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The board approved a number of routine matters such as minutes of previous meetings, resignations and retirements, lists of substitute teachers and other staff, special education contracts, a new high school course request, and a monthly budget summary.

The Board of Education of the Lewis-Palmer School District meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Nov. 15.

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

District Accountability Advisory Committee, Oct. 9

Kilmer Elementary overview

By Harriet Halbig

Kilmer Elementary School Principal Chuck Stovall presented a profile of his school at the Oct. 9 meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC).

Kilmer has a student population of almost 400, with two sections at each grade level except for third grade. Teachers at the school average over 10 years of experience in their profession, with more than half holding master's degrees.

Seven to 10 percent of the students at Kilmer are in the Gifted Education program, and there is a growing population of students on the free and reduced-cost lunch program.

Kilmer houses a program for students with significant support needs. There are 10 students in this program, and they also are in the cafeteria and classes at the school.

Regarding the school's Unified Improvement Plan, Kilmer exceeds in academic achievement and meets academic growth and academic growth gaps, Stovall said. School administrators will submit a performance plan to solidify and improve their performance.

Weakness in the growth gap area is primarily in math among those on free and reduced-cost lunch and those students needing to catch up (those with unsatisfactory or partially proficient scores). The math curriculum is being updated for all students.

Stovall said the goal of the school is to have 90 percent proficient or advanced ratings in all areas for the third through sixth grades.

Other strengths of Kilmer Elementary are its strong music, art, and physical education programs and an extensive list of enrichment classes offered before and after school, Stovall said. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsors a fall festival, a spring fling, and talent show in addition to a Hands on Science Night held before the science fair to give students ideas on projects they might try.

The PTO has also funded the replacement of many of the school's older computers.

District performance framework

Director of Assessment, Gifted Education and Technology Lori Benton spoke about the district's performance framework. She said that the information will be available to the public on schoolview.com in the near future. The results are based on testing held during last spring.

Benton said the district is in the top 10 percentile and accredited with distinction. This rating includes Monument Academy's performance. Areas evaluated include academic achievement based on TCAP scores, academic growth for those students who have been tested for two consecutive years, academic growth gaps, and post-secondary and workforce preparedness. The final category involves ACT scores, graduation rates, and dropout rates.

Adequate yearly progress is no longer involved.

The ratings are "does not meet," "approaching," "meets," and "exceeds."

English Language Learners are now evaluated on their ability to read, write, and speak the language.

Students with disabilities do not qualify for extra help if they are performing at grade level. These students are improving in terms of writing and reading, and Benton said she hopes that another year will bring many of them up to grade level.

Compared to the previous year (2010-11), scores at the middle school level show more "approaching" scores and fewer "does not meet" scores in the growth gap area. Academic achievement exceeds requirements.

At the high school level, postsecondary and workforce readiness enter consideration. Those in growth gap categories should graduate at 80 percent or higher, including students in the Transitions program for those ages 18 to 21 with active Individual Education Plans (IEP).

Committee for Political Achievement

Committee for Political Achievement Chair Cori Tanner reported that citizens have recently received the blue book explaining state initiatives and a newsprint mailing describing city and county initiatives in the mail.

Tanner said that the deadline for voter registration was fast approaching and urged all those present to register if they had not already done so. She stressed that it is important to be an informed voter and that DAAC members should not try to tell others how to vote.

Board liaison report

Board of Education Liaison John Magerko said that a work session would be held regarding planning a mill levy override ballot initiative for 2013. This work session would include principals as well as members of the board.

Magerko also said that he will attend Colorado Association of School Board (CASB) functions, as had Gail Wilson, his predecessor. He said that CASB wishes to retain local control over school administration and will also consider such issues as salaries and licensure.

He said that he has made contact with the CASB representative from District 12 to get a better understanding of the place of a district the size of District 38 in the state context.

Community Relations Manager Robin Adair presented the 2012-13 draft calendar to the committee. School will start on Aug. 21, 2013, with an additional snow day included in the secondary calendar.

She encouraged members with questions to contact her.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Locations vary. The next meeting will be held Nov. 13 at Palmer Ridge High School, 19255 Monument Hill Rd.

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