

100 percent capacity. As a result, it was recommended that the current modular classrooms be removed for energy savings and the safety of students. This decision will be made at the May meeting of the Board of Education.

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Somers commented that the expected increase in student population that prompted acquisition of the modulars has not materialized. The lease of the facilities is on a month-to-month basis, so removal would not prompt a penalty.

Other features of Somers' update included an award for a Best Community for Music Education from the National Association of Music Merchants, the hiring of Kathleen Overton as the district's new chief financial officer, and the mandate of mask use until the end of the school year. Graduations will be held on May 28 at UC Health stadium, at 9 a.m. for Palmer Ridge High School and 1 p.m. for Lewis-Palmer High School.

Somers also announced the retirement of Chief Academic Officer Lori Benton. He expressed appreciation for her years of service to the district.

Legislative update

Board of Education Liaison Tiffiney Upchurch reported on a number of legislative bills under consideration. These include bills that would prevent misuse of the Safe2Tell system, a suicide prevention act which has been signed, a school finance bill to be voted on May 26, and restoration of some per pupil funding. An increase in funding for special education would be supported with funding from marijuana sales.

Gifted Education Leadership Team

Benton presented her annual report on the activities of the Gifted Education Leadership Team, which meets monthly. Its duties include identification of students who would benefit from services and tracking of their progress. Each student is provided with an individual learning

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Thank You

At the end of May, after 23 years in Monument, Expectations Salon, Spa & Boutique is closing its doors. I am very thankful for the loyal patronage and friendship of my many customers. If you have an unexpired gift certificate, please redeem it before the end of May.

To learn what is next for
Maria, contact her at
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plan that is monitored by staff and parents.

The activities of the team are evaluated by the state every four years. The last assessment, in 2019, received a perfect score for the district.

Benton pointed out that when viewing the percentage of students under a gifted/talented program, the elementary grades are underrepresented because the initial identification of students is made in third grade.

Benton reported that gifted education is underfunded by the state and the district makes a significant investment from local funds for this purpose.

Universal Improvement Plan update

Assessment Coordinator Michael Brom reported on the district's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) and those of the individual schools.

In past years, the committee considered each plan at length during its meetings. Beginning last year, plans were assigned to individual members for discussion. Brom reported a notable decline in achievement in math because of the school closure due to COVID-19. He said that assessments were performed in the fall and will be given again in May to measure improvement.

The PSAT and SAT tests will be given in mid-April with results available in June.

Three subgroups targeted for improvement are:

- Students with disabilities in math and reading.
- Middle school students in reading.
- K-3 students with significant reading deficiencies; 70% are reading up to grade level.

The committee voted to approve the UIPs for submission to the state Department of Education.

Kelly Bane was elected as the new co-chair of the committee, with Christy Milks continuing for another year.

The Lewis-Palmer D38 District Accountability Advisory Committee meets six times per year. This was the final meeting of this school year.

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

BFFRPD (Cont. from 1)

member team), presented the board with an apparatus proposal and said the following:

- The goal was to build an engine that would work for the community and that requires a 1,500-gallon-per-minute pump with a 750-gallon tank water capacity.
- The request for proposals the district received in late 2020 were so far above the mark in cost that the committee decided to jump on a proposal that had been dropped by another district for significantly less cost.
- A two-wheel-drive Pierce Enforcer Pumper will provide a lower engine height and avoid further back and knee injuries to the crews.
- Front Range Fire Apparatus of Frederick, Colo., proposed the apparatus could be built

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