

gling with reading and math. In addition, the district no longer has a curriculum director.

He said that there is an unfortunate public perception that the administration is top heavy despite the fact that the number of administrative positions has been decreased from 17.5 to five. There is also a public perception that mistakes made several years ago regarding the buy-out of a superintendent's contract and rumors of the use of public domain to acquire land for Palmer Ridge High School occurred much more recently. As a consequence, public confidence in the system has eroded, he said.

Borman pointed out that in addition to the budget cuts, expenses have increased in several areas, including utilities, support for the Public Employee Retirement Administration (PERA), and as a result of past declining enrollment.

With this in mind, the district has increased fees for transportation, sports, and other activities and slashed its capital maintenance expenditures. This year is the first since 2008 that employees have received a pay increase and the first since then that the district has purchased a new bus. Funding for technology has been increased due to the age of much of the district's equipment and the fact that technology is vital to retain a high-performance district.

Borman said that the budget looks stable for 2013. The district may receive funding to support growth for the first time in many years. In the past, if the enrollment increased, the result was fewer dollars per student. This year, funding will increase with the population.

The state has also received \$30 million from the Race

to the Top program, but it is unknown how much the district will benefit.

Unified Improvement Plan introduced

Director of Assessment, Gifted Education and Technology Lori Benton gave a brief introduction to the Unified Improvement Plan (formerly School Improvement Plan) process. Members of DAAC will receive presentations from each school on its plan before the end of the school year.

The new ratings are "did not meet," "in progress," "meet," and "exceed." Everything in the "did not meet" category must be addressed with a plan for improvement.

The district has received a waiver from the advanced yearly progress form of determining success. Instead it will measure growth. Each school must show last year's targets and explain why they were or were not met. In addition, root causes of problems must be specified.

The school must then include a data narrative and set targets that can be evaluated on an interim basis before the following school year.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Locations vary. Due to the holiday break, the next meeting will be held on Jan. 15 in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument.

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

Special Education Advisory Committee, Dec. 12

Changes to transition process suggested

By Harriet Halbig

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for Lewis-Palmer School District 38 discussed ideas for improving the transition process during its Dec. 12 meeting.

During past meetings, SEAC members expressed dismay that the transition process between grade levels

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