

Parents suggested that the schools provide a list of sports and other extracurricular activities that would be acceptable.

Director's report

Mary Anne Fleury, the district's director of Exceptional Student Services, said that the December count of special education students showed a total of 559 in the program, approximately 9 percent of the district's population. This is slightly above average for the state, partially because the district's programs attract students from other areas.

The largest proportion of the group is those with specific learning disabilities, followed by those with physical disabilities (including autism, ADHD and bipolar disorder). As the state prepares to change its classification system, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is requesting more details regarding each student. Fleury also said that many students fall under more than one category.

Exceptional Student Services has created an Audit Squad team to review Individual Learning Plans (IEPs) at the school level before submission to the district's office. CDE officials have said they are impressed with the quality of IEPs from the Lewis-Palmer district.

Fleury also reported that she has scheduled training for paraprofessionals in such areas as conflict resolution and legal issues. The training was held in three sessions and attended by more than 30 individuals. She hopes to

schedule further training in the spring.

Fleury said the Reinventing Special Education Task Force, of which she is a member, will meet again soon to discuss such issues as teacher accountability. The task force feels that it is important to report more than simply the number of hours spent with a student.

She said that another focus of the group is licensure of teachers. For example, if a number of special education students need additional help with reading, the task force believes that a school should be able to hire a reading specialist who is not trained in special education but specializes in reading instruction. At present, a district would be required to hire someone licensed in special education.

There was a brief discussion of the impact of the new teacher evaluation system on special education. In the new system, required by Senate Bill 191 and beginning in 2014, teachers will be evaluated equally on the basis of their professional practices and on the annual growth of their students.

There is some concern among parents that this development will cause teachers to resist having special education students in the general education classroom because of the effect their test scores could have on overall growth.

Committee Chair Suzanne Faber commented that Prairie Winds Principal Aileen Finnegan reported to the District Accountability Advisory Committee the previous

night that she had analyzed her school's data and identified nine students with difficulty in math and addressed those few by acquiring special training for teachers to assist them. It was Faber's hope that other schools would proceed in this way—addressing problems on an individual basis.

Fleury said that the acceptable rate of annual growth for an individual should be described in his or her IEP.

Special Education Parent Liaison Michelle Nay said that she has begun an informal Parent Support Network, which meets monthly at Serrano's Coffee to discuss matters of special education. The group meets next on Feb. 12 at 9:30 a.m. She said that about 15 people have been attending and many do not attend the evening meetings of SEAC.

The meetings are announced by email to all special education families.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be held on Feb.13.

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Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Jan. 23

Two officials thanked for service

By Harriet Halbig

The board of the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) discussed the achievements of the past year and goals for the coming year at its Jan. 23 meeting.

President Jim Hale thanked absent Public Safety Director Paul Lambert and Treasurer Nick Oakley for their service. He credited Lambert with proposing the construction of a garage for Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) vehicles and Oakley with refining the financial workings of the organization, ending his term with a surplus of income for the year.

WIA Manager Matt Beseau reported that he recently hired a full-time employee to assist with covenants and forestry matters in the office.

Beseau also reported that the League of Women Voters said it had received 619 ballots for board positions, making a quorum in advance of the annual membership meeting on Jan. 28. The League will be present at the meeting to accept ballots and will be in the WIA office on Jan. 29 to open and count the ballots and declare the results.

Beseau also reported on other office matters:

- WIA is now offering homeowners the option of paying their annual dues by charge card.
- There are still 627 signatures needed to ratify the covenants. Beseau said that he would have a table at the annual meeting to encourage members to sign, but suggested that the board reconsider methods to finish the ratification at its first meeting in February. The document is not in compliance with state law, and it would be expensive for WIA to have the document ratified by court intervention.
- Microtech-tel is being considered for telephone service. The previous system was computer-linked, resulting in frequent failure, and the provider has gone out of business. Many providers declined to bid on a system involving so few phones. Microtech-tel offers such services as call forwarding in the event that the office is closed due to bad weather, and the contract would include technical support and software. It would not be necessary to replace cables within the walls of the Barn to install the new system. The board voted to pursue a favorable contract with the company.

Treasurer's report

Hale presented the treasurer's report in Oakley's absence. He said the budget had a \$40,000 surplus for 2012 as a result of fully rented office space in the Barn. Expenses ended at 86.8 percent of the budgeted amount. Hale recommended that the excess funds be put back into reserves, because the association spent reserve funds on unexpected repairs on the grounds of the Barn due to a ruptured gas line during the construction of the new garage.

New uniforms approved

WPS Chief Kevin Nielsen reported that his officers would like to change the appearance of their uniforms so that they would not be confused with sheriff or police responders. The new uniforms would be dark green with a Woodmoor patch on the sleeve.

Beseau also requested that office employees be supplied with some sort of polo shirt identifying them as WIA representatives when they visit homeowners.

The board passed a resolution to supply uniforms to WIA and WPS at the cost of up to \$1,400.

Nielsen also reported that there had been a forced entry burglary in South Woodmoor the previous Sunday evening. He said that the two individuals who had been arrested in the fall for breaking into homes in Woodmoor and Palmer Lake are now out on bond. The most recent incident involved entry through a basement window. When WPS officers arrived six minutes after receiving the alarm, the perpetrators had fled and the front door was left open. As in the past cases, the homeowners were out of town.

Architectural Control Director Anne Stevens-Gountanis said there were no projects submitted during December. She urged the board to complete its review and approval of the WIA design standards manual.

Forestry Director Eric Gross said that he thought it was necessary to include Firewise principles in the revised manual in light of the new building codes being formulated in the wake of the Waldo Canyon Fire.

Hale agreed that this was a worthwhile concern, although homeowners could not be required to retrofit their property. Any substantial renovation and new construction should comply with Firewise standards.

Stevens-Gountanis urged prompt action in anticipation of future new construction in the area.

Gross reported that the Firewise Committee has been meeting weekly to create a newsletter regarding fire safety and mitigation practices. Members hope to develop a community wildfire protection plan and are exploring possible sources of new grants to help defray the cost of fuel removal in Woodmoor.

Common Area Director W. Lee Murray reported that the work in the front of the Barn has been completed. Heavy planters have been added to discourage people from driving onto the concrete. These planters will be planted with flowers during the summer. Two benches have also been added. Some lighting in the barn has been repaired and replaced, and the dredging of the Twin Ponds has been completed.

The Board of Directors of the Woodmoor Improvement Association meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the association's Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on Feb. 27.

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