



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

**BOARD WRAP-UP**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**September 28, 2026**

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

A. Approve Additional Substitute Teachers for the 2026-2027 School Year

B. Approve an Additional Out-of-District Student for the 2026-2027 school year

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT** - **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

Kim Griego with Abacus, reviewed the August financial report. Ms. Griego said the FY25 audit has been submitted to the auditor. Ms. Griego reviewed the pre-audit financial statistics report. She said the pre-audit balance forward has been removed and wants it to go through the audit before adding it back. The student count shows as of September 22 is lower at 1070. She stated enrollment is being monitored twice weekly. Superintendent Krumholz said enrollment is at 1067 as of today. He said this is around 100 students below the state's forecast right now. Director Hines asked what the count number was last year. Superintendent Krumholz said he will check as he doesn't have that number at this time. He added that right now the district is being held harmless and being funded at an average rate. Moving forward, the averaging will decrease when we get taken off hold harmless or the state doesn't renew the program, the impact of lower enrollment may be \$1.2 million. Director Kolomitz asked when cuts will have to begin. Superintendent Krumholz said cuts will have to continue to be made each year as enrollment is declining. He said the plan will be to make cuts in stages and have a clear plan moving forward. Ms. Griego said looking at the August figures, budget expenditures should be at 17%. The report shows expenditures are right on target at 17.03%. She said the revenues are a little lower due to property taxes but the revenues will catch back up. Ms. Griego said this is expected at this time of year. She said the operating cash is \$7.5 million and the cash on hand is at 161 days.

Ms. Griego reviewed the operating cash report. The interest being earned was reviewed with the total interest earned being \$21,712.41. These accounts are monitored twice weekly.

Due to the audit currently taking place, these are the reports offered tonight and said more detailed financial reports will be on the October agenda. Ms. Griego said cash is being monitored consistently. She said Superintendent Krumholz, Sarah Siegrist and herself met with the Colorado Department of Education finance department and they walked through the financial statistics and cash report with them. She said she feels they were impressed because they have been concerned with the district's cash flow and knowing that the property taxes have been turned off. Ms. Griego said she thinks they were able to show CDE that the cash is being monitored consistently. Superintendent Krumholz said Corey Evans and Glen Gustafson with CDE the district has been doing a tremendous job getting the finances taken care of. He said the district is on an unofficial CDE watch list. Superintendent Krumholz said each payroll has been reduced by \$200,000 due to staffing cuts from last year. Ms. Griego said she will share a new report that shows the variances from year to year with the Board at the October work session. This highlights the financial work that has been done. She pointed out that the district is finally under state revenue and said we are not having to dip into savings to cover operating expenses. Superintendent Krumholz said the district has gone from roughly spending \$1 million over what we were getting for about five years to now spending less than what is brought in.

Director Kolomitz asked how long does the district stay on the watch list. Superintendent Krumholz said it is an unofficial watch list and we are getting off of it. He said we are edging toward being run as an efficient district.

6. **MINUTES** -

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 24, 2026. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

Jared Wilson, Chief Academic Officer, reviewed the School Performance Frameworks. He informed the Board the School Performance Framework is an accountability tool used by the Colorado Department of Education that looks at student achievement, growth, and readiness to evaluate school performance and identify areas of strength and opportunity for improvement.

The first SPF that Mr. Wilson reviewed was the district. Overall, the district increased by 1% and is Accredited with Improvement. Participation, secondary workforce readiness, and elementary achievement and growth showed good increases. Areas for growth are academic achievement and growth across the board.

Mr. Wilson said the Primary School does not receive an official school performance framework. He said the Intermediate School data is used to support instructional shifts at the Primary School. This is also how TNTP supports are adjusted.

The Intermediate School has moved from a priority improvement plan to an improvement plan and scored 44.8%. Mr. Wilson said this is an overall increase of 8.2% and is the highest score received in the past ten years. He said this is an incredible jump and the staff did an incredible job. The participation rate for testing met the 95% participation rate. The Intermediate School had a 3.5% increase in academic achievement from last year and showed an 11.3% increase in academic growth; these two areas will continue to be a focus of improvement.

The Junior/Senior High School's overall score was 48.9% which is in the improvement category, but is a 0.8% decrease from last year's 49.7%. The participation rate was good and the postsecondary and workforce readiness score was at 73.8%. The high school's overall rating is at 54.1%, however, the middle school rating is at 31.8% which is in the turnaround category. Academic achievement at the middle school level is at 25% and academic growth is at 36.4%. The high school shows academic achievement at 25% and academic growth at 61.3%. The need to support middle school students in academic achievement is highlighted and has prompted TNTP support for the middle school this year. Director Kolomitz asked how you calculate workforce readiness. Superintendent Krumholz said the SAT is used for readiness; students are tested twice with the SAT-once for achievement and once for readiness. Concurrent enrollment, CT pathways, and trades (The Big Three) will be used next year for workforce readiness achievement. Graduation rate average is also being used, as well as the matriculation rate (where students are going after high school). Next year there will be a little adjustment on how it is calculated. Superintendent Krumholz said if the junior high is not connected to the high school, they would be on turnaround. He said that is why the emphasis is working with the teachers and students. He said this can get overshadowed because it is looked at as one school instead of breaking it into two schools. Mr. Wilson said this skews the data (schools that are a junior/senior high school). Director Hines said it is interesting that the turnaround group at the junior high is the same turnaround group that was at the Intermediate School, and these are the students who were in grades 1-3 during Covid. She said she is glad extra support is being received from TNTP.

