

Director Bickel asked if Mrs. Apodaca is expecting more than 85% of if there is pushback. Mrs. Apodaca said 85% is just a target number. The first quarter the goal was 100% and was met. This just gives the teachers a chance for feedback.

For Big Rock #2 (High Quality Instruction), the goal is that all staff will have been observed and scored using the mission of instruction tool at least six times in the quarter. She said this is a high number and stated administrators are getting into the classrooms much more and are able to give feedback. The next goal is to have at least three coaching meetings with teachers each quarter. Mrs. Apodaca said right now 100% has not been met, but they are getting very close to that. The other part of this goal is that 65% of the teachers are scoring a level three or higher for essential content and are using the vision of instruction walk through tool. Mrs. Apodaca said she won't have the total on this until the end of the quarter.

Mid-year NWEA assessments will be administered this week. Director Kolomitz asked when results will be received. Mrs. Apodaca said hopefully by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

Mrs. Apodaca gave a big shout out to Jared Wilson, Chief Academic Officer; Carolanna Traver, Instructional Coach; and Josh Smith of TNTP for their PLC support. She also thanked all of the teachers and their hard work.

Student Council recently held the Veteran's Day Ceremony, partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion. Mrs. Apodaca said Mrs. Linda Fief, Student Council Sponsor and Art Teacher, also incorporated student art into the ceremony. The artwork was hung in the gym where the ceremony took place for all to see. Mrs. Apodaca said Amanda Gingrich, Chartwells Food Service Director and her staff prepared a nice lunch with the Student Council officers serving the veterans. Mrs. Kristin Golding-Langston and Mrs. Mary Belew provided music. Mrs. Apodaca also thanked the custodial staff for their hard work in setting up and taking down for the ceremony.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION -

Superintendent Krumholz said Abacus will not be giving a financial report tonight. They will present next month with Glen Gustafson of the Colorado Department of Education and will review the district's financial forecast and will have a budget for approval.

Superintendent Krumholz took a moment to thank the EOSD staff for a good semester. He said they have been working hard and deserve the Christmas break coming up. He shared he is impressed with the dedication of faculty and staff.

Director Kolomitz asked about the status of the audit. Superintendent Krumholz said all the documentation the auditor requested was sent last week and he has everything he needs. We are still waiting to hear back from him, and are hoping to have the audit done by January. Director Kolomitz said at the last meeting it was indicated that an extension will be filed this month and asked the status of that. Superintendent Krumholz said it will be filed, but most likely won't be approved. He elaborated and said the goal is to be completely caught up by next fall. Director Hines asked when the tax funds that are being held will be released. Superintendent Krumholz said as soon as the 2023-2024 audit is completed. She asked what happens when the extension request is denied. Superintendent Krumholz said it won't matter if it is denied, the district has to get the audit complete and everything finished as soon as possible. Director Salzbrenner asked if the auditor has received everything requested and if all documents were found. Superintendent Krumholz said yes.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policies IJ and KEC on Second/Final Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVE ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
- b. Adopt Policy IJL on Second/Final Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVE ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Certify Mill Levy (Krumholz) **CERTIFIED AT 27.531 MILS AS PRESENTED**
- b. Certify total FTE for October Count for 2025-2026 (Krumholz) **CERTIFIED AT 1189 STUDENTS AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Revised Policies GCBA, GBGD, GCCAA, GCCBA and BE on First/Revised Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Swimming Pool Roof HVAC Units Repairs (Krumholz) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,540.00 AS PRESENTED**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Salzbrenner said he attended the Veteran's Day ceremony and thought it was great and put together very well. He shared that it was good to see the Student Council run things. Superintendent Krumholz added the Junior/Senior High School also held a very nice, high quality Veteran's Day ceremony.
- ✓ Director Kolomitz echoed the appreciation to staff for their efforts. He congratulated the new Board members and leadership. He thanked the cheerleaders, band and choir for the participation in the Parade of Lights. Director Kolomitz said he thinks the fishing program by Mr. Samora is fantastic. He ended his comments by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- ✓ Director Ayala gave a reminder that the 4-H program is still happening at Tiger Trades Academy. She shared it is a good program and the kids enjoy it. Director Ayala said she attended the STPO (Students-Teachers-Parents Organization) meeting at the Junior/Senior High School. She said there was a lot of interaction with students, parents and staff and students gave a lot of input and she learned a lot of information. Director Ayala said the meeting was inspiring. She also congratulated the new Board members.
- ✓ Director Hines congratulated the new Board members and is excited for work to continue with TNTP and the Big Rocks. She said the work session tomorrow evening will be awesome and she is excited for the CASB (Colorado Association of School Boards) Convention.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:25 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SARA HINES, President

CAMERON SALZBRENNER, Vice President

STACEY AYALA, Secretary/Treasurer

ROD BICKEL, Director

GREGORY KOLOMITZ, Director