

Transition document presented

One of the group's goals over this school year is to improve and standardize the process by which a student transitions from one year to the next, one school and level to the next, and in some cases from one semester to the next.

This problem was approached through a brainstorming session early in the year and study of a similar document produced a few years ago. These suggestions were merged into a document that will be presented to the superintendent of schools.

The committee states that the goal of the district is to ensure that each student has a voice that is heard and re-

spected and that the district goal of ensuring achievement reflecting the greatest potential of every student is met.

The document will be delivered to Superintendent John Borman before the next meeting, and he will be invited to attend and discuss possible changes in procedures.

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The Special Education Advisory Council meets at 6:30 on the second Wednesday of each month at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on May 8.

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Donald Wescott FPD, April 16

Extra principal loan payment approved

By Lisa Hatfield

On April 16, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board held its semiannual pension board meeting and the regular April board meeting. At the regular meeting, the board approved an extra \$185,000 payment on a construction loan.

Lt. Bryan Ackerman, one of two volunteer firefighters who serve as directors on the pension board, was present. The absences of Director Greg Gent and Lt. Tim Hampton from the pension board meeting were excused. The absence of Director Joyce Hartung from both meetings was also excused.

Pension board meeting

Ackerman reported on the 2012 end-of-year financial statement for the district's Fire and Police Pension Association (FPPA) volunteer pension fund. The fund balance increased by \$56,000 during 2012, with an ending balance of \$895,000. "The pension fund is self-sustaining

right now," Chairman Scott Campbell said. In previous years, the district made substantial employer contributions to the pension fund to take advantage of state matching funds that have been available for several years and better ensure the fund's actuarial soundness. The district did not have to make a contribution in 2012 and Campbell does not anticipate having to make one in 2013.

Ackerman said that total net benefits paid out increased in 2012 to \$38,000. This amount reflects the increased monthly benefits to beneficiaries that the pension board approved at the July 11, 2012, meeting. He estimated that in 2013, about \$11,000 more will be paid out in benefits than in 2012.

In 2013, recently retired Battalion Chief Mike Badger was added to the pension beneficiary list, which will add to the total fund payout amount for this year. One more eligible beneficiary may apply for benefits later this year, which would further increase the amount disbursed.

The next pension board meeting will now be held at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 20 rather than the previously posted date of Oct. 20 to allow time for pension budget adjustments for 2013. If any adjustments are needed and done at a regular board meeting instead, then both Ackerman and Hampton would need to be there for full firefighter representation.

The pension board meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m., and the regular meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

Regular meeting

The regular meeting began in the Station 1 apparatus bay to make room for the dozens of guests of the two new volunteers taking the firefighter oath of office. Ackerman explained that Charles Ragland and Robert Hurd were the first volunteers to go through "a new and improved volunteer manual" and final test, a process that takes a year to complete. The district now has about 12 volunteer firefighters and will start a new volunteer class in a few months.

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