

Director of Communications Mark Belcher reported that the district website now includes a news feature and storytelling. Printed mailers are in the planning stage. He encouraged all to explore what is available.

The group was divided into several sections to discuss what the district is now doing and what could be added to increase appreciation of the value of the district and its employees.

- Some opinions included:
- Our people should be our priority. The district needs to explain the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) to the public so they understand that collecting more taxes due to increased property values does not mean more money for education. Under TABOR any tax increases must be voter-approved.
  - In addition to the Portrait of a Dis-



Above: Superintendent KC Somers, three members of the Board of Education, and several members of the administration were present to listen to citizen comments and answer questions at the April 12 "Engage and Elevate with D38 meeting." Photo by Jackie Burhans.

**Traditional Agent at 6%**

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**4%**

**Example**

<p><b>Sales Price, \$350,000.</b></p> <p><b>Traditional cost 6% : -\$21,000.</b></p> <p><b>To Seller: \$329,000.</b></p>	<p><b>Sales Price, \$350,000.</b></p> <p><b>AT 4%: -\$14,000.</b></p> <p><b>To Seller: \$336,000.</b></p>
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- district 38 Graduate, perhaps develop a Portrait of a District 38 Teacher to display their experience and expertise and how much they are valued and care for their students. Amber Wright, a senior at Palmer Ridge High School, commented on how teachers take a personal interest in the well-being and progress of students and don't just stand in class and give lectures. This portrait could aid in recruitment and retention.
- The public needs to understand that a mill levy override does not solve all problems. The budget stabilization factor, which reflects funding which was not made available over the past several years due to state budget shortages, must also be addressed.
  - The district should include an investigation of benefits in addition to salary.
  - If a mill levy override is on the November ballot, make clear to the public how the funds will be used. People are often unwilling to devote their taxes to schools if they are not

- certain of the use of the funds.
- Stress the various pathways to graduation offered by the district.
  - There is a need to decide how to reach each citizen. We have the data to prove the district's worth and need to clearly acknowledge that taxes are a major source of revenue. The district needs to stress that real estate value is tied to school performance.
- Somers thanked all individuals for their passion and time.
- Title programs**
- Title programs are federally funded under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Applications are submitted to the Colorado Department of Education for approval. Assistant Superintendent Amber Whetstone explained these programs.
- Title I involves improving academic achievement of the disadvantaged. In D38, Palmer Lake Elementary and Bear Creek Elementary receive funds to supplement state and local money to promote family engagement and fund tutoring and additional assessments to track progress. This program includes address-

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