

indicate what the cost of any change would be. The motion was tabled.

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Graduation requirements

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton reported on the graduation requirement guidelines, which were adopted in September.

Benton said that the new stress is on life beyond high school and ensuring that students are ready to go to college or into the work force without the need for remediation of deficiencies. To achieve this, assessments must be used to prove competency.

Benton said that most students meet or exceed state standards, but the district needed to address skills necessary for success in the work force in Colorado. In addition to monitoring proficiency, district officials will consult with focus groups regarding skills needed for successful integration into the work force.

Broffitt said that the former model of simply passing through the system is not enough and there are other ways to gain proficiency.

Technology update

Director of Institutional and Information Technology Liz Walhof reported on creation of a Technology Advisory Group, including parents, principals, and teachers, which will create a technology mission statement. This statement will include revision of the K-12 technology curriculum and determine necessary technology proficiencies for teachers.

Regarding data privacy concerns, Walhof said that she has created a data privacy approval form, which is used to determine which tools are appropriate for use in the schools by reading the fine print on contracts. She said that Wangeman has sometimes added privacy clauses to some contracts.

Regarding a recent technology survey, Walhof said that 35 percent of those surveyed say there is adequate Wi-Fi in the district. Most agree that technology training



Above: Mrs. Martinez' fourth-grade class from Prairie Winds Elementary School recited the Preamble to the Constitution at the Board of Education meeting. They are, front row left to right, Preston Baux, Tylar Hopper, Cole Cordova, April Paulik, Preston Green, and Valerie Peterson. In the back row are Ms. Finnegan (Prairie Winds principal), Taevyn Reser, John Gifford, Nick Djokovich, Ashley Falk, Blaine Winters, Sydney Herman, and Mrs. Martinez. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

is a beneficial tool for future success and many students agree that they use technology as a learning tool outside of the classroom.

State assessment update

Benton reported that the new set of assessments, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) in science and social studies and PARCC in English and math, had been created because members of the class of 2013 required remediation before entry into college.

The new assessments are designed to be administered online and feature more interactive and engaging questions than past assessments. These assessments also allow the district to compare district student scores to those of others throughout the country.

Benton said that it will take time to get used to these new assessments and that this year's scores will serve as a baseline because it is the first time they have been used. Because of this, there will be a one-year pause in the impact of the scores. The district's accreditation will remain the same. Results will be received on Nov. 30 with the remaining files becoming accessible on Dec. 4.

The district has not yet been notified of the local participation rate, but has been told it will not be held liable for parent refusals to participate. The federal requirement for participation is 95 percent.

Benton also said that the district has applied for a waiver from CDE to provide an alternate process to dem-

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