

A walking boundary was never created for Palmer Ridge High School because few houses were nearby at the time of its construction in 2007. Forty-four students in the Misty Acres subdivision signed up to ride school buses last year. Of these, 18 ride the bus regularly. All of these families will be contacted if a walking boundary is implemented.

There were concerns about the walking boundary for Palmer Ridge due to the construction area on Monument Hill Road and the fact that there are no sidewalks in that part of the district. Also, construction on the walking trail to include Palmer Ridge, Lewis-Palmer Middle School, and Lewis-Palmer Elementary has not yet begun.

There are also no sidewalks in a large portion of the walking boundary of Lewis-Palmer High School.

Director Mark Pfoff suggested that one additional bus stop for Palmer Ridge be created at the intersection of Doewood Drive and Old Antlers Drive because many students living on Doewood, although directly above the school, do not have direct access to it. This would be in the case that the walking boundary not be implemented until construction on Monument Hill Road is completed.

Currently, parents may pay a refundable deposit of \$25 per year to ensure a seat on a bus should their student choose to ride. The board voted to raise the fee for riding a bus from 50 cents to 75 cents per ride, with a deposit of \$75 or a flat fee of \$200 for the school year, which would equal \$1.20 per day. Wangeman pointed out that students on free or reduced lunch are not charged for transportation and that the fees charged only cover 25% to 35% of the cost of transportation.

Regarding route adjustments, the

district presently strives to have students on a bus for no longer than 45 minutes per trip. The proposal is to increase the time to 55 minutes and make the stops farther apart. This would necessitate delaying start and end time by 10 minutes.

Superintendent Karen Brofft stressed that, although the board hesitated to decrease the number of routes, it was necessary to stay within the budget.

The board agreed to the route adjustments with the understanding that construction on Monument Hill Road be completed by the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

Modular construction discussion
Brofft explained that the cost overrun for construction of the new modular classrooms necessitated by the failure of last year's funding initiatives totals \$459,000. She explained that when the district purchases a new school it can get a guaranteed estimate of cost. The modulars, because they had to be ordered in a relatively short period of time, were contracted on the basis of an estimate which changed over time due to the increase in cost of materials and working with several utilities.

The cost overrun will be covered by cancellation of the purchase of three new buses and lower spending on geotechnology and related services.

Wangeman pointed out that the increased cost is also attributed to the modular at Bear Creek Elementary, which was increased from a fourplex to a fiveplex, and requirements for preschools differ from those for elementary classrooms. She said that, generally speaking, the cost overruns are due to utility costs.

A brief discussion followed centering on the impact of not purchasing new buses. Wangeman said that dur-

ing the recession no new buses were purchased and the goal of purchasing three a year is an attempt to compensate. She said that the district has two or three buses that are not in constant use and can therefore be used as back-up.

Taylor commented that the construction firm in charge of the modulars should be reprimanded due to the overruns and that the district should consider using others in the future.

The board then held a work session during which they discussed several issues.

The board briefly discussed creating a dashboard to record requests through the Colorado Open Records Act. No action was taken.

Regarding changing school start times, the board agreed there is a public interest in the subject and that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore the subject. A board member should serve on the committee, board members said.

Brofft commented that neighboring districts found that the majority of pushback on changing start times came from parents of elementary students, and therefore an effort should be made to include this demographic on the committee. She also said the Lakewood school district began planning a year and a half before implementing a change.

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BFFRPD (Cont. from 1)

have been coming for a long time," including:

- Building leaks.
- Outdated bunker/turnout gear replacement.
- Equipment for the new engine.

Hinton suggested adjusting the emergency fund with an increase of \$100,000 and said, "I will not vote or make a motion to take the bank reserve down to where loans would be required. That being said, I am aware that grants have been turned down due to the high reserve in the bank."

Hinton asked Langmaid to provide him with a projected budget for the next three years to determine how much spending is needed before he would be willing to spend any of the reserve. Langmaid said that in July he will be asking for vehicle repairs and replacement equipment, and he asked where the treasurer stood on that. Hinton said, "He would consider safety issues first but would prefer to table everything else."

Vice President Rick Nearhoof expressed his frustration with the past leadership problems and said, "He will personally follow up with firefighters to make sure that equipment is ordered and received ... there will be no more blank checks."

Langmaid said, "The future chief will need to be held accountable for making sure that purchases are made in a timely manner." He suggested checks and balances be imposed by the board in the future.

The May financial summary was accepted 5-0.

Unstable staffing issues

Langmaid said that when he was board president, the part-time program failed

every month to provide minimum staffing levels to keep both stations open 24/7. He recommended hiring six full-time career firefighters in 2020, with a goal of one paramedic at both stations per shift. Three staff members have expressed an interest in training to be paramedics in 2020. See www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#bfire, www.ocn.me/v19n6.htm#bfire.

New firefighter/EMT

Firefighter/EMT Aaron Clymer was sworn in by McMorrان. Clymer had been a part-time employee since August 2016, when he started with the Black Forest Residency Program. Clymer is a Colorado and nationally qualified EMT, with certification in Wildland Fire Fighting and Ice Rescue.

Chief's report

Langmaid reported that the month of May saw 81 responses, of which 62% were rescue/medical, 4% fire-related (up from April), 5% false alarms, and 21% were good intent.

He said the BFFRPD contract with American Medical Response (AMR) for mutual aid calls is being reviewed, and AMR will be informed of the definitive changes regarding mutual aid with them, specifically within the City of Colorado Springs.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance to Colorado Springs coverage only works when five personnel are on duty, said Langmaid. BFFRPD will not be sending an ALS ambulance to Colorado Springs effective June 21. "We are keeping our paramedic in district and providing ALS coverage," Langmaid said.

Out-of-district areas

Langmaid asked the board to consider inviting out-of-district homeowners to be annexed into the district to guarantee emergency response, lower home

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