



er they required protection from influence of older students. After each table reported some of its discussion, an informal show of hands determined that the majority would favor returning the sixth grade to the middle school.

District Superintendent Karen Brofft, in response to a question, said that such drastic changes could not take place until the board decides on the use of all facilities and budget priorities.

The discussion regarding the use of the Grace Best Education Center was more complex and indecisive.

The building itself was constructed in three sections: the single-story front part that was constructed in the 1957, the two-story section added in 1988, and the gym. The building is currently being used for the Homeschool Enrichment Academy, the Transitions program, storage in the oldest section, and space for such enrichment programs as the robotics team. The gym is frequently rented for community use.

Although currently contained following abatement in 2008, asbestos remains in the older part of the build-

ing, making it impractical for use as an elementary school without major improvements.

Four options were presented:

- Leave the facility as is
- Tear down the entire building
- Tear down the oldest part
- Remodel the building into an elementary school

Some concerns included:

- Serving niche programs vs. the needs of the district as a whole
- Money spent on renovation now vs. money spent on new construction in the future
- Building a world-class facility vs. saving money and having a good enough facility
- Advancing the district's vision vs. balancing the budget

Architect Doug Abernethy of RTA Architects estimated the cost of the various options, reminding those attending that asbestos is in the mechanical systems and in the soil around the building.

Other concerns about Grace Best as an elementary include the proximity of an assisted living facility and traffic patterns in the area with a narrow

street to the west and difficulty of access for buses.

The Grace Best campus also includes the district's bus barn, which may need to expand with growing population, and diesel storage tanks.

Due to the complexity of the problem, the group declined to state preferences for the use of Grace Best.

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

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Teacher Spotlight: Georganna Rapaport



Georganna Rapaport teaches fourth grade at Palmer Lake Elementary School and is in her fourth year there. She completed her student teaching at Prairie Winds Elementary and spent a year there as a second grade teacher before her husband's military career took them out of state. When he retired, they returned to Monument and Lewis-Palmer School District.

After earning her degree in marketing at Virginia Tech, meeting her husband, and living at a number of Army

bases, they discovered Colorado. She loves the weather here as it is much nicer than the weather of upstate New York where she grew up, but she, her husband, and her two kids do visit family there each summer.

Georganna worked in marketing before getting her master's degree in education from Regis in Denver. She even took a class taught by Ted Bauman. Now, Georganna assists with professional development at PLES and loves the culture of "let's

try it." She believes that the school environment is a place of belonging for students and that the staff truly care about their students. Her goal with her students is to help them find their purpose.

Georganna dreams of traveling to French Polynesia, getting a doctorate in psychology, and perhaps, teaching abroad. In the meantime, she is a golf and hockey mom who makes sure she takes care of herself each morning by hitting the gym before school.

School Bus Safety

Colorado law states that all drivers must stop their vehicles at least 20 feet before reaching a school bus that is stopped with its red lights

flashing, whether it is on their side of the road, the opposite side of the road, or at an intersection. Drivers must remain stopped until the flashing red lights are no longer operating.



Please watch carefully for children near school busses and children crossing the roadway before proceeding. You are not required to stop if the bus is traveling toward you on a roadway that is separated by a median or other physical barrier.

Thank you for driving extra carefully around school busses. We all want our children to be safe.



LPSD Upcoming Events

December 21: Last day of classes prior to break

Board of Education Meeting, Admin Building, 6 p.m.

December 22: Teacher work day

December 25-26: District closed

January 1: District closed

January 9: Monument Academy students return

January 10: All students return

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