



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

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
March 23, 2026

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Bickel, Hines, Kolomitz and Salzbrenner.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **CELEBRATIONS**

The Board recognized and congratulated the Science Fair participants/winners.

The Board recognized and congratulated the High School Girls and Boys State Wrestling Qualifiers and the wrestler who placed at the state competition.

4. **AUDIENCE**

Carla Garcia spoke to the Board regarding communication to parents and special education concerns.

Carolanna Traver voiced her concern regarding changes that are being made.

Lenea Ortiz shared her thoughts on the changes being made.

Adriana Juki spoke about her concerns on the changes being made.

Michael Andrews stated he is concerned about the changes being made.

Diego Reyes shared his concerns regarding changes being made.

Mariah Arguello spoke about the changes and shared she is committed to her job and would like to continue her career at East Otero School District.

Hannah Adame expressed her concerns and frustrations regarding staff changes.

Gina Griffy shared her concern regarding the staff cuts as well as the policy regarding nepotism being enforced.

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

6. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

A. **Personnel Approval**

- Kaley Andrews - Resignation as an Interventionist at the Primary School effective February 26, 2026
- Kayla Schmelzer - Resignation as a 5th Grade Teacher at the Intermediate School effective May 22, 2026
- Elena Ramsay - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective March 18, 2026
- Stacy Selby - Resignation as 8th Grade ELA teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 22, 2026
- Martin Valdez - Resignation as Counselor at Tiger Trades Academy effective March 25, 2026
- Tammy Evett - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective May 22, 2026
- Shantel Gonsales - Resignation as a Paraprofessional at SEAL Academy effective March 27, 2026
- Ken McNerney - Retirement as Principal at Tiger Trades Academy effective June 30, 2026

B. **Approve an Additional Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year**

7. **FINANCIAL REPORT - TABLED UNTIL SPECIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED**

Superintendent Krumholz stated there will not be a financial report tonight. He said Abacus is waiting on the FY24 audit figures, which should be completed in about two weeks. There is no new financial information at this time.

Abacus are waiting on the Fiscal Year 24 audit figures and the auditor asked for a couple of weeks to finish the audit.

8. MINUTES -

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 23, 2026. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION -

Superintendent Krumholz shared information regarding the swimming pool costs. He said this amount includes life guard and pool manager salaries, with PERA and Medicaid; repairs, supplies, chemicals as well as utilities (electric, water and gas for heating). The current costs for the 2025-26 year is \$129,950.31. This is with the pool being closed for some time, which helped with utility costs. Costs for the 2024-25 year were \$235,281.82; the year 2023-24 were \$204,868.03 and the year 2022-23 were \$441,542.21 (this is higher due to purchasing a new unit for the pool). Superintendent Krumholz said pool expenses are usually running around \$200,000 per year and that doesn't include running the swim team, this is just operating costs. This topic will be looked at down the road. Another \$16,000 is needed to be spent on the pool for repairs. This is for the supply fan on the pool unit. He said maintenance costs for the pool varies from year to year, some years the cost can be hundreds of thousands and some years much lower. It depends on what breaks down and what has to be replaced.

Director Hines asked if any of the money from the 2022-23 year asked if the new unit was purchased with Covid funds. Superintendent Krumholz said he isn't sure if that was purchased by Covid funds. He said the unit cost over \$200,000. Director Bickel stated the district is looking at roughly saving around \$200,000 annually without the pool being in service. Director Ayala asked Superintendent Krumholz to check on the original grant wording to see if there was an intercity agreement. She also asked that he check to see if there would be any consequence if the pool was decommissioned. Director Kolomitz said he is fairly certain there were no grant monies involved in the pool construction. He said it was a straight bond issue.

Superintendent Krumholz said he and Director Kolomitz recently traveled to Denver to meet with Representative Winter, as well as other representatives. They shared the struggles of the district and the representatives were open to our struggles and concerns. Superintendent Krumholz said it was really a great day. Director Kolomitz stated Representative Winter was very responsive.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Executive Session pursuant to 24-6-402(4)(f)(l) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter, specifically to conduct the superintendent's evaluation. **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:29 P.M.; MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:58 P.M.**

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Self-Evaluation Results
- b. Approve Superintendent Contract (Hines) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- c. Approve Reduction in Force Recommendation (Krumholz) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- d. Approve Administrative Staff Employment Renewals – Resolution 2026-1 (Krumholz) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
- e. Approve Revised Regulations ID-R and JH-R on First/Revised/Final Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
- f. Declare a Critical Shortage (Krumholz) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

12. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Kolomitz congratulated the Science Fair Winners and the Wrestling Teams. He thanked the people who came tonight and spoke.
- ✓ Director Salzbrenner congratulated the Science Fair Winners and Wrestling winners as well. He said kudos to Dr. Krumholz for a positive review and sticking around.
- ✓ Director Bickel asked Superintendent Krumholz, since there is not an HR staff member, what an employee should do if they don't feel comfortable having a discussion regarding their supervisor with the superintendent. He is wondering what avenue the employee should take to get the issue addressed. Superintendent Krumholz said he prefers staff to come to him, but if they aren't comfortable with him, there are other staff at Central Office to hear their complaints.
- ✓ Director Ayala shared her congratulations to Wrestlers and Science Fair participants. She thanked Mrs. Diana Remick for growing the science fair over the years. Director Ayala said this is a rough time and these decisions have to be made. She thanked everyone who is hanging in there.

13. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:14 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SARA HINES, President **CAMERON SALZBRENNER, Vice President**
STACEY AYALA, Secretary/Treasurer **ROD BICKEL, Director**
GREGORY KOLOMITZ, Director