

for 2013-14. It appears that the funding per pupil for that year will increase by \$170. While the state may receive additional federal funds during 2013-14, it is unknown whether each district may determine its application or whether the state may require that they be used in specific ways. Wangeman reminded the board that despite increases in funding, spending for the Public Employees Retirement Administration will continue to increase by \$250,000 per year and the cost of utilities and insurance will continue to increase.

Wangeman also said that the state officials are considering implementing a second student count in February. She said that the district has gained 24 students since Oct. 1 and will welcome an additional 40 or more in January. A second count would benefit the district's state funding.

The board enjoyed a presentation by the Sound Bearers, a choral group from Bear Creek Elementary School conducted by Ali Pulford. The students sang four sea-

sonal songs. Principal Peggy Parsley thanked the board for its support of the arts in the district's schools.

The Palmer Ridge High School soccer and field hockey teams and the Lewis-Palmer High School volleyball team were recognized for reaching the state finals this season. The team coaches and captains were present. The Palmer Ridge soccer coach introduced the senior members of his team.

Shane Rice, a 12th-grade student, presented Borman with a copy of his newly published book *Sinner*, a fantasy about a half dragon/half elf. The book was co-authored by Char Marie Alder and is available at the Covered Treasures Book Store.

The board passed a motion to accept a number of routine items regarding minutes of past meetings, hiring and retirements, contracts, and other matters.

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The Board of Education of the Lewis-Palmer School District meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument.

The next meeting will be held on Jan.17.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

**District Accountability Advisory Committee, Dec. 11**

# Committee hears about Bear Creek Elementary, plans for mill levy override

By Harriet Halbig

On Dec. 11, Bear Creek Elementary Principal Peggy Parsley guided members of the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) on a tour of her facility and explained its characteristics and goals.

Superintendent John Borman said that the district is

developing a vigorous public education program in advance of a mill levy override (MLO) ballot issue in 2013. It will request the maximum of \$4.5 million, which would cost the owner of a \$300,000 home \$346.50 extra per year. He said that the funds from the MLO would enable the district to make a number of improvements:

- Better pay for teachers and more teachers so that class size can decrease
- Continued advanced learning opportunities
- Support for struggling students
- Purchase and maintenance of technology
- Support for traditional and charter schools
- Resumption of capital maintenance
- Guarantee of safe transportation

In January, the district will begin training individuals to speak to the public about the district and its needs to promote the MLO. The wording of the ballot issue will include specific uses for the funds.

**An overview of Bear Creek Elementary**

Bear Creek Elementary was created when the district merged the two previous middle schools (Creekside and Lewis-Palmer) into one. The core population of Bear Creek Elementary had been in the Grace Best building until that time. It was decided that since the population of younger students was growing in the Jackson Creek area,

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