



Above: Superintendent Karen Brofft, left, introduces facilitator Carrie Bennett. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

voted.

Special meeting of the Board of Education, Feb. 5

The board held a brief meeting following the deliberation to determine what actions they wished to take at the Feb. 15 regular board meeting.

Director Mark Pfoff praised the deliberation process, saying he wished it had been used when decisions about moving the sixth grade

to elementary and closing one of the middle schools were made.

Superintendent Karen Brofft explained a timeline for use if the board wishes to place a bond on the November ballot to support the construction of one or more new schools. Action should begin in February.

Among the actions required would be to educate as many community members as possible to the proposed actions, to select an underwriter,

to poll the public regarding their support, and to determine an amount of funding to request.

Brofft said that district staff members could do polling until the board passes a final resolution to seek a ballot measure.

Board Vice President Tiffney Upchurch asked whether those who participated in the deliberation could be asked to participate. Brofft responded that would be possible only if they provided con-

tact information.

Pfoff commented that a bond issue should be seen as a solution but said that he was unwilling to vote on specific sites for new schools at this time.

Board President Matthew Clawson agreed that a bond is the solution and that at least one more school is needed to deal with growth in the district.

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

Paid Advertisement

ment growth (build one integrated K-8 campus on the site of Bear Creek Elementary or build two new elementary schools, one on the west side of the highway).

The format of the discussion involved tables of 10 or so participants with one facilitator at each table who encouraged all to speak and to listen to others. After a period of time, the discussion was halted and participants were encouraged to write a comment on a card and vote their preference. The comments were later forwarded to the Board of Education for its consideration.

Architect Brian Risley of CRP Architects, which designed Bear Creek (then Creekside Middle School), Prairie Winds Elementary, and the middle school) said that Creekside was originally designed on its site because it was the area of growth in the district in 2002. The intention was to later build an elementary on the same site. The mechanical systems needed for an elementary are already in place in the basement of the current building.

Following discussion, Bennett enumerated some of the tensions in the decision, including planning for growth vs. reacting to it, flexibility of a K-8 campus, money spent now or later, and the difference between distance traveled to school and time spent on a bus.

The preference among attendees leaned toward building two elementary schools.

The discussion then turned to consideration of Grace Best. Risley said part of the building was constructed in 1957 and part in the late '80s. It was an elementary school until 2010 but cannot be easily returned to that use without work.

Following discussion, Bennett determined that the tensions were between needs of the many versus needs of the few (Home School Enrichment Academy, Transitions program on the site); spending money on Grace Best versus spending money on other schools with deferred maintenance issues; and current needs versus retaining the property for potential value later.

The vote among attendees leaned toward monetization of the property. Not all in attendance



Rick Kelly, CSA

Worst Market Decline In Two Years. 10% Correction Leaves Pre And Current Retirees Asking, "Just A Correction, Or A Precursor For Something More?"

The S&P 500 hit record highs of 2,872.87 on January 26, 2018. 13 days later, on February 8, 2018, the S&P 500 had declined to 2,581.00. A 10% drop of 291.87.

A 10% decline is referred to as a correction. It's not a bear market or a recession or a crash. It's a correction and typically temporary. However, at the time of this writing, we are in the midst of a bull market nearing a record of over nine years in length. The obvious question is, "Since we are so long into a bull market, is there a decline bigger than a correction coming?"

If you are nearing or already in retirement, this should be a wake-up call for you.

Be thankful because your portfolio just took a quiz in preparation for a final exam and showed you where you stand and what you need to work on. To pass the quiz, your portfolio needed to lose less than 10%, preferably much less. Your portfolio failed the quiz if it was down 10% or more. If your portfolio failed the quiz of a correction, it will fail a final exam and adjustments should be made.

Four adjustments that will have the most impact for a safer portfolio are:

1. Eliminate market risk on at least the core portion of your portfolio
2. Be happy with returns in the 4.00% to 8.00% range for at least the core portion of your portfolio
3. Eliminate any unnecessary fees that reduce your returns and increase your losses
4. Long-term reliable and secure income is vital. If you need income from your portfolio, it must be secure.

Review your portfolio now. Whatever doesn't meet the four adjustments should be revaluated as to reduce your risk.

There are financial alternatives that are safer, provide competitive returns and don't charge fees that are available and were made for retirement.

Use the correction as a wake-up call and quiz to show you where your portfolio stands, then take the steps you need to protect your retirement. Maybe it's just a correction or the precursor for something more. Either way, you can have a more secure retirement before a final exam.

Rick Kelly, CSA is an Independent Certified Senior Advisor with offices in Monument and Littleton, CO. He helps Boomers and Retirees to live safer, more comfortable and more certain retirements no matter what the markets do. To request A FREE Copy Of Rick's Guide "It's Your One & Only Retirement! You Don't Have To Risk It!" email him at rick@rickkellycsa.com or call his toll-free 24-hour resource line right now at 1-800-975-1064.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. To determine which products/investment(s) may be appropriate for you, consult with your attorney, accountant, financial advisor or tax advisor prior to investing or taking action.



Trish Flake
Sells the Tri-lakes!
719.481.4810

www.trishflake.com

Love where you live.



**301 Brook Street
Palmer Lake, CO 80133**

Gorgeous custom updates! Totally remodeled w/2 bedrooms, 2 Baths, FP & attached 2 Car Garage! Open floor plan w/Brand New Kitchen, Baths, In/Out Paint & Flooring! Granite! New Appliances! 5-piece Master Bath! No HOA Dues and No Covenants! Most stunning views in town next to National Forest! \$299,000



**305 Brook Street
Palmer Lake, CO 80133**

Investment opportunity! This end unit has not been updated and is ready for you to build your own sweat equity! 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, FP & attached 2 Car Garage! Exterior updates are complete including new paint, garage door, driveway & fencing! No HOA Dues! Million \$ Views! Next to National Forest! \$249,000



**42 Page Street
Palmer Lake, CO 80133**

Dreamy lakeside cottage on huge corner lot! Come home to yesteryear in this cheerful 2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom home! Prime location w/so much potential! Workshop! Greenhouse! Sold as-is! Walk to everything in Palmer Lake including Restaurants, Art Center & Trails! \$240,000