Tiger Trades Academy came in as insufficient data but showed an increase of 2% in postsecondary workforce readiness. Academic growth was at 24.93% and student engagement was at 50%. Mr. Wilson said these reports are in the preliminary stage and alternative education campuses (AEC) will get the report at a later date. Mr. Wilson said he is working with CDE to find out where the holes are in testing. Superintendent Krumholz said AEC's use different forms of data and are held to a different standard than a traditional high school. He said we are working on figuring out what the calculation will be.

Mr. Wilson shared the district's strategic priority one supports student achievement, student growth and student engagement. It identifies how the district gets high quality materials and instruction for every student at East Otero.

Mr. Wilson gave a shout out to everyone involved in the process of trying to increase student learning across the district. He thanked staff who were open to change and acknowledged they could do better and did better. He hopes this trend continues in the district.

## **8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION -**

Superintendent Krumholz said we are going to be doing pathways work, which is postsecondary and workforce readiness. He said we are really trying to create a system that follows student's interests in order to prepare them for after graduation. This will be similar to what has been done with the strategic plan and Empower, who is a partner with TNTP, will facilitate this. He said community leaders, administrators, Board members, students and teachers will participate in this plan. He said he wants to create a La Junta system of postsecondary and not just focus on the end, but on how students get there. Superintendent Krumholz said this will be looking at the student's interests and basing

their schedules on what they want to do. He said we want our students to graduate knowing what they want to do by offering several different options. He said he wants to take this all the way down to the elementary levels. Superintendent Krumholz said this will be work throughout the year and he is really excited about that.

Superintendent Krumholz mentioned again that enrollment is at 1067. He shared staff checks on all students and where they are on a daily basis.

Superintendent Krumholz said Dr. Sam Schneider from the Colorado Department of Education would like to attend the November board meeting. He said Dr. Schneider has to attend the Lamar Board meeting first, so Superintendent Krumholz would like to move the meeting start time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Director Ayala made a motion to move the November 9 meeting to 7:00 p.m. Director Salzbrenner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Director Ayala, aye; Director Hines, aye; Director Kolomitz, aye; Director Salzbrenner, aye. Motion Carried.

Superintendent Krumholz would like to have a work session to discuss his goals for the upcoming year. He said he would like his goals to be centered around the district's strategic plan. He would like to have the meeting at Central Office and said it can be during the day. He will get a time and date set.

The district has a new food service director. Andrew Strenger, who was previously with the district, has returned. He will be working here four days a week while training his replacement in Lamar.

Superintendent Krumholz said Homecoming is next week. The parade and football game will be on Friday, with volleyball and softball on Thursday.

Director Kolomitz asked Superintendent Krumholz if there are any updates on the Intermediate School HVAC system. Superintendent Krumholz said he didn't have any information on that at this time, but will get back to the Board on that.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Approve Revised Policies JKA, DJB, JLCB, GBI, GBEB, and JLF on Second/Final Reading (Krumholz)  
**APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve Revised Policy DKC on First/Revised Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
- b. Adopt Board Handbook **ADOPTED AS PRESENTED**

## **11. BOARD COMMENTS**

- ✓ Director Kolomitz congratulated everyone for their hard work. He knows it has been an interesting year and change is never easy, but you guys did it and we are seeing the results.
- ✓ Director Salzbrenner said we have asked everyone to do more with less this year and that can be very challenging. He said not only are you doing more with less, but the results show that it is better, so thank you very much to everyone that is contributing.
- ✓ Director Ayala thanked everyone for their hard work. She shared she attended the STPO meeting recently at the high school and turnaround was discussed. She said it was a really good meeting. Director Ayala said it is good for the rest of the district to understand the hard things that we went through and how we've gotten out of it and you guys did it all. She said you really stuck together, with the budget cuts and everything else that went on. Director Ayala said thank you so much for sticking with us.
- ✓ Director Hines agreed with the other Board members for all the hard work that has been put in. She reminded everyone that October 1 is count day. She said make sure your students are at school and said there will be cool prizes handed out at the Primary and Intermediate Schools.
- ✓ Director Ayala also gave a shout out to the five kids that made the National Recognition Program for academics. She also mentioned she is waiting on the 4-H results from the extension office as she wants to recognize those kids as well. She mentioned that the 4-H group is not just Tiger Trades Academy kids, but has kids throughout the district also. Open enrollment to join the club is on October 1.
- ✓ Director Kolomitz said it was really cool to see the stadium packed on Saturday night and he knows a lot of extra work was put in. He said Mr. Grasmick did a great job and it was a cool event and was fun to see the stadium being used like that.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:16 p.m.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SARA HINES**, *President*

**CAMERON SALZBRENNER**, *Vice President*

**STACEY AYALA**, *Secretary/Treasurer*

**ROD BICKEL**, *Director*

**GREGORY KOLOMITZ**, *Director*