

good facilities and community.... You guys are set up for success," he said.

After the third executive session for contract negotiations, the board voted 4-0-1 "to authorize the board president to select and hire an interim fire chief, without further board authorization, who would serve for no more than three months." Langmaid recused himself from that vote "due to conflict of interest."

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Vacancy on board of directors announced after the meeting

OCN learned that BFFRPD Secretary Donna Arkowski posted this public notice on April 26, two days after the regular meeting, and it was also posted on the district website:

"PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, of the County of El Paso, State of Colorado, has a vacancy on its five-member board. Any eligible elector of the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District who is interested in appointment to the board to fill this vacancy may submit an application for consideration by sending an email with a short biography to Richard McMorran, Vice-Chair of the Board, at bffr.mcmorran@gmail.com. The deadline for receipt of an application is 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2019. In witness whereof, this notice is given and duly posted this 26th day of April, 2019. Posted in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of El Paso County, CO and in at least three public places within the limits of the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District. Removal date: May 11, 2019."

It is not clear from this posting which board member stepped down.

Meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at BFFRPD Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 15. See www.bffire.org. Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, April 1 and 8

Board hears growth projections, selects new superintendent

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Board of Education met on April 1 and 8 to hear a presentation on growth in the district and to select a new superintendent.

Growth projections examined, April 1

The board heard a presentation April 1 from Metrostudy regarding projected growth in the district over the next several years.

Bob Templeton, vice president, school district segment, narrated the presentation. Among the subjects covered were the strength of the local economy, local job growth, the fact that the Denver region is expanding south, enrollment growth, and the rate of building in the area.

Bear Creek Elementary and Prairie Winds Elementary saw the most growth in enrollment in 2016-18, but the Kilmer Elementary area has the most lots available for development.

Templeton listed the various subdivisions and timelines for their completion. Among these are three in the Woodmoor area.

Board Treasurer Chris Taylor asked that the slide in the presentation include information about Monument Academy in its present location and its planned location on Highway 83.

Superintendent Karen Brofft requested that the slides be capable of updating in the case of the opening of a new elementary school in 2021 and the conversion of Bear Creek back into a middle school.

Taylor expressed concern that, with growth in the east side of the district, more students from out of district on that side would want to "choice in."

Director Theresa Phillips asked to include the Flying Horse North subdivision in the statistics.

Brofft said enrollment would remain closed even if the new elementary were built.

Board Secretary Mark Pfoff agreed that the new elementary and conversion of Bear Creek would serve the current population, not projected enrollment.

The board briefly discussed a change in its email address so that individuals could address the board as a whole, while each member would maintain an individual address.

The board discussed how to inform the public on its efforts to address the overcrowding in the middle school. Board members determined several issues

they wished to address:

- The fact that using modular classrooms is a temporary Band-Aid for addressing growth.
- A history of the district and its growth.
- Financing a bond.
- Underfunding by the state.
- Staff morale.

Phillips said that many members of the staff have said that they wish to be involved in educating the public and need to know how.

Board selects new superintendent, April 8

The board announced the selection of a new superintendent at its regular meeting on April 8.

Dr. Kenneth Christopher (K.C.) Somers was selected as D-38's new superintendent. He brings 19 years of experience in education having served as a high school principal, elementary school principal, high school assistant principal, family advocate, youth counselor, and coach. Most recently he has served as P-20 Learning Community director in Aurora Public Schools, which serves 8,000 students.

Several board members commented on the smoothness and professionalism of the selection process and thanked all who participated.

The board scheduled a meeting to negotiate a contract with Somers so that he may begin July 1. Superintendent Karen Brofft is retiring.

In her superintendent comments, Brofft expressed concern about the cost of renting the new modular classrooms. The purchase of three new buses has been put on hold to cover the cost.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman announced that the district has still not hired a new chief financial officer and that she and a business manager are assembling a manual to explain the position. An attempt is being made to do a lot of end-of-year reports as early as possible.

Wangeman also announced that part of the air conditioning system at Prairie Winds Elementary was out of order and that \$18,000 in parts will be required. The building's windows don't open.

The board approved a contract with the YMCA to provide before and after school care for district students. This care will be provided without charge to district employees. The Y has also said it wants to increase inclusion of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) in its programming.

The board announced the selection of Crystal Rasmussen as the new director of Student Services.

Budget discussion

On April 8, the board discussed the budget process and priorities, with Secretary Mark Pfoff suggesting that the \$18,000 cost of repairing the Prairie Winds air conditioning be taken from reserves. Wangeman said she planned to delay plumbing work at other locations to cover the cost.

Brofft stressed that it is wise to be aware of how reserves are spent as the district must meet the new minimum wage and is hoping to increase compensation across the board. Insurance premiums and the cost of PERA (Public Employees Retirement Administration) continue to increase. She commented that the increasing enrollment offers a buffer.

Wangeman said that an increase in the transportation fee is being considered as a way to increase funding. There is a shortage of bus drivers, and a way is being sought to reduce the number of routes.

Taylor proposed moving \$585,000 from the general fund to building reserves to cover the cost of converting Bear Creek Elementary into a middle school. Board President Matthew Clawson said that he would prefer to postpone the transfer until the board could consult a rating agent.

Solutions to overcrowding

On April 8, the board discussed talking points listed at the April 1 meeting.

Pfoff said that, although final wording of a bond measure would not be confirmed until August, he would like to find a way to seek the community's feedback ahead of time in an effort to show transparency. Brofft said that she would need to consult attorneys on the advisability of such an action.

Pfoff commented that, because wording was an issue in last year's election, he wants to ensure that this is a bond that everyone can support.

Appointment of secretary

Pfoff announced his resignation as board secretary

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