



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting

February 23, 2026

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Hines, Kolomitz and Salzbrenner.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Kirk Shiflett – Retirement as Junior High Art Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective June 2026
 - B. **Approve Spring Sports Extra Duty Assignments for the 2025-2026 Season**
5. **AUDITOR UPDATE APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

Dmitriy Chernyak, with DMC Auditing and Consulting, LLC will virtually speak to the Board regarding the audit. He gave an update on the audit and explained his firm was hired a year and a half ago to complete the 2024 audit. Mr. Chernyak said during the process, there was staff turnover and his firm didn't receive a set of books to audit at that time as they weren't ready. He said his firm understood the circumstances and the district contracted out their financials with Abacus. Based on his firm's review of the books, fiscal year 2023 had issues, which required him to review previous years. That is when it was realized there was tons of work to do, with the issues being in payroll, grants, cash and multiple accounts. Mr. Chernyak told the Board he understands the current cash flow issues the district is having and after speaking with Abacus, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and Superintendent Krumholz, he believes the best solution for the 2024 fiscal audit is to disclaim an opinion (a disclaimer of opinion means the auditor can't complete his report, therefore, can't provide an opinion on the district's financial statements).

Director Kolomitz asked how this happened and stated it is beyond embarrassing to the district. He clarified this did not happen on Superintendent Krumholz' watch. Director Kolomitz asked Mr. Chernyak if he believes the district now has procedures and the proper personnel in place to make sure this doesn't happen again. Mr. Chernyak said the district has the right consultant in place with Abacus and the administration has the right mindset to make things right and move forward. He also shared the current staff are trying to fix the situation. Mr. Chernyak said this financial situation is most likely due to years of mismanaging the accounting records and added there were months and months of unreconciled cash and grants.

Director Salzbrenner asked Mr. Chernyak what is the confidence level on issuing an opinion on the 2025 audit. Mr. Chernyak said he has more confidence in the 2025 audit than the 2024 audit, but will still have to go back to the 2024 audit to a degree. He said there were no controls in place for fiscal year 2024 and shared when controls were put in place that is when he will have more faith in the accounting records, but won't know that until he dives into the audit. Director Hines asked what the estimated timeframe is for the fiscal year 2025 audit. Mr. Chernyak said he can't give a concrete timeframe of completion for the fiscal year 2025. Director Hines asked if after the 2025 audit is submitted, will the district be back on track to finish the 2026 audit. Mr. Chernyak said yes. Director Kolomitz said the Board was told at previous meetings that the district is on track for the 2024-2025 audit. Mr. Chernyak asked him to define on track. Director Kolomitz explained he understood Mr. Chernyak had all the documentation that was needed and was prepared to begin the audit. Mr. Chernyak said no and he hasn't touched the fiscal year 2025 yet. What he has looked at is the 2024 audit. He said fiscal year 2025 hasn't been looked at yet and won't be until the opinion is disclaimed for fiscal year 2024. Then the accounting records will need to go back and be reconciled from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. Kim Griego shared anytime she received an email requesting data, she returned them as fast as they could. The requests received in the last few weeks led to missing documents that couldn't be located anymore. Mr. Chernyak said he won't issue an opinion on unsubstantiated information. Director Hines asked what the timeframe is for getting the information together to begin the 2025 audit. Ms. Griego said her goal is to have everything together to send to

the auditor at some point in May. In July 2025, Abacus began running the district payroll and she said she isn't sure what payroll looks like. Ms. Griego said her staff will have to make sure grants are assigned to the right people in payroll. Director Kolomitz asked for further clarification on payroll. Ms. Griego said Abacus will need to go back and review all accounts to make sure everything was expensed correctly through payroll. She said they will have review all the accounts to make sure everything is aligned with the grants and the accounts they were expensed to.

