



Above: The preschool at Bear Creek Elementary has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The preschool is one of 81 in Colorado, and one of three in a public school setting to receive this accreditation. Bear Creek Preschool staff members are, from left, Ashley Kjellson, Elizabeth Norton, Preschool Director Belle Hendricks, Bear Creek Principal Peggy Parsley, Kathy Dinges, Nikki Maresh, Kim Smoot, Laura Johnson, and Delinda Story. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*



Above: Board President Jeff Ferguson congratulates Lewis-Palmer Middle School math teacher Teresa Brown on receiving national board certification. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

district will retain the services of Deputy Dennis Coates through the remainder of the year. The Sheriff's Office will pay the \$40,000 expense of this officer's presence.

Board member John Mann commented that the presence of a school resource officer is valuable because he gets to know students and can often intervene before trouble arises.

Coates has been with the district for a number of years.

Open enrollment update

Community Relations Manager Robin Adair reported that the open enrollment period would continue for five more weeks. The district has embarked on a campaign including press and television advertising and has improved the district website to include videos on each school.

Letters have been sent to all area students in the sixth to eighth grades regarding district high schools.

At the time of the meeting, 27 new students who live outside the district had chosen to attend District 38 schools. Many of these families were seeking a full-day kindergarten program. Some individuals have chosen to switch high schools.

This is the first year in which families can "choice enroll" online to attend a school outside one's district.

Communications plan update

Adair reported that orientations for staff, parents, and others who wish to speak publically about the district's

offerings would continue through the end of January.

Improvement of the district website continues with the addition of links to home values and tax information to aid voters in their consideration of a mill levy override. The district plans an override election this year.

Adair will attend an election workshop in February to learn more about the process of submitting a ballot initiative and refining its wording.

Exceptional Student Services report

Mary Anne Fleury, district director of Exceptional Student Services, reported on developments in her department.

She said that the department meets state requirements in all areas. Areas evaluated include appropriate educational practices and appropriate planning for post-secondary goals. All goals must be measurable.

The department has created an audit squad to review Individual Education Plans (IEPs) before submission to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). There is now an individual in each school who reviews the IEPs.

There are now 559 students in the district who are part of the special education program, about 9 percent of the total student population. This is slightly above average, but Fleury said that many families choose to attend District 38 schools due to the programming.

Fleury said the department has offered training for paraprofessionals this year, continues to refine its diagnosis program, is re-evaluating center-based programming, and is refining entry and exit criteria for the center-based programs.

A number of committees address such specialized areas as extended school year offerings, assessment technology, response to intervention, positive behavior intervention, child find (diagnosis before age 3), and transition from one grade to the next and one school to the next.

The department received a grant for Response to

Intervention to fund staff training at Lewis- Palmer High School and Palmer Lake Elementary. The department is striving to use the culture of each individual school to improve the effectiveness of intervention.

Fleury reported a realignment of categories on the state level for special education students. New standards will be effective in two years. Autism will be diagnosed on a more refined basis. Physical disabilities will no longer qualify a student for special education services unless accompanied by significant behavioral problems.

Stephanie Johnson of the English Language Learner (ELL) program explained her program's developments. This is the first year in which the district is under the Colorado English Language Proficiency standards. Colorado is one of 32 states that share standards in terms of comprehension and communication.

Students who enter the ELL program are now tracked through graduation, because the introduction of technical math and science language at the high school level can cause difficulty.

Johnson said that Palmer Lake Elementary has many parents who are non-English speaking, and the ELL population of Bear Creek Elementary continues to grow.

ELL students are tested each year in January on their ability to listen, speak, read, and write English. There are three tiers within each grade level. The state goals include the ability of students to change tiers, the evaluation of a certain percentage of students as fluent, and progress by students on standardized tests.

Michelle Nay, parent liaison for the special education program, explained her position and the services she offers, such as counseling parents on the process of attending IEP meetings and communication with the district. She said that she has recently formed a Parent Support Network, which meets monthly on an informal basis to discuss the special education experience.

Safety and Security

Advisory Council update

Superintendent Borman said there have been extensive discussions in all schools regarding the security plans presently in place. Parents and staff are supportive and

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