



**Above:** Sherri Hawkins is the newly appointed member of the board from District 1. She replaces Dr. Jeffery Ferguson, who retired in November. *Photo provided by D-38.*

After a brief discussion, the board approved the appointment of Sherri Hawkins, who has served as a leader in parent-teacher organizations and is a former teacher and coach.

Hawkins had told the board that she chose to live in the district because of the academic excellence of its schools and her desire to continue providing the quality education district residents have come to expect.

Hawkins will serve for two years, at which time the state requires that an election be held.

She was sworn in on the day following the board meeting.

**Mill levy certified**  
Wangeman reported that the board had certified a mill levy of 23.16 mills in 2014 on Dec. 9.

Wangeman said that the assessed value of dis-

trict property is down slightly from last year, but that the amount required for debt service is significantly decreased due to refunding of past bonds. Tax savings for the district should continue through 2029 as a result of these refundings.

Pfaff confirmed that the district's financial advisor suggested the action of refunding and refinancing these bonds.

#### Electronic attendance

The board approved a measure to allow members to attend meetings electronically, although Pfaff said that he would always prefer attendance in person.

#### Report on Exceptional Students

Director of Language, Culture and Equity Stephanie Johnson said that the number of foreign language-speaking students has grown to 285, with the largest number at Bear Creek Elementary School. There are now 43 languages spoken in the district.

There are new criteria for exiting the program, requiring proficiency in TCAP reading and writing. In high school, ACT scores are also taken into account.

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