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remaining leases on the administration building. Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman said that paying off the leases would leave a reserve balance of 18 percent and make available additional revenue each year. Board members stated that they would restore the reserves as soon as possible. Board President Mark Pfoff suggested that any

one-time fund increases from the state should go directly into the reserves.

State testing benefits and challenges
Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton presented a second round of information regarding the benefits and costs of state-mandated assessments.

Benton explained that many of the assessments are required to fulfill requirements involving Uni-

fied Improvements Plans administered by the state. Although she acknowledged the value of the test results to teachers in their curriculum planning, she stressed that the tests take time away from instruction in the classroom and require the hiring of temporary or substitute employees and the purchase of extensive software and hardware because many of the new tests are taken online.

Tests discussed in-

cluded the World-Class Instruction Design and Assessment test for English language learners, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success Partnership for the Assessment of College and Careers, state tests of science and social studies, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills to assess reading in grades K-3, ACT, and others.

The primary concerns among the board members were loss of classroom time and unfunded re-

quirements. The total cost of the tests and software is about \$85,000. The cost of additional employees is about \$20,000. Not included is the fact that many employees are pulled from their usual duties to proctor or prepare for tests.

Benton said another issue to consider is the need to purchase computers for administering the tests and the need for additional technology staff to ensure that the machines are properly programmed

and ready to use when needed.

In some school settings, administration of the tests denies students access to computer labs on testing days, and in some cases the computers need to be set up in a hallway or other temporary space.

Board Vice President John Mann commented that he prefers tests that indicate Lewis-Palmer's students' national rather than state standing. Benton responded that the ACT is a national test and many of the others have national equivalents.

Board Treasurer John Magerko said that the Colorado Association of School Boards shares the board's concern about unfunded mandates and loss of local control over which tests are administered.

Pfoff said that the board would advocate the creation of a technology position.

Purchase of crisis equipment approved

Safety and Security Specialist Laura Vertucci spoke of the need for additional radios for use by district employees in the case of emergency. She said that there are an insufficient number of radios available and that recep-



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