includes a 10-day window.

Bear Creek Principal Peggy Parsley, who was in the audience, said there was a particularly large class leaving for middle school this year, with a smaller incoming kindergarten class. She also said that generally, the enrollment numbers increase by 40 to 50

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between October and March.

Director Mark Pfoff commented that the district had closed open enrollment at Bear Creek and perhaps some parents declined to enroll there for fear their students would not be able to stay.

#### **Public comments**

Jackie Burhans thanked all those involved in readying the district for the opening of the new school year. Jeff Lewis said that HB 19-1032 promotes abortion, teaches gender identity, and there is no requirement of notifying parents regarding the content. He said that the constitution gives school boards the right to determine curriculum.

Cynthia Fong-Smith said the modular classrooms are an eyesore and proposed beautifying them with murals, perhaps enclosing them with a sort of "skin" since the modulars are rented.

Renee Gargasz reported that the ad hoc commit-

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tee on school starting times met through the summer and has been in touch with other districts. They have spoken with principals and athletic directors within the district. Douglas County decided not to change its schedule.

#### Other items

The board approved CASB-suggested revisions to some policies.

**Executive Director of Personnel and Operations** Bob Foster listed achievements during the summer to include completion of the modular classrooms, improvements to the kitchen, replacement of the boiler at Kilmer Elementary, and improvements to the technology service space.

Eighty cameras were installed so that all elementaries and other facilities are now covered. By November there will be upgrades to the entries at Palmer Lake Elementary and Kilmer Elementary.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer District 38 meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at its Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Sept. 16.

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

#### MA (Cont. from 1)

- Needed improvements in recruitment and hiring practices.
- Retaining former Executive Director Don Griffin as a consultant on the new school despite declining to renew his contract and his full-time position in another district.
- A fundraising event for a planned school resource officer.
- Concern that MA's vision and stakeholders' interest in the secondary school have been pushed
- Marketing the new building as a high school, though it will include middle school next year and not ease overcrowding in D38 schools.
- Only 16 core classrooms in the new school serving 300 more students, 450 more in 2021, and 600 more in 2022 before phase 2 is funded and constructed.
- Inadequate numbers of restrooms.
- Top-heavy administration over past five years including an executive director, principal/chief academic officer, two deans, etc.
- Lack of a vision update in past 2 1/2 years.

Board members noted they are all volunteers and parents trying to do what is best for the school. Board President Mark McWilliams said board must follow protocol but needs to improve communication.

Community meeting on secondary school

CRP architect Brian Risely and owner representative Kurt Connelly reviewed the current construction plans, promising to put the slides on the MA website. Phase 1 is planned for August 2020 with 16 classes, five dedicated enrichment spaces, and a gym similar in size to the current gym. They anticipate 120 students per grade for grades 6-9 and hope to attract 75 10th-graders for a total of 555. Construction costs are expected to be around \$17 million, and the number of restrooms significantly exceed code minimum. Phase 2 will likely open in August 2022 after funding is secured. Construction costs are expected to rise 7-8% annually, and interest rates are also expected to increase. A pool might be added in the vet unplanned Phase 3.





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