

posal does not include a second school, meaning that the district may have to put forth another bond in a few years.

Brofft said that the board voted a few months earlier to let the superintendent and administration proceed with preparing to have a bond issue on the November ballot, and polling was a part of this process. She offered to show members what such a poll would look like.

Cash in lieu of land discussion

Wangeman reported that the district receives a specific dollar amount from developers for each home completed. In Palmer Lake and Monument, this amount is \$1,350 per unit. In the county it is \$308. She anticipates a total of \$1 million in this account at the end of this year. The funds are in the Building Reserves Fund, which is used for land and capital needs.

Wangeman said that during the recession some funds from this account were used for capital im-

provements, but no withdrawals have been made since the 2015-16 school year.

Policy discussions

The board had a brief discussion about policies regarding students in foster care, public participation in board meetings not requiring the individual provide an address, and recommended changes from the Colorado Association of School Boards.

School and student recognitions

Brofft presented the Inez Lewis Award to representatives of Lewis-Palmer Elementary and Palmer Lake Elementary Schools. This award recognizes an improvement of 10 percentage points in math or English

language arts over the period of a year.

Palmer Ridge High School Athletic Director Lance McCorkle introduced Gatorade Football Player of the Year Ty Evans and said that Evans had won a Spotlight Grant Essay of the Year contest and awarded the \$10,000 prize to the Tri-Lakes Y.

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

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

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education special meeting, April 9

Board discusses growth and facilities planning, goals

By Harriet Halbig

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 discussed growth and facilities planning, board goals, and some policies at its special meeting on April 9. Board Secretary Sarah Sampayo was absent.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman explained the process whereby CRP Architects was chosen as the firm to do the design work for the district's proposed school(s). One of eight firms examined, CRP consistently scored highest in points. The firm's acquaintance with the district and its needs played a part in the decision. The decision was made on April 3, and the selection will be confirmed by the board at its regular meeting on April 17.

CRP representative Brian Risley said that the architect who worked on Creekside Middle School (now Bear Creek Elementary) is still with the firm. This individual is very familiar with the infrastructure on the site, where an elementary was planned from the beginning.

Risley suggested that some design work could be initiated immediately to make it possible to begin construction as soon as the proposed bond issue passes in November, and it may be possible to have the school ready for use in fall 2019.

Risley and Wangeman presented preliminary figures on the cost of the school, for safety and security improvements at all campuses and some deferred maintenance. Wangeman pointed out that CRP worked with RTA during the long-term facilities planning process, developing a prioritized list of needs for each campus. Among the concerns in prioritizing the deferred maintenance projects was a consideration of

the lifetime of the project.

Risley commented that among the considerations in this process was determining which improvements are necessary to meet building codes and which were niceties. In each case, principals were consulted as part of the discussions.

Treasurer Chris Taylor and Director Mark Pfoff commented that previous discussions mentioned two new elementary schools. Taylor commented that there is no question that there is a capacity problem at the middle school level.

Risley agreed and said that, due to the data available, it should not be difficult to convince the public of the need for the school at Jackson Creek.

Pfoff expressed confidence that such a bond would pass if the public was made aware of the data.

Superintendent Karen Brofft said that previous discussions included the options of building one school now and seeking a second bond later, building both schools at once, and seeking a bond that would fund both schools, but building them one after the other.

Risley said that construction costs are rising at the rate of 6 to 8 percent a year.

The board further discussed how to present the information to the public and whether to seek a separate mill levy override (MLO) to cover the cost of such safety and security investments as additional armed personnel, gun-sniffing dogs, and other recurring expenses.

Pfoff said that at the April 17 board meeting, the board should have the data necessary to vote on the deferred maintenance costs and a new school at Jackson Creek.

Risley said that, at present, he estimates the cost of the new school would be \$28.6 million. With the additional cost of deferred maintenance and safety and security capital improvements, the amount of the bond would approach \$45 million. Wangeman said that the planning committee also recommended updating STEM and STEAM resources as part of the bond.

Pfoff recommended a conservative 10-year MLO to cover only security.

Taylor said that he would like to determine how strongly the community supports an investment in security. Brofft said that the upcoming D-38 Deliberates session the following week should give an idea of public interest.

There was discussion on whether to separate

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