Director Kolomitz asked when the district will receive the tax dollars held by the county. Mr. Chernyak said based on state statute, as long as some kind of audit opinion is issued, funding will be released or at least a portion of it. He added he needs approval from the Board to submit a disclaimer for the 2024 audit. He said he can't guarantee fiscal year 2025 and suggested setting up meetings so he can keep the Board informed. He did say he will do his best to work on the audit, but it could be delayed until the middle of June to early July as this is a busy season for his firm. Director Bickel asked how often the Board could be updated. Mr. Chernyak said he can keep the Board up to date on a monthly basis or as often as the Board wishes, however, there will be times where his firm is busy and may not be able to get to the district's audit every day. Director Bickel thanked Mr. Chernyak for the clarification and feels the Board would be remiss if they don't request updates. Mr. Chernyak said once he completes the disclaimer opinion, he will present the audit to the Board and then the fiscal year 2025 audit will begin.

Director Kolomitz asked what the ramifications are to the district for filing a disclaimer opinion. Mr. Chernyak doesn't know all of them, but did state the district's bond rating will be impacted. Director Kolomitz asked how long the impact would last and if it will affect the district's current bond. Mr. Chernyak said he would have to look into the current bond and stated if the district has several years of clean audits, he doesn't believe the impact will be that much.

Director Ayala asked what happens if fiscal year 2025 is like fiscal year 2024 and the district has to end filing another disclaimer opinion. Mr. Chernyak said the Colorado State Auditor's office will be okay with the disclaimer, but he doesn't know the implication for multiple years of filing a disclaimer and added he has never seen it happen.

Director Kolomitz asked Mr. Chernyak if there have been other school districts that have issued this opinion. Mr. Chernyak said there has been.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Sarah Siegrist and Kim Griego with Abacus presented a financial report to the Board. Ms. Siegrist began by pointing out the Board needs to be receiving monthly reports straight out of the accounting software and this will help them to make sure the books are being verified monthly.

Ms. Siegrist reviewed the cash flow report. She said the district currently has 60 days of operating cash available if no other funding is received. Director Kolomitz stated he didn't receive a clear answer on when property taxes will be released. Ms. Siegrist said it is at least a few weeks out from the auditor releasing his disclaimed opinion report. She said it should be next month. She said if something comes up and it will take longer, she will communicate that through Superintendent Krumholz and he will let the Board know what that timeframe looks like. Ms. Siegrist said she has been in contact with the Colorado state loan program, however, at this time, the district can't enroll in the program due to the 2024 audit not being in place. Director Hines asked if the district didn't do the disclaimer on the 2024 audit and the 60 days of cash on hand, payroll would not be able to be made after two months. Ms. Siegrist said a little bit of funding is still being received, but that is correct. She elaborated that the district will be out of cash sometime in April or May. Director Hines stated if the district finished the 2024 audit, it would take longer than April or May. Ms. Siegrist said that is correct and the crux of the problem is that cash wasn't reconciled correctly so in order for Mr. Chernyak to be able to start that verification process, he has to know there is no transactions that have been booked to cash that were incorrect. She said that is a big project. Director Kolomitz clarified that is a personnel issue and a mistake on the district's side. Ms. Siegrist said yes and it is a lot to do with how the finance office was doing reconciliations. She said again, she will stand firm that the Board needs to see financials coming out of the financial software. She said an accountant can show the Board reports if they're made on an Excel spreadsheet, but how does the Board know if the books are balanced or reconciled.

Ms. Siegrist reviewed the cash accounts balance sheet. She said the outstanding checks are at \$262,486.42. She said this sheet is watched closely to make sure bills and payroll can be met. Director Hines asked on average, how much is a payroll run. Ms. Siegrist said it is around \$1.187 million each month. She said Superintendent Krumholz is adamant with Abacus that transparency is at the top of the list. Ms. Siegrist said the monthly state funding the district receives is not enough to cover payroll and the district is running at a \$89,753 loss each month. Director Kolomitz asked if that is because the district budgeted on a per pupil number and with enrollment down is that why state funding

is not the amount expected. Ms. Siegrist said yes and the overhead costs are much higher. Superintendent Krumholz said that is one of the issues and the budget was set up as deficit spending and the loss of students made it worse.

