

my Charter School presented the Annual Operations Report to the board.

Griffin reported that the school has 905.98 students, of which 353 are in the middle school. There are currently 85 gifted students, 49 exceptional students, and 51 English Language Learners at the school.

Regarding the proposed high school at the intersection of Highways 105 and 83, Griffin reported that planning continues with a goal to open in 2020. He said the academy is receiving 23 acres of donated land.

Regarding financing, the academy is considering a bond or a bank loan. The decision will be made in the spring.

Soil testing has been done on the site, and the academy is working with the Colorado Department of Transportation regarding ingress and egress to the site, with a possible roundabout.

Negotiations continue regarding a partnership with the Y. Griffin has visited other locations where the Y partners with schools.

Director Theresa Phillips asked when the proposal changed from a high school to a middle/high school. Griffin responded that the academy originally applied to the board for a high school and later renegotiated to include grades 6 through 8.

Asked if he was confident he could complete construction of the school in 14 months, Griffin responded that the 14 months is the construction phase.

Superintendent search update

Executive Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster reported that work with the Colorado Association of School Boards has resulted in approval of a timeline for the superintendent search, the job has been posted, and a flyer describing the position has been approved.

Focus groups were scheduled to meet the week of Jan. 21. There will be three interview teams consisting of board members, teachers and staff, and community members.

For further details on the search, please see the article on the Jan. 7 special meeting on page 14 of this issue.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Jan. 15

Committee hears about portable classrooms, alternative education opportunities

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) heard updates on the superintendent search and alternative education opportunities for high school students, and sought volunteers for a nominating committee for a new co-chair at its Jan. 15 meeting.

School board Vice President and Board Liaison Tiffiney Upchurch mentioned activities since the November meeting of the DAAC.

She said that a D-38 Deliberates function learned that the community prefers site-based preschools to one centralized location. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n1.htm#d38-1205>.

She said that principals from many of the district's schools came to the Dec. 18 board meeting and told the board that, although not ideal, the use of portable classrooms will serve to ease overcrowding in schools now at capacity. The board voted at the December meeting to have two portables at Lewis-Palmer Middle School, one at Kilmer Elementary, one at Lewis-Palmer Elementary, and two at Bear Creek Elementary.

Each portable will house two classrooms with a restroom for each classroom.

The board voted to invest \$708,000 in the installation of these classrooms with security additions such as outdoor lighting and cameras. The portables will then be leased on an annual basis. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n1.htm#d38-1218>.

Because of this investment, the board decided against putting a bond issue on the November 2019 ballot to get some use out of the investment. The portables should manage growth sufficiently until the 2021-22 school year, at which time Kilmer may need an additional portable.

Upchurch said that all schools except the high schools will be closed to out-of-district choice enrollment this year, although out-of-district students who have been attending previously will be allowed to stay. The district is required to accept applications but is free to reject them on the basis of space.

Budget goals

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported on the procedure for developing a budget for the next school year.

She said that the board will examine a few funds each month in order to not be overwhelmed with numbers.

She said that the district will continue to use site-based budgeting with each school allowed to carry over remaining funds from one year to the next.

Any increased funding for vocational education will be used for those programs.

Two BEST grant (Building Excellent Schools Today) applications are pending for a roof at Prairie Winds and a boiler for Kilmer elementary.

Board Treasurer Chris Taylor said that he would like to discuss deferred maintenance funding at a future work session.

Vice President Tiffiney Upchurch asked whether the board was trying to remain competitive in compensation. Wangeman responded that if the board would like to change compensation, the decision will need to be made soon. She recommended a one-time bonus.

Broffit said that they would bring a proposal to the board.

Upchurch asked when the board will discuss the use of Grace Best. Wangeman said that the district has gotten estimates for use of the building.

Taylor commented that a decision on Grace Best should be part of the discussion of a future bond.

The board approved calendars for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education usually meets on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Due to a conflict with Presidents' Day, the board will meet on Feb. 11.

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

Clarification of Board of Education article, page 10 of Jan. 5 issue of OCN

Parents indicated their preference for site-based preschool at the D38 Deliberates event on Dec. 5, not through Thoughtexchange. Thoughtexchange, an online response program, was a mechanism to determine why the two ballot initiatives on the November ballot were defeated. ■

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She said board members had been attending staff meetings at the schools to hear teachers' opinions,

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