

dents qualified to receive services, communication with state authorities on the program, reporting on results of the Colorado Gifted Education Review Audit (every four years), and review of the gifted addendum to the annual Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) of the district.

Displaying a chart of statistics about the number of gifted students in the district, Beving pointed out that the numbers have decreased in the past two years from 723 in 2014 to 702 in 2016. She pointed out that the students included in the statistic are different each year.

Regarding the review audit from 2015, Beving said that the state praised the district website for its ease of navigation to find resources, the ability to create independent study classes in high school, a commitment to provide services in excess of those supported by state funding, and the fact that each building has a facilitator

on site.

Beving explained the identification process and pointed out that the district had to create measurement tools for the arts. A new challenge is identifying students who are gifted in terms of psychomotor skills such as national-level athletes.

She explained that some students may be identified as gifted although they do not test well. In these cases, interviews and observation are the basis for identification.

The district is unusual in that it commits funding well beyond that of the state (\$537,000 from the district, \$83,149 from state) to the gifted program.

The gifted addendum to the district UIP will be included for the first time this year. It will measure success in meeting the previous year's improvement goals, explain strategies, and offer a timeline for these strategies.

One member of the committee commented that he was disappointed that the district committed such resources to the gifted program and not for the exceptional student program (formerly special education).

Technology update

Director of Instructional and Information Technology Liz Walhof reported on activities in her department.

The district hired Applied Trust, an IT security firm, to investigate a reported security breach in the summer of 2016 and to conduct a detailed security audit in January of 2017. The goal was to ensure complete awareness of and transparency regarding the district's IT security, Walhof said.

Applied Trust determined that there had been no breach because the incidents resulted from shared passwords. The security audit revealed that the district is positioned like other organizations and the network is strong.

The district was rated satisfactory or strong in 10 of 14 categories examined and especially for awareness of security, malware protection, and infrastructure.

The district will continue to implement staff training and develop a curriculum for student digital citizenship to ensure their safety online, Walhof said.

D-38 was innovative in its insistence that vendors would not profile students and would delete information at a predetermined time. The attorneys for the state Department of Education have asked for district feedback on this process so that other districts may implement it,

she said.

Curriculum review

Beving reviewed the curriculum under examination at this time, including science for grades 4 through 8, high school ancient world history, and Reading Plus for grades 3 through 12.

Reading Plus is an intervention for struggling readers that has proven to be very successful.

Beving said that materials on Algebra I and II, Geometry and Pre-calculus are now available for review by community members, as are high school biology texts.

Financial literacy materials will be added to the K-5 curriculum, and the science curriculum is being brought into alignment with Colorado academic standards.

Beving said that texts are now being offered in bundles, including digital and hard copy formats, which will make them valid for about five years.

Lewis-Palmer Elementary School Principal Jenny Day offered a campus introduction to her school and its current focus on growth in math and the Every Child a Reader program. She praised the active parent-teacher organization and availability of before and after school enrichment programs. The school operates under the goal of SOAR: safe, on task, attitude to achieve and respectful and responsible. The Path 2 Empathy program is being used in grades 2 through 6.

Board of Education and legislative update

Board Liaison John Magerko reported that the Colorado Department of Education is still encouraging comments on educational standards and that the Colorado Association of School Boards was scheduled to hold its annual legislative conference in late February.

Magerko said that the review of the superintendent has been completed and that the process of the review is the same as that for teachers. He praised Superintendent Karen Brofft's open-door policy and the hours she spent listening to staff and parents, her connections with local and state government, and her active participation in the Pikes Peak Superintendents Association and Colorado Association of School Executives.

Magerko also praised Brofft's concern with safety and security on the web or in schools and the creation of a chief of safety and security position.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets five times a year. Locations vary. The next meeting will be on April 4 at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., at 6:30 p.m.

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

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Big Congratulations to all for an outstanding year!

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