The balance sheet was reviewed. The assets section lists all bank accounts for the district. The liabilities section lists the payroll liabilities and the fund equities section shows the savings the district has. Ms. Siegrist said currently at the end of January, the district is running at a loss of \$1.8 million. She said if the district was in a better spot, that wouldn't be so concerning because property taxes would be coming in. But where the district is sitting right now, that is not helping the cash at this point.

The income statement summary shows the accounts are in balance. Ms. Siegrist pointed out the percent of budget column on this sheet. She said the percent of budget should be at 58% at this point. The income statement summary shows 54% in revenues and 56% in expenditures, which explains the loss.

Ms. Siegrist reviewed the general fund information (Fund 10).

Director Kolomitz asked about Fund 23 (Activity Account). He said a concern was mentioned at the annual staff Meet and Confer meeting. He said he realizes the changes (moving the funds into the main accounting software from a separate accounting software used by the Junior/Senior High School) were made for managing these funds. However, there seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding these funds. Ms. Siegrist stated she hasn't heard of anyone having issues with balances. She said the accounts were moved in September and Abacus worked with Billie Waring, the Junior/Senior High School bookkeeper, who sent the balances for all accounts to Abacus. She said Abacus set up revenue and expense accounts for each activity and said each coach and sponsor has access to view their account. Superintendent Krumholz said he has spoken to the Junior/Senior High School Principal and shared this issue hasn't been brought up to the administrators. He said they will try to track down who has the issue and get it squared away. Director Bickel asked if they have been shown how to access. Superintendent Krumholz said they should have been. Ms. Siegrist said if there are any problems, to let them know and they will help get them fixed.

7. MINUTES -

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 26, 2026. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

8. PRESENTATIONS -

Chief Academic Officer Update (Jared Wilson)

Jared Wilson, Chief Academic Officer, presented a mid-year update for the Junior/Senior High School and Tiger Trades Academy. He reviewed the 2025-2026 Arc of the Year (through TNTP) which consists of developing a culture of belonging and strong instruction by: 1) starting strong; 2) strengthening the instructional core; 3) academic ownership; and 4) finishing strong. Mr. Wilson spoke about the Vision of Instruction Data at the Junior/Senior High School and where they are currently standing. Director Bickel asked about the overall student engagement and how it is calculated on the Vision of Instruction. He said he feels students should be engaged more than the 2.9 average shown.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the Junior/Senior High School NWEA data. The Winter NWEA Math data shows an increase of students meeting their expected growth. Currently data shows 42% meeting their growth compared to 36% in 2025. The Winter NWEA Reading data shows a slight decrease at 40% compared to 44% in 2025. The Winter NWEA Science data shows an increase at 43% compared to 40% in 2025. The Language Usage data also shows a decrease from 51% in 2025 to 45% in 2026. Director Kolomitz asked what the total number of students means on the report. Mr. Wilson said it is the total number of students who took the test and also listed is the number of students out of the total who met their goal. Director Ayala asked if any trends are being seen. Mr. Wilson said as the level of rigor goes up, less growth and achievement is being seen. The high school has identified that they need to have a shared ELA focus. Mr. Wilson said one grade level hasn't been seen as completely as an outlier. Director Kolomitz asked what Mr. Wilson's opinion is of these numbers. Mr. Wilson said there is definitely room for improvement. He said seeing the help the district has received from TNTP and UVA at the Primary and Intermediate level has really started to change the district's perspective and approach on how PLC's are ran, and how we can be more intentional with making some of this growth with using TNTP for strategic planning, Mr. Wilson said he is very hopeful that it will help refine the La Junta way on how we can improve our system all around. He said he is feeling optimistic. Director Kolomitz said this is really the first year that the academic structure is in place and these are like year one results. Mr. Wilson said more like half year of year one results. Director Ayala said the academic ownership and engagement was seen during the Board tour at the elementary schools, but saw kids not paying attention at the Junior/Senior High School. Superintendent Krumholz said the data shows we need to do better and focus on classroom instruction. Director Bickel said at the high school level, kids expect explanation. Mr. Wilson said that also speaks to what engagement looks like. Superintendent Krumholz stated data says lecture, even at the high school level, is not effective.

