

sive deferred maintenance issues.

Another concern of the committee is crime prevention with environmental design. The use of portables is discounted due to the inability to provide adequate security.

Preschool forum

A brief discussion followed on preschools in the district and whether it is preferable to follow the current policy of decentralization or to centralize all in one building.

The panel reporting consisted of Lewis-Palmer Elementary School Principal Jenny Day, Kilmer Elementary School Principal Drew Francis, Child Find Coordinator Jennifer Hinderberger (who determines the need for special education services), and teacher Teresa Smacker.

Francis commented that an advantage of decentralization is the ability of the young child to feel they are a part of a school from an early age.

Day also said that this was an advantage, although her preschool also serves children who will later attend Prairie Winds Elementary. The Lewis-Palmer Elementary site also offers extensive special education services.

The Palmer Lake preschool is located near the district administration building.

The advantages of centralizing preschool services also are many. The Lewis-Palmer preschool is top heavy with special needs students, while the Palmer Lake preschool is top heavy with Colorado Preschool

Program students who are viewed as high risk whether due to single parent families, foster families, or economic hardship.

Combining these two groups with the general population would offer the ad-

vantage of allowing students access to various specialized services such as speech therapists and making it easier to evaluate students' needs for possible special education services.

Also, a centralized facil-

ity would allow the preschool teachers to share best practices and ideas. Moving the pre-

schools would also allow for more classroom space in their present locations.

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