

and between elementary-middle-high school is not consistent among schools in the district. It was hoped that the group could arrive at a set of suggestions that could be presented to the administration in hopes of improving the situation.

Among the suggestions presented after discussion were:

- Students should meet their teacher for the following year during their spring Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting.
- A general education teacher from the next grade level should be present at a student's spring IEP meeting.
- Students who respond negatively to confusion should be offered the opportunity to start school a few days after the beginning of classes in the fall.
- Younger students should have someone to greet them on arrival in a new situation.
- Teachers should read IEPs and classroom summaries before meeting new students. Classroom summaries include information on goals and modifications for the individual.
- General education teachers should be encouraged to have weekly meetings with parents to discuss concerns and progress.
- Efforts should be made to develop an orientation program to

introduce parents to the special education program and the IEP process. This should include an explanation of the terminology used in meetings. Michelle Nay, the district's parent liaison for the special education program, suggested that she be provided with names and contact information for newly identified students in the program.

- Parents should be provided with quantifiable data at the beginning and throughout the school year. Confusion arises when students are given different tests from year to year.
- All students should be introduced to the principal of their school.
- Students should be offered the opportunity to meet students who are a year ahead to learn about organizing themselves and time.
- Soon after a transition there should be a follow-up meeting to determine its success.

**Director's report**

Director of Exceptional Student Services Mary Anne Fleury said that the district has completed its audit with the Colorado Department of Education and has been judged compliant in most categories.

The district had previously been determined to have a dispro-

portionate representation of students in the special education program due to their race and ethnicity. This situation has been corrected and continues to be monitored.

Other past weaknesses have been the timeliness of submitting data to the state and insufficient notice of IEP meetings. The department continues to work on these issues.

Fleury also explained the process through which special education students entering high school begin a process of working toward personal goals in their adult lives. The program develops a list of these goals that is updated annually and a list of means by which the goals may be reached through age-appropriate means. The district is tasked with determining the needs and desires of the students and monitoring their progress through high school and the transition program that takes them to age 21.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets at 6:30 on the second Wednesday of the month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Due to the winter break, the committee will meet on Jan. 16.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

**PALMER LAKE (Cont. from 1)**

The town still has 24-hour-a-day police coverage, however, and the Fire Department hopes to hire a new chief in January.

The trustees unanimously approved the budget for the Water Department, which is an enterprise fund. The 2013 water budget includes increases in the base rate and in three tiers for water use. The use rate increases were not included as additional projected revenue in the budget, but customers' total average payments for water will rise due to the higher rates and continued high water use during the ongoing drought.

The total projected water enterprise fund revenues and expenses for 2013 are both \$990,000.

The trustees approved the remainder of the 2013 town budget by a vote of 5-1, with Roads Trustee Jeff Davis opposed. Residents and trustees asked questions about the bottom line and having to vote on this version of the budget that trustees and audience members hadn't seen until the meeting. The new budget had to include the emergency reserve funds, which made it initially appear to be 40 percent higher than last year's, but the operating budget is about \$90,000 (7 percent) higher than 2012's. Davis said, "I don't know enough (about it) to approve it."

The 2013 Palmer Lake town budget summary:

- \$1.38 million - 2012 estimated total general fund revenue\*
- \$1.20 million - 2012 estimated total general fund

expenses\*

- \$1.83 million - 2013 total projected revenues (including emergency reserve funds)
- \$1.83 million - 2013 expenses (the actual operating budget does not include emergency reserves but the operating budget was not a line item in the budget presented)
- \$642,000 - 2012 estimated actual general fund ending balance\*
- \$642,000 - 2013 budgeted beginning total general fund balance\*

\* Calculated totals - no estimated values were listed, presented, discussed, or approved for these specific line items

**Trustees approve water budget and rates for 2013**

Town Accountant Linda Ousnamer said, "We broke it into two budgets to be approved, since the water budget is an enterprise fund and has to be separate." It is no longer possible for town departments to borrow from each other's fund balances as they have in the past.

Resident Christe Ramshur asked about the increase in the

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10:00 AM: TEACHING & COMMUNITY TIME (AKA SUNDAY SCHOOL)

10:45 AM: SECOND WORSHIP SERVICE



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