D38 (Cont. from 1)

The need is still real, said Treasurer Chris Taylor, and he asked for a clear communication of the financial need. He said he felt as though the students had been let down.

Board President Matthew Clawson thanked the Long-Range Planning Committee for their efforts.

Superintendent Karen Brofft said that the planning team is regrouping and will be reaching out to the community to learn why people think the issues failed. The need is still there, and district representatives must seek out community input, she said.

As it stands, school boundaries may need to change, and mobile classrooms may be necessary. The most pressing issue is the middle school, which is at capacity.

Later in the meeting, Brofft said that the district will use the Thought Exchange website to seek input online from the community. Due to the impending holidays, she said that she would leave the portal open until January. The intent is to take the data from Thought Exchange and go out again and actively engage with the community.

For those who do not use social media, the link to Thought Exchange will be on the district website.

District officials will also meet with demographers before the Dec. 3 work session to get fur-

ther concrete statistics on the need for an additional school and solutions in the interim.

Brofft said that the board should consider going out again next year for a bond and/or mill levy override. Construction costs will continue to rise the longer it is delayed, she said.

Secretary Mark Pfoff said he was concerned that the public detected a "bait and switch" when the long-term planning for the elementary school initially did not include funding for the Monument Academy (MA) facility, and then it was added at the last minute. A D-38 Deliberates session asked the public whether to request one school or two. The decision was to ask for one, and MA was not mentioned.

Pfoff stressed that charter schools are in competition with traditional public

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schools and therefore should not be represented on a single issue.

He pointed out that the charter school could build its new high school without going to the voters for funding through the use of Certificates of Participation. MA has created a separate building corporation which holds the debt, while MA pays a monthly lease fee.

In addition, members of the public complained that, even after a D-38 Deliberates meeting, the board did not decide on what to do with the Grace Best Education Center. Pfoff suggested using funds from the sale of land for the Monument Academy high school to demolish the old part of the Grace Best.

Pfoff said that he felt the board and those campaigned for the issues had let the teachers down by not pass-

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ing initiatives that would give them better conditions.

Taylor said that the MA proposal was not added at the last moment, and he felt that one reason the initiatives

failed was that the blue book that described them didn't provide a positive argument. He said that construction of the new MA high school will provide some additional

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