The shared English Language Arts (ELA) focus is to increase language usage and strategies across all contents. The professional development strategy that is being used is RACES (Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain, Summarize). The strategy is similar to CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) which is the structure used in other content areas.

The Junior/Senior High School continue to work on creating a culture of belonging. There is STPO (Student-Teacher-Parent-Organization); FSCP (Family, Schools and Community Partnerships); and Caregiver Contacts, where every caregiver is contacted quarterly by a teacher.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the average daily attendance. There were mid-to-high 80% of students in class each day from August to January. Director Bickel asked if Infinite Campus is still being used and does it break down attendance like this. Mr. Wilson said it gives a report but not at this level. Director Hines asked how it compares to other districts. Hallie Romero said on average attendance is low across the state. She said the state is working on a project to decrease absenteeism and things should be in place that will be rolling out next year. Superintendent Krumholz added that prior to Covid, attendance rates were at 93-94%.

Mr. Wilson reviewed Tiger Trades Academy's (TTA) Big Rocks. Big Rock #1 is having systems in place for knowledge and clarity of standards-aligned planning and instruction and Big Rock #2 having systems in place for observation, feedback and coaching.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the Vision of Instruction Tool (COMTSS) 1) Culture of Learning; 2) Essential Content; 3) Academic Ownership; 4) Demonstration of Learning; and 5) Overall Student Engagement. This focuses on what can be taught in professional development to make this come alive in our classrooms.

Mr. Wilson shared the Vision of Instruction data for TTA, which shows students engagement at a 3.5 out of 5 rating. Director Hines asked if the same people did the same grading across schools or across the district. Mr. Wilson said originally each building began by grading their own and district norming wasn't taking place. A cohort was built that included Mr. Wilson and the Instructional Coaches who go to each building and have conversations to define what this should look like. The goal to getting to this point is creating a cohort so teachers can go to other buildings to see what that looks like.

The NWEA reading achievement scores fell from Fall 2024-25 (ranking 19th) to Winter 2025-26 (24th). NWEA math achievement also showed a loss from Fall 2024-25 (11th) to Winter 2025-26 (14th). The language usage data shows only the 2024-25 data at 17th due to test invalidation. This data is for students in all grade levels at TTA. Director Hines asked if there are that many less students at TTA or did a lot of students opt out of testing. Mr. Wilson said both. NWEA Science showed a loss from Fall 2024-25 (13th) to Winter 2025-26 (22nd).

Tiger Trade Academy's attendance was reviewed and shows a range from 65% to 94%.

Director Bickel said La Junta is famous for doing a bang up job. He said hopefully at this time next year a trend will be seen. He feels the district is on the right track.

COMTSS Update (Katy Goebel/Jared Wilson)

Katy Goebel with the Colorado Department of Education, Jared Wilson, Chief Academic Officer and Hallie Romero, District Social Worker updated the Board regarding COMTSS (Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports).

Ms. Goebel began by applauding the Board and the work they are doing on the district finances. She said she is here to support the district in any way she can. She also thanked Mr. Wilson and Ms. Romero for their work on MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports). She said there is not a financial obligation for the district to commit to this program and is a continuation of what is being done.

Ms. Romero explained the purpose of this presentation is to share how Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (COMTSS). She said COMTSS provides the district-wide framework that creates coherence, strengthens partnerships, and drives results. The outcomes for the Board are to understand COMTSS at a high level; seeing how COMTSS aligns external partnerships (TNTP, UVA, CDE, and BOCES); and understanding where the district has been and where it is headed. She said the framework is not an initiative and it is a standalone that new things can be thrown in and have all the pieces aligned. Ms. Romero said there are five components: Team-Driven Shared Leadership; Data-Based Problem Solving and Decision Making; Family, School and Community Partnerships; Comprehensive Screening and Assessment; and Layered Continuum of Supports. Ms. Goebel said the first foundational component is Team-Driven Shared Leadership and this is the foundational piece of the work. There is a district level leadership team that is looking at the systems and structures in the district and how to work toward

outcomes for students. She said our district has a leadership team (Mr. Wilson and Ms. Romero) and there is also a leadership team through the Santa Fe Trail BOCES, spearheaded by Natalie Brown. Our leadership team meets with other districts and Ms. Brown for shared leadership. Next is the Data-Based Problem Solving and Decision Making, where the implementation team is using data to drive decisions. The Family, School and Community Partnerships is key and Ms. Goebel said Ms. Romero has been doing some great work around that. This work is how to make sure parents are engaged. Comprehensive Screening and Assessment is just that and looking at how students are being screened to know what to put in place and what are we doing with that data. The fifth component, the Layered Continuum of Supports, once data is reviewed, supports are put into place. Ms. Goebel said these five components set the foundation framework for MTSS work across the district. This is a system and framework of how the district does business. It is something that will continue on into the future.

Ms. Romero reviewed how the team is supported. There is the regional implementation team, which are the districts through BOCES (Cheraw, Las Animas, La Junta, Rocky Ford and Wiley). Monthly meetings take place to connect, share resources and build capacity to support the regional work and there is also a partnership with the CDE Family, School and Community Partnership Team. The district implementation team consists of Mr. Wilson, Ms. Romero, the principals, instructional coaches and teachers. The district coordinators are Mr. Wilson and Ms. Romero. There are district monthly meetings to review data, share resources and build capacity to support school level work. Director Kolomitz asked how schools become BOCES members. Director Ayala shared they are voted in by the BOCES Board. Ms. Goebel stated there are 21 BOCES across the state.

Ms. Goebel shared a visual that explained the reasons for having a framework. She said when there are different pulls on dollars, etc. it can take away from the vision. When all the initiatives are aligned, it allows districts to achieve their vision.

Mr. Wilson discussed data-based decision making. The DCA (District Capacity Assessment) and School Fidelity tools were explained. He said these tools give an honest reflection of what is happening in each building and gives clear action steps tied to real data. The DCA allows systems already in place needing clearer documentation, identifies gaps requiring intentional design and communication, outlines inconsistencies across buildings needing alignment, and gives the district clear priorities and focused improvement. Mr. Wilson said the DCA has shown district strengths: improvement in coaching across the district aligned PLC (Professional Learning Communities) structure and Professional Development alignment. It has also shown areas to improve: written processes (system dependent vs. person dependent); communication (internal and external) and systems/processes district alignment (RTI, IEP, attendance, etc.). Mr. Wilson reviewed graphs which showed the DCA scale and total score results and the DCA subscale results, which shows growth and some areas that were plateaued. Director Kolomitz asked if the plateaued areas will be targeted. Ms. Romero said she believes the 2026 data will show gains.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the Big Rocks and what is being worked on.

Ms. Romero said she has been working on getting an increase in support for families. She said conferences have been focused on for improvement. She added collaborating with other districts has been very helpful.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION -

Superintendent Krumholz shared the superintendent evaluation has been moved to the March meeting.

Superintendent Krumholz shared he received a letter last week from the Internal Revenue Service stating the district didn't complete two things: submit 1094-C form to the IRS and didn't complete the 1095 form. Due to this, the IRS is fining the district \$170,000 (1094-C) for failure to file and \$168,880 (1095) for failure to furnish. This was not reported in the 2023-2024 school year. Superintendent Krumholz said the district has an insurance broker who offered to complete these tasks and he isn't sure why that didn't happen. He is working with Ms. Siegrist, Ms. Griego and Glen Gustafson with CDE to see if payments can be made to the IRS or reduced as it is \$340,000 in fines. Director Hines asked if it was our central office that was supposed to file those. Superintendent Krumholz said yes, it was. Director Kolomitz asked if the district has any insurance for screw ups like this and asked what the can the district do. Superintendent Krumholz said he is working on it but is not optimistic because it is the IRS. He said he doesn't feel like the IRS negotiates and he will have more answers at the next Board meeting. Director Ayala asked if there is a check system in place. Superintendent Krumholz said this will never happen again and there is no excuse for this. Director Salzbrenner asked if there was anyone else that should have done it for us, like ADP or any other payroll provider. Superintendent Krumholz said they offered to help us and would do it for us and what he was told was we have it and didn't do it. Director Hines asked if we know about the 24-25 school year. Superintendent Krumholz said we do not and is worried more of this might come through. Director Kolomitz asked what potential implications this

discovery and potential issues have on the audit and will that delay the audit and receiving tax dollars. Superintendent Krumholz said he doesn't know and he will find out. Director Ayala asked if there is a way to pay this back in increments. Superintendent Krumholz said he is working on it and if possible, would like payments to start after July 1.

Superintendent Krumholz said he found out not long ago a student count audit was performed by CDE from the years 2018 to 2022. This audit makes sure districts are counting students they are allowed to count for funding. From this audit, the district owes \$2,433 from 2018-19, \$45,657 from 2019-20, \$18,000 from 2020-21, and over \$30,000 from 2021-22. This totals \$97,136.85. There was also a transportation fine so the total audit fines are \$113,847.34 to CDE. Superintendent Krumholz said he has worked with CDE and they have given the district until November 2032 to pay the fines with no interest. There is a repayment plan in place that will start after July 1. They will automatically take a set amount out of the monthly monies received from CDE. Superintendent Krumholz said the total amount owed is about \$443,000 between the IRS and CDE. He also said he doesn't know if the district is out of the woods on other things coming in. Director Kolomitz said this happened under mistakes made by district personnel and it wasn't under Superintendent Krumholz' watch and it wasn't under the previous superintendent who was only here for one year, so it was under a different superintendent. He said it is very unfortunate. Director Hines stated so not only was the district over spending during those years, but was collecting too much money we shouldn't have been collecting. She asked if going forward there are procedures in place to make sure we are counting the appropriate students and not extra students we can't. Superintendent Krumholz said absolutely. He shared that he and Dee Rangel met and reviewed a couple of students to see if they could be claimed or not. He said he isn't taking any chances. Superintendent Krumholz said the district passed for the 2025-26 year and won't be audited because everything was submitted quickly and with such care. Director Kolomitz said Superintendent Krumholz indicated the CDE fines will be paid over time and asked if that will be built into the budget. Superintendent Krumholz said it will.

Superintendent Krumholz said he is moving forward in reducing staff for next year and the district needs to reduce \$2.5 million and he is looking at cutting 23 certified staff. He said he is still working on classified staff. He met with the principals last week and gave them the number of staff they will need to cut from their buildings. There will be nine at the Junior/Senior High School and five at TTA, Intermediate and the Primary. These are teaching cuts only. Superintendent Krumholz said the itinerant subs received letters last week. They can reapply if they have licenses. The teachers will be notified next week. The principals have done a good job and it is really hard having to make these tough decisions. The district is in a place where there is no choice and we have to get to the place where we are spending what we can afford. Director Bickel asked if secretaries and aides are included. Superintendent Krumholz said those positions are classified, not certified. Director Kolomitz clarified that over a 10-year period, the district has lost 200 students and has added 45 employees – 10 certified and 35 classified. Superintendent Krumholz said that is correct. Director Bickel said he wants to make sure he clarifies what certified and classified staff are. Superintendent Krumholz said certified staff are those who are required to have licenses: teachers, counselors and administrators. Classified staff consist of secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians and maintenance staff. Director Hines asked if the \$2.5 million in reductions include what needs to be cut with the fines that just came in or will there need to be more cuts if more fines are received. Superintendent Krumholz said he is going over to make sure he doesn't miss the target. He stated the district can't be in the same situation next year and we have to get to the place to talk about students and what students need. Director Hines asked if the numbers at each building is after the itinerant subs being released. Superintendent Krumholz said that is the total number. He said he used a teacher to student number. Director Hines questioned class sizes and Superintendent Krumholz said he won't go any less than 19:1 at the secondary level and 25:1 at the Intermediate. Director Kolomitz said just to be clear, class sizes will increase a little bit. Superintendent Krumholz said currently, class sizes aren't appropriate. Director Ayala voiced a concern with losing teachers and the turnaround status. Superintendent Krumholz said we will do that with quality instruction in the classroom and having structures in place. Director Hines said for clarification \$2.5 million is needing to be cut. The first round of cuts will cut \$1.5 million, so there will still be \$1 million to cut, which will be administrators and classified. Superintendent Krumholz said he has those numbers but he is not ready to present that, but the \$2.5 million will be met. Director Hines clarified the certified teachers being let go will know by the end of next week and Superintendent Krumholz said yes.

