



Above: Teacher Rose Dunphy and her students from the Lewis-Palmer Home School Enrichment Academy performed for the board. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

days before the election.

Board Vice President Mark Pfoff said that members of the public who had been skeptical about past spending by the district are learning that cutting \$11 million from the district's budget has had a definite negative impact.

Pfoff added that the most important population to convince is the segment that does not have children in the schools. They need to see that a decline in the quality of the schools could result in a decline in their property values, and this in turn could also affect the business community in the area.

Pfoff added that since there is no guarantee of increased funding from the state, it is necessary to ask the community for help. The district's staff and teachers have delivered all they can under the circumstances and it is time to ask for support from the public.

Budget matters

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman presented budget adjustments for the 2012-13 school year, including transfer of

funds from the general fund to the capital reserve to fund some emergency capital repairs such as a new boiler for Lewis-Palmer High School, correcting water seepage at the middle school, and repair of the asphalt at Lewis-Palmer Elementary.

She said that she would like to set up a reserve for a BEST grant for a new roof for Lewis-Palmer High School. If the district does not receive the grant, it will reapply next year.

Addressing the proposed budget for 2013-14, Wangeman said some figures are unavailable

from the recently passed state school finance bill, but it appears that per pupil funding will be \$6,311, an increase of \$166 from this year, but still \$341 below the state average.

Wangeman predicted an increase of 60 students from this year and an increase of 10 students in the Lewis-Palmer Home School Enrichment Academy.

Wangeman said that 2013-14 will be the final year in which \$350,000 from the cash in lieu of land fund can be included in the district budget. Although the rate of home building is increasing, it is unwise to predict its impact while planning, she said.

Due to an increase in real estate