

added that there was also a software issue regarding accounts receivable. Town Manager Pamela Smith said an accountant had been hired to take over the bank statements to respond to this control issue.

The board unanimously approved a resolution to accept the audit. The staff had received a 90-day extension through the end of October to resolve its issues with the auditor.

D-38 mill levy increase request explained

Borman discussed some of the issues pertaining to the D-38 MLO initiative with the board.

Some of the \$10.6 million cuts in annual funding that have affected D-38 over the past five years Borman noted were:

- Teaching positions—\$5.7 million
- Instructional materials—\$550,000
- Support staff—\$490,000
- Benefits—\$390,000
- Central office—\$1.11 million
- Busing/building maintenance—\$2.39 million
- Activities budget—\$45,000

Some of the specific cuts and other unfunded losses to students that most concerned Borman were:

- Loss of 38 teaching positions—15 classroom teachers and 23 counselors.
- No teacher time available for struggling students who need extra instruction in math and reading.
- Loss of gifted and talented teachers, librarians, technology teachers, and summer school.
- The backlog for technology replacement and upgrades is \$2 million.
- Smaller class sizes essential for a solid elementary school foundation are gone.
- Math and reading intervention for struggling students has been largely eliminated.
- Larger class sizes in middle/

high school make one-on-one student-teacher connections more difficult to achieve.

Borman stated that the MLO requests an annual increase of \$4.5 million to be used in part for:

- \$1.3 million for 22 classroom teachers and instructional budgets.
- \$900,000 to restore counselors, math/reading interventions, gifted and talented instruction, librarians, technology teachers, and elementary summer school.
- \$1 million to recruit and retain the best teachers.
- \$130,000 for improving the safety/security environment using advice from police, firefighter, and retired military volunteers.
- \$450,000 to restore technology support, infrastructure, and computers.
- \$720,000 for Monument Academy charter school for all of these issues.

Borman stated that there will be controls on how this new revenue would be used:

- A citizen's oversight committee will review spending of these new funds and report to the community.
- No money will be spent on administrative staff.
- Spending will be audited annually by an independent auditing firm.

Borman said that the cost of the 20 percent mill levy override for a home with a county property tax assessed value of \$300,000 would be an additional \$250 per year, with the annual cost for other homes being directly proportional, \$500 for a \$600,000 home. On average the annual increase in total property taxes for a D-38 property owner would be about 9 percent, he added. He also discussed very technical details regarding potential TABOR time delays and Medicare and Medicaid issues that might accompany any future restoration



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