

D38 (Cont. from page 1)  
that he feels these gaps are caused in part by the major cuts in funding for support programs, such as reading

and math coaches. Amenson said that the consolidation of two middle schools into one, resulting in larger classes

and reduction of teaching staff, also contributed to declining scores. He said that he predicts that the district could lose its "ac-

creditation with distinction" status if the problems are not addressed immediately.

He recommended three primary steps to improve the district:

- Hire more teachers at the middle school level.
- Increase support for those with IEPs, English Language Learners and other at-risk populations.
- Replace capital assets in the district. This replacement of such assets as school buses and technology has been postponed for

the past several years. Amenson's conclusion was that the district desperately needs to raise revenue because it would be impossible to cut spending further without doing additional damage to student performance.

Superintendent John Borman agreed that class sizes in the middle school are too large, but that is partially a result of teaming. To lower class sizes, teaming would need to be eliminated.

Board Treasurer John Mann commented that there are also too few teachers at the high school

level, resulting in each having to teach six sections rather than the former five. This makes it difficult to get to know students and give them the individual attention they may require. He also commented that the district needs more paraprofessionals and interventionists to act in supporting roles.

**Communications plan update**

Community Relations Manager Robin Adair reported on progress in the district's communications plan.

She said that Borman is on track to take the district's story to the community through meetings with homeowners associations, Kiwanis, the Lions Club, the Monument Board of Trustees and other groups. She said that the response had been positive, and the public is learning that some of its perceptions about the district are inaccurate.

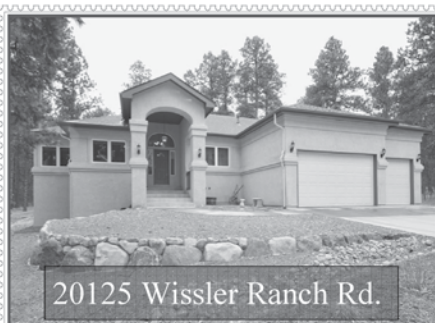
Borman said that he has held many of these meetings and finds the questions to be challenging but indicative of public interest.

Adair said the next step in the plan is to analyze public opinion and schedule contacts for the summer. There will be a direct mailing in the near future.

Borman said that the board had held a work session the previous evening, including principals and administration staff, to discuss the prospect of requesting a mill levy override (MLO) on the November ballot.

Board President Jeffery Ferguson agreed that more resources are needed and asked what the deadline would be to place a request on the ballot.

Adair responded that requesting an initiative and submitting the wording are two separate actions, required about 60



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- Red Cross
- Smoke Trailer
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Smokey Bear
- Car Seat Checks
- Massage Therapy
- Nutrition Counseling
- Animal Care
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- Home Safety

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(719) 487 9271 13872 Gleneagle Dr

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