

ing that he didn't think it was right to permit higher densities just because renewable water is available. He urged them not to change the 300-year rule in the future and also spoke to the plan's goal of protecting private property rights, arguing that drilling deep wells close to property lines violates the rights of the neighboring property owner.

The Planning Commission voted 6-0 to adopt

the plan. Curry stated that he had had some reservations after the first hearing but that these had been addressed by the subsequent amendments. The document with amendments shown, a final version of it, and all public comments can be viewed here: <https://epcdevplanreview.com/Public/ProjectDe>

tails/110995. Under state statute the Planning Commission is the final approval authority for the plan. There will be no BOCC hearing.

Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me.

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D38 SPECIAL MEETING (Cont. from 1)

Wangemahn enumerated available funds for the board's use in addressing growth. These included funds in various reserves and those set aside for the opening of a new elementary proposed in the failed ballot initiative. Wangeman estimated that a total of about \$7 million.

TABOR (Taxpayers' Bill of Rights) requires that the district maintain a predetermined amount of reserves. The board had previously voted to retain the \$1.2 million received for the land for Monument Academy's new high school to be spent on land for future schools.

Brofft cautioned that funds must be held back to pay for security improvements and the conversion of Bear Creek into a middle school when that becomes possible.

Wangeman said that all principals had been consulted and she was preparing a presentation for the Dec. 17 board meeting that enumerates options for dealing with growth in the short term.

Brofft said that modular classrooms would need to be ordered in January because it often takes six months to receive them.

Secretary Mark Pfoff said that the middle school must be the priority because it is already at capacity. He said that only 40 students at the middle school are from outside the district, so closing admission would not make a significant difference.

He said that some of the students at the middle school have been attending Lewis-Palmer schools since kindergarten and some are staff children.

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- Bring a lunch, no restaurants nearby.
- Can't make this one? We have three more in 2019.
- Questions? Contact TLUMC Emergency Preparedness Group at **epg@tlumc.org**.

Brofft said that the school would be closed only to those students not already in attendance. Those in seventh grade would be able to stay until the end of eighth grade, but current sixth-graders may not be able to get in. Perhaps a lottery could be considered, she said.

Pfoff said he fears that some would accuse the district of claiming a lot of growth to change policies. There were portable classrooms at the middle school in the past.

Brofft said that the new modular classrooms would have to have plumbing for security reasons and would have to be placed in the front of the building on either side of the main entrance. Modulares are a bad investment, but cannot be avoided under the circumstances, she said.

Vice President Tiffiney Upchurch said that the District Accountability Advisory Committee voted at its recent meeting to encourage the board to put a bond issue on the 2019 ballot.

Wangeman said that there is a dry portable at Killmer that is currently used for storage and a four-plex at the Lewis-Palmer High School that is used as a senior center.

Brofft said the modular at the high school cannot be divided in half and there is not enough space for it at the middle school.

The board discussed various options for the use of existing modulares and moving some preschool students from one school to another to maximize space.

When asked about the cost of modulares, Wangeman said that District 20 leases two modulares at \$1,000 per month, but that does not include Wi-Fi and security. Cost is location-specific, as Bear Creek already has an infrastructure in place.

Board President Matthew Clawson asked whether any grants were available for modulares. Wangeman said she would inquire whether BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) grants would be available. These grants are applicable to schools of a certain age and are usually used for roofs or boilers.

Election discussion and next steps

Treasurer Chris Taylor reminded the board that when Monument Academy's new school opens in 2020 it will include grades six to eight and therefore free up some seats in those grades at Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

Pfoff commented that if the district puts a similar measure on the ballot in 2019, it will have the same result. Election results imply that the public is not concerned about security (a portion of the bond and MLO regarded security upgrades), and therefore the new bond should only be for a new school building.

Upchurch said that three board seats would be up for election next year and wondered if that would make it more difficult to support a bond.

Pfoff suggested that the board use a petition to determine support for the bond.

Director Theresa Phillips said she was concerned about the morale of teachers and staff and that the district may lose some of them. She said there are people who are willing to work for passage of a single school bond.

Pfoff suggested that board members may wish to meet with teachers at their school staff meetings to listen and provide support.

Upchurch suggested hosting a board coffee at a time of day when staff can attend.

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

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