The strategic plan the district is working on with TNTP will be collecting data the first week of March and then there will be two planning teams that will include parents, staff, students and school board members and will meet in April. There will be another advisory team in May. Superintendent Krumholz said this is how the district moves forward-by making sure we know where we are going. He said we are trying to create systems that will last based on best practices.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve TNTP Strategic Planning (Krumholz) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,616.00 AS PRESENTED**
- b. Adopt Resolution Exhibit A - Statement of Fiscal Exigency (Krumholz) **ADOPTED AND APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Kolomitz said this has been a difficult meeting. He said he is really proud to be on this Board and to serve with the other Board members. He stated they all knew they had a mess on their hands, but didn't know the degree of the mess. He feels the Board has approached it pretty clear-eyed and haven't allowed personal agendas to get involved. He feels the Board has done a good job tackling this mess and stated this mess didn't happen overnight and happened over the last 10 years. He thanked the staff for their professionalism and showing up every day. He said it is a testament to what staff does and he appreciates that. Director Kolomitz congratulated the boys and girls wrestling teams for the state performance, as well as the wonderful production the theater kids produced. Director Kolomitz thanked Superintendent Krumholz for his leadership, ability to communicate and being present. It has made a difficult situation more resolvable.
- ✓ Director Salzbrenner echoed all of Director Kolomitz' statements. He said regarding the Meet and Confer meeting, he wants to express the Board heard a lot. He said the Board will have a work session to discuss and address the issues as soon as they can.
- ✓ Director Hines said all of the items discussed at tonight's meeting shows the importance of having the right leadership in the place for the district. She thanked Superintendent Krumholz and feels he is the right person for the district. She said she is optimistic for the district and what the future looks like. She said we will be closing the books on the past.
- ✓ Director Bickel said in going through all of this budget work and making cuts, he wants to make sure the district gives due diligence to the facilities. He said he doesn't know how much money goes into the swimming pool and would like to know. He questions if it is responsible to keep the pool or is it reasonable to cut the pool. Superintendent Krumholz said he will bring that information next month. Director Ayala said she would like to find out if the City of La Junta is supposed to be helping maintain the pool.
- ✓ Director Ayala thanked the parents, coaches and staff for helping with state wrestling. She congratulated the kids. Director Ayala also gave a shout out to the cheer team and said their half time show was really good. She acknowledged the Science Fair participants, as well as the Knowledge Bowl and Speech and Debate competitions. She shared the Speech and Debate Team won 6th place in their competition. Director Ayala said there was a big turnout for the 4H sign up. She said March 1 is the close for signing up and said 4H has a robotics program, which may be a way for the district to save money. She said the swimming pool is a concern as well. Director Ayala thanked everyone.
- ✓ Director Kolomitz added that the Board was in the buildings last Monday. He said that was the most valuable three hours of time spent since he has been on the Board. He said he loved it and it was great. He would like to do that on a more regular basis.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SARA HINES, President

CAMERON SALZBRENNER, Vice President

STACEY AYALA, Secretary/Treasurer

ROD BICKEL, Director

GREGORY KOLOMITZ, Director