

it would be appropriate to put the Creekside building to use as an elementary school. The new name is a combination of Creek from Creekside and the Bears, the mascot of Grace Best.

The school currently has 792 students with four sections in each grade. There are two full-day kindergarten classes and preschool, and before-after school care. National accreditation is being sought for the preschool.

Parsley said that there are several requirements that must be met for the preschool to receive accreditation. Each classroom must have an exit onto a fenced playground, a specific amount of the floor must be carpeted and a specific amount must be tiled, and the class size is restricted. In addition, under lockdowns, the preschool room must be used for shelter.

The gifted education population is 6.82 percent of the school, the special education population is 7.45 percent, and the school has the largest English Language Learner (ELL) population in the district.

The free/reduced-price lunch population is currently 13.01 percent of the school, qualifying BCES for Title I funding. Enrichment activities include the Landsharks running club, a popular before-school choir program, and music instruction on keyboards and strings (cello, viola, and violin).

Parsley said that the Kiwanis K Kids program, rentals and volunteers from the Forest Ridge Community Church, an active parent-teacher organization, the Adopt a Class program, and donations of iPads and smart boards by Neumann Systems enable the school to do more with less.

Due to its former life as a middle school, the building is divided into pods with four classrooms and a central office in each. The central office is now used for ELL and special education activities.

Parsley said that the theme of the school is "Character Counts" and that such programs as Every Child a Writer and Every Child a Reader are used extensively over all grade levels. Regarding the school's academic performance, the major weakness is math for those with

disabilities.

Parsley said that the major challenges the school faces are reduction in bus service (reduced from eight to five buses), increased class sizes, growing special-needs populations with no added support, and the need to do more with fewer resources.

**Superintendent's report**

Other than the plan for an MLO, Borman reported on accomplishments and plans for the district. He said that while he is very proud of the district's three years of accreditation with distinction, three years on the AP Honor Roll recognizing a growing Advance Placement Program, and receipt of the John Irwin School of Excellence Award for six district schools, he is concerned that it cannot sustain such success without finding a new source of funding.

Borman said that the district budget is now more than \$10 million less than it was four years ago, and many of the cuts involved intervention programs for those strug-

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