

tions with Pueblo County for a state 1041 permit to transport Donala's Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water from storage in the Pueblo Reservoir through the Colorado Springs Utilities Southern Delivery System pipeline. Pueblo County is still asking for more information from Donala before making a determination on Donala's application for the 1041 permit based on an exemption or finding of no specific impact. Pueblo County has asked

Donala to again provide "information as to what authority and discretion that Donala has now or can potentially have to fund, construct, or regulate the discharge and control of stormwater within its existing and proposed service areas."

Note: Donala is solely a water and sanitation district and has no stormwater authority or responsibility in its service plan, much less any obligation to perform any stormwater treatment. El Paso County

is responsible for stormwater within the Donala service area. Donala is virtually built out and no significant changes in stormwater runoff will occur within its service area.

The board asked Petersen to schedule a board workshop to discuss this issue in depth in February.

The board went into executive session at 3:40 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 19 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Information: 488-3603 or <http://www.donalawater.org/>.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

District Accountability Advisory Committee, Jan. 13

Committee discusses Bear Creek Elementary and Lewis-Palmer Middle School UIPs

By Harriet Halbig

The District Accountability Advisory Committee of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 discussed the Unified Improvement Plans (UIPs) for Bear Creek Elementary School and Lewis-Palmer Middle School at its Jan. 13 meeting.

Bear Creek Elementary UIP

Principal Peggy Parsley explained the plan for Bear Creek Elementary.

The school was rated as "meets" in the categories of academic achievement, academic growth, and academic growth gaps and met the 95 percent test participation requirement. Strengths in the school's evaluation include reading for English learners and students needing to catch up, which were rated as "exceeds."

Weaknesses are in math for those on free/reduced-price lunch, math for students with disabilities ("does not meet"), and students needing to catch up. In writing, those on free/reduced lunch, students with disabilities, and students needing to catch up were rated as "approaching."

Parsley explained that students with disabilities, students needing to catch up, and English learners had progressed from "does not meet" to "approaching" in math since last year, proving that present efforts are effective.

In the area of math, the UIP states that instructional strategies appear to be a problem, along with the fact that a num-

ber of students entering the district were unfamiliar with the math vocabulary. The school instituted the use of Math Triumphs for fourth- and fifth-graders to offer intervention for students struggling in math. Students also had access to web-based practice opportunities that could be used at home or at school. An instructional coach was added to the team to assist with instructional strategies.

In the area of writing, it was determined that insufficient time was being devoted to this skill. There is also a lack of intervention services for writing. To remedy this, the school is using an instructional literacy coach funded by Title IIA federal funding and the Every Child a Writer program.

Lewis-Palmer Middle School UIP

Lewis-Palmer Middle School was rated as "meets" for academic achievement and academic growth and as "approaching" in academic growth gaps. This school also met the 95 percent test participation requirement.

The school set targets for growth in math and writing for students with disabilities. While they did not reach targets, growth was achieved.

The UIP states that an area that needs improvement is increased monitoring and goal setting, following by research-based interventions. The need for monitoring is

increased by the fact that, as a two-year school, the students being monitored change frequently and prompt action is required.

An additional goal for teachers is to have more training in differentiation of instruction, accepting the fact that students have various learning styles. By acknowledging this fact and using various styles of presentation, performance should improve, according to the UIP. Careful monitoring of the achievement of all students will increase.

Legislative update

Board liaison John Magerko distributed information on recent legislative activity involving schools. He reported on activities of a task force regarding assessments and the possibility of eliminating all testing for high school seniors and a reduction in the testing of juniors, although still requiring ACT for juniors. The conversation continues, he said.

The State Board of Education voted to allow school districts to seek waivers from administering parts of the PARCC test scheduled for March. The state attorney general responded by saying that the state board did not have the authority to suggest such action.

Campus introduction: Lewis-Palmer Elementary School

Principal Kim Blair of Lewis-Palmer Elementary school gave a brief overview

of her campus, which was the location of the meeting. Lewis-Palmer Elementary (LPES) has a student population of 439 and a teacher/student ratio of 22 to 1. The facility was built in 1973 as a middle school.

Due to the number of students on free/reduced lunch, LPES qualifies for Title I federal funding. This year the funds were used to create an intensive intervention studio and gifted/talented programs.

In addition to school-day offerings, there are many extracurricular activities, including Lego Robotics, Rubik's Cube, cooking, crochet, basketball, and chess instruction. These activities are offered by teachers and parents.

Community involvement opportunities include movie nights, a carnival, book fairs, and an art show. The school is also planning a culture day, which will include an assembly with dancers from various cultures and presentations by parents from various cultures.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Locations vary. The Feb. 10 meeting will be at Monument Academy, 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Jan. 15

Board discusses strategic plan for technology and curriculum, hears reports about exceptional student services and English learners

By Harriet Halbig

The Board of Education discussed a strategic plan for technology and curriculum, recognized athletic accomplishments,

and learned of achievement by exceptional students and English learners at its Jan. 15 meeting.

Strategic Plan Update

Curriculum/Instruction Director Sheila Beving spoke to the board about continuing consideration of technology and curriculum. She said that the board has positioned the district to use some of its resources to improve the technology position of the district.

As examples, she mentioned the biomedical and astronomy classes in which students have created multi-media reports and used interactive materials. She said that students in these classes have been much more eager to complete their projects and are generally more engaged than in traditional classes.

The initial need is to achieve universal access to curricular materials. The next step is to ensure that this access is safe, which will require professional development.

A consultant from an adjoining district has been engaged to determine priorities as the district goes forward.

Board President Mark Pfoff commented that technology is now holding the district back because of lack of overall strategy. He said that the issue must be addressed before the end of the school year. He asked Superintendent Karen Brofft to return with options for action at the next meeting.

Exceptional Student Services update

Director of Exceptional Student Services Mary Anne Fleury reported that, for the first time, she has access to growth data for students with disabilities. She said that there is a great advantage to looking at this population in terms of growth, rather than just proficiency.

She demonstrated that students in the district were superior to the state average in terms of both growth and proficiency.

Fleury said that the department will continue to focus on the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to continue such progress. Actions will include professional development, identification of suitable materials, and coping with the mental health needs of students with disabilities.

English Language Learners (ELL) Director Stephanie Johnson reported that assessments of the ELL population will be administered with paper and pencil this year, and by computer in the future. Assessments will be completed in mid-February.

Students are evaluated on the basis of the abilities to listen, speak, read and write in English.

Johnson explained that measuring growth in the ELL population is difficult because students are constantly leaving the program as they gain proficiency, and entering it as they move to the district.

The ELL program offers a summer program to further the skills of its students.

Communications Audit Survey update

Consultant Kyndra Wilson reported on results of the recent survey of students, parents, staff and community members regarding the district's communications program. She said that there were 1,073 responses from insiders and 101 from the community.

Ilanit Bennaim
Real Estate Broker Associate



- BUYING
- SELLING
- INVESTING
- LUXURY HOMES
- 1ST TIME BUYERS
- HUD REPOS
- SHORT SALES
- FORECLOSURES
- ALL REAL ESTATE

Serving: Colorado Springs, Denver, Douglas County, Monument & Woodland Park

(719) 325-6979 Cell/Text
(719) 535-0355 Office
(866) 213-7738 eFax

Ilanit@kw.com
www.BuyAndSellWithIlanit.com

Thinking Real Estate?
Call Ilanit: (719) 325-6979

CALL FOR YOUR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS