AGENDA

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

BOARD WRAP-UP
Board of Education Meeting
October 26, 2026

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **CELEBRATIONS -** Superintendent Krumholz shared that really good parent/teacher conferences were held this week, as well as a good first nine weeks of school.

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

5. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
   - **A. Personnel Approval**
     - Jacob Pruyn - Resignation as Math Teacher at Tiger Trades Academy effective September 25, 2026
     - Samantha Muniz - New Hire as a Paraprofessional at the Primary School for the 2026-2027 school year
     - Adalida Cole - Resignation as Science Teacher at the Junior/Senior High School effective October 23, 2026
     - Ethan Leyba - New Hire as Assistant High School Boys Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 season
     - Laura Valdez - Resignation as Paraprofessional at the Junior/Senior High School effective October 23, 2026
     - Javier Muniz - Resignation as District Mechanic effective October 23, 2026
   - **B. Approval of District Advisory Council's Master Action Plan and Membership List for 2026-2027**
   - **C. Approve Building Accountability Committee Members for 2026-2027 school year**

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

Kim Griego with Abacus said that due to a budget work session held on October 14, 2026, this report will be a summary of the reports shared at the work session.

She began by reviewing the financial statistics dashboard report. This report shows the actual enrollment count as of October 6, 2026 at 1064 students. She said as soon as the official October count enrollment number is available, she will add that to the report. Ms. Griego reminded the Board that the district's budget is based on the hold harmless enrollment number of 1210.8 students. She said the difference in funding of actual enrollment to hold harmless enrollment is $1,957,097.00. Superintendent Krumholz said he and the financial team are keeping a close eye on the budget and cuts will continue to have to be made. Director Kolomitz clarified that if the district didn't have hold harmless in place, the district would have to cut $2,000,000 right now. Superintendent Krumholz and Ms. Griego both said that is correct. Superintendent Krumholz said the state is moving to a 3-year average for funding, and this will be year one for the district. Ms. Griego reviewed the adopted budget numbers on this report. She said the revised budget process is beginning and will be reviewed with Superintendent Krumholz and the Board during work sessions. She pointed out the revenues are tracking at 20% as of September 30, and said revenues are expected to be on the lower side as the district is only receiving state funding and is not receiving any property tax dollars at this time. She said salaries and benefits are running at about 30%. She said in September, these are running under budget. Ms. Griego explained the non-labor line in the report. She said this line contains key areas (facilities expenses, utilities costs, vehicle gas, supplies/consumables and dues/fees) that Superintendent Krumholz felt were important items to monitor. Ms. Griego shared the accounts payable for September is down $246,509.07 from September 2025.

The cash on hand report was reported on. Ms. Griego said the district earned $21,927.91 in interest. Director Kolomitz asked if the interest was kept in these accounts or if it was moved to the general fund. Ms. Griego said the top three lines in this report are in the general fund so that is correct.

The payroll comparison report was reviewed. Ms. Griego pointed out that the September 2026 payroll with extra duty/stipend pay decreased by $235,465.39 from the September 2025 payroll.

Director Kolomitz asked if Fund 32 is straightened out and functioning how it should? He said the numbers seem high.

Ms. Griego gave an update regarding the audit. She said she just emailed a trial balance to the auditor this evening. Director Hines asked how the audit is looking and will the auditor be able to complete the 2024-2025 audit. Ms. Griego said the auditor will still be issuing a disclaimer on this audit, but is making sure the end balances are correct. She said there should be no problems with the 2025-2026 audit. Director Hines asked about the timeframe and when the audit will be completed. Ms. Griego said she doesn't have that information. Director Kolomitz asked if the state is aware that this audit will probably come back as a disclaimer. Superintendent Krumholz said yes, due to so much confusion with the previous audit. Director Hines asked that one the disclaimer is done will it be able to be submitted and the next audit be completed quickly. Ms. Griego said the auditor could possibly begin the 2025-2026 audit in January. Director Hines clarified that this is the audit that is due this December. Ms. Griego said that is correct. Director Hines asked that after the 2025-2026 audit is completed, then the district will be in the correct timeline to complete audits as required. Ms. Griego said yes. Director Kolomitz asked when do property taxes begin being withheld if the audit isn't complete. Ms. Griego said that happens in March. Director Kolomitz asked if the 2025-2026 audit will be finished by then. Ms. Griego said that is what is being aimed for. Superintendent Krumholz said there is a plan in place in the event that doesn't happen.

7. MINUTES -

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 28, 2026. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**

8. PRESENTATIONS

Andrew Strenger, Chartwells Food Service Director, introduced himself and told the Board he has been the Food Service Director in Lamar for the past 3 ½ years, but was the Assistant Food Service Director in La Junta prior to that.

Mr. Strenger said there are quarterly promos. The upcoming promo is "Wrap and Roll", which will feature wraps and burritos. Mr. Strenger also shared that he is implementing the Discovery Kitchen. This gives students a change to try foods they may not otherwise try. Chartwells staff are highlighted in their newsletters and Lisa Vasquez was recognized for October. Mr. Strenger also shared that he and Alicia O'Canas, his assistant, handed out cookies to area school custodians as a thank you on school custodian day. He said Pasta Day was celebrated on October 14 and for Halloween, students will be given a special treat (cookies).

Director Bickel asked if kids still get choices for lunch at the Junior/Senior High School. Mr. Strenger said they do and he said more options will be offered, such as grab and go foods. Director Bickel said he loves that for the kids and while he was working at the Junior/Senior High School, Chartwells did a fine job. Director Bickel suggested the Board members pop in to eat lunch at different buildings in the district. Director Hines asked if the newsletter was a new thing or if it has always been done. Mr. Strenger said it is not new and his goal is to have content monthly, but there may be months when there won't be a newsletter. Director Hines asked if the Discovery Kitchen is new and Mr. Strenger said it has always been here. He added he will be having a food contest and the winning item will be put on the menu rotation.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION -

Superintendent Krumholz said he will begin by piggy-backing on the financial report given by Ms. Griego. He said in looking at the numbers, he knows cuts will have to be made this year as well as next year. He said he will be communicating with the attorney regarding possible RIFs again this year. Superintendent Krumholz said he will communicate when a plan is decided upon. He stated before classrooms are touched, he will look everywhere else first.

Schneider Electric is currently working on an audit on utility bills for the district. He said he is looking for savings everywhere in order to save classrooms from being affected by the budget.

Superintendent Krumholz said the students who were attending SEAL Academy are back in the classroom. He added the Santa Fe Trail BOCES will have their board meeting this Wednesday and will announce the findings of the SEAL Academy investigation and will share the future of the school.

Superintendent Krumholz reminded the Board the November meeting is on November 9 due to the holiday and this meeting will begin later at 7:00 p.m.

Director Hines asked if Schneider Electric found anything or have they reported anything yet. Superintendent Krumholz said they are not finished with the audit yet. Director Hines said the September utilities seem high, but she doesn't know. Director Bickel added that running the stadium lights is expensive. Director Ayala asked if an audit will be completed annually. Superintendent Krumholz said we can ask them to do that. He said Schneider Electric will help

the district manage their assets and will help us. He said he is excited that we will have a living master plan, which will be updated.

Director Hines stated she realizes the district is looking at $2,000,000 in cuts and she is glad classrooms are last on the list. However, she would like teacher raises to be looked at. She knows the teachers work hard and would like them to be compensated. Director Hines said she would like to see how that can be fit into the budget. Superintendent Krumholz said he will bring some options to the Board.

Superintendent Krumholz shared the Colorado School Finance Project has been putting out numbers. Glen Gustafson, with CDE, suggested we work with the Colorado School Finance Project to have more experts help us. He said they will be able to see if staff raises are feasible. Director Bickel agrees with Director Hines. He said teachers work really hard and do a lot of extra most people don't see. Director Kolomitz asked where our district is on salaries compared to surrounding districts. Superintendent Krumholz said we are definitely lagging.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Approve Revised Policy DKC on Second/Final Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON SECOND/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve Revised Policies GBI, IKA, IHCDA, KDB, AC, and JLCD on First/Revised Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED READING AS PRESENTED**
b. Approve Revised Regulations and Exhibit AC-R-3, IKA-R, KDB-R, and IKF-E on First/Revised/Final Reading (Krumholz) **APPROVED ON FIRST/REVISED/FINAL READING AS PRESENTED**
c. Approve the 2026-2027 District Unified Improvement Plan (Krumholz) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
d. Approve the In-School Suspension Coordinator position (Krumholz) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
e. Approve Revised Classified Staff Salary Schedule (Krumholz) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
f. Approve the Empower Contract (Krumholz) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF $32,500.00 AS PRESENTED**
g. Approve Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter (Krumholz) **APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF $66,455.00 AS PRESENTED**

12. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Kolomitz congratulated both the football team and the FFA program. He mentioned there are three students who are rock stars in FFA. He congratulated the administration for handling the Lamar game, and said it was a better environment. Director Kolomitz asked if there is any way the gym parking lot can get fixed before the next game. Mr. Romero explained the cones are up due to a gate getting installed. Once the gate is installed, the cones will be removed.
- ✓ Director Salzbrenner gave a shout out to the Tiger Theater for a great fall production. He also thanked all those who came to support the program. Director Salzbrenner finished by saying, "Wow, what a football game!"
- ✓ Director Bickel clarified that there is no swim group that has keys to the facility to practice whenever they want. Superintendent Krumholz said per Board policy no group can have keys and staff has to be at the pool when it is in use. Director Bickel asked if Swink will have an allotted time for swim practice. Superintendent Krumholz said yes and there is a Memorandum of Understanding in place.
- ✓ Director Ayala said she enjoyed the theater production and it was a really good play. She thanked the teachers for the parent/teacher conferences. Director Ayala said it was definitely different and she really enjoyed it.
- ✓ Director Hines thanked Sarah Siegrist and Kim Griego, with Abacus, for the recent budget work session. She said the Board knows where we are at and where we need to go. Director Hines said she is looking forward to having more sessions.

13. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:42 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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