

vices are then used in sequence. Examples were a device that sorted marbles of various sizes and materials, and a boat built of non-buoyant materials.

Citizen comments

Evan Ochsner, co-editor in chief

of the Palmer Ridge High School *Bear Truth* newspaper, stated that Colorado has a student freedom of expression law. When the paper endorsed Hillary Clinton for president, there was a large response from parents. Due to the

freedom of expression law, the editorial is protected from censorship and the editorial board alone is responsible for its content.

Ochsner thanked Principal Gary Gabel, advisor Tom Patrick, and Superintendent Karen Brofft for their support.

Derek Araje said that he had attended a back-to-school event at Palmer Ridge and was concerned about the small pay increases granted to excellent teachers and the fact that there were no merit increases. He questioned the source of decisions in making budget priorities.

Superintendent update

Superintendent Brofft thanked the student journalists for their comments and thanked the Lewis-Palmer Hall of Fame Commit-

tee for its recent installation of a new class of honorees.

She reported that students attended a recent meeting of the Business Advisory Council to tell local businesses what students need regarding careers.

Regarding security issues, Brofft said that Rep. Terry Carver is working on an amendment to the Clair Davis Act to allow safe harbor from litigation if schools take specific steps to make their facilities safe.

At this time it appears that the district has gained 86 students above the number budgeted. The board will discuss uses for the additional funds at a future meeting.

SmartLab purchases

Wangeman asked for approval for purchases of SmartLab devices for Bear Creek Elementary and Prairie Winds Element-

tary School.

She explained that the items will be funded by fundraising efforts by the schools, but since the funds pass through the district coffers, the board must approve their use.

The issue was passed unanimously.

The board went into executive session as 8:45 to discuss purchase acquisitions, sale of real property and staff evaluations.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Nov.17.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

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Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority, Oct. 21 BRRTA might close sooner than previously forecast

By Jim Kendrick and Lisa Hatfield

On Oct. 21, Senior Assistant County Attorney Lori Seago, a member of El Paso County's Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) transitional shutdown staff, told the BRRTA Board of Directors that "we should be able to dissolve BRRTA, possibly by the end of the year, rather than continuing on for a two- or three-year period for purposes of liability."

This advice is different than what she told the board at the previous Sept. 16 BRRTA meeting. It now appears that the county's liability insurance carrier would honor its BRRTA liability insurance coverage through the end of the current annual policy in August 2017 to cover potential claims or lawsuits after BRRTA dissolves, since it has been so long since BRRTA's last construction has been completed. (See <http://www.ocn.me/v16n10.htm#brtta>)

On the recommendation of Elaine Johnsen, EPC Funding Optimization manager and district manager for BRRTA, the board unanimously approved an audit engagement letter from Biggs-Kofford CPA for the 2016 BRRTA audit at a cost ranging from \$7,875 to \$8,925. Biggs-Kofford charged \$8,500 for the 2015 BRRTA audit.

New IGA approved

Based on Seago's recommendation, the BRRTA board unanimously approved a new Resolution and Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between BRRTA and El Paso County. The new IGA replaces the original 2015 transitional IGA between BRRTA and the county.

The new IGA states that all BRRTA funds it holds as of Dec.

31 will be transferred to a county restricted BRRTA road and bridge account to be used only for the following purposes and only within the Baptist Road Corridor from Forest Lakes Drive to Tari Drive:

1. Administrative costs including but not limited to the 2016 BRRTA audit
2. Design, engineering, and construction of:
3. Concrete sidewalks and medians
4. A cul-de-sac at the west end of the BRRTA frontage road that runs west from Leather Chaps Road on the south side of Baptist Road

or

5. Ongoing county maintenance of the Baptist Road Corridor

Note: The total amount of remaining BRRTA funds that will go in BRRTA's road and bridge fund on Dec. 31 is about \$1.3 million.

The new IGA also states:

6. Any future BRRTA funds, including any funds left in BRRTA's \$25,000 sale tax reserve, on or after Jan. 1, 2017 will be deposited in the county's general fund.
7. The county agrees that until BRRTA is dissolved, various members of the county staff will be available, at no cost to BRRTA, to assist with the legal, administrative, and financial duties and functions of the authority.
8. Lists the specific legal, administrative, and financial services that county staff will perform after BRRTA is dissolved.
9. Lists specific BRRTA responsibilities that the county will assume after Dec. 31.
10. The county staff will provide an annual report on its management and oversight

of BRRTA's assets and responsibilities annually to the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at a public meeting and provide advance notice to the Town of Monument of the date for these annual reports.

Seago said the BOCC will approve the new resolution and new IGA in November.

The BRRTA board also unanimously approved a separate resolution for conveyance of all of BRRTA's remaining small pieces of BRRTA-purchased but subsequently un-needed right-of-way real property to the county by a special warranty deed, because the county owns and maintains the adjacent Baptist Road.

Dissolution resolution

Seago stated that BRRTA's final amended 2016 budget will be presented at the next regular BRRTA board meeting, in December, along with a draft joint Monument Board of Trustees and BOCC resolution to dissolve BRRTA.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

After this meeting, the BOCC scheduled a hearing for approval of the new resolution, new IGA, and the special warranty deed on Nov. 3, after *OCN* went to press for this edition.

The next regular BRRTA board meeting is scheduled to be held on Dec. 2 or Dec. 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the Academy Conference Room of the county's Citizen Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road, rather than Nov. 11 as previously planned. Information: 520-5547 or 520-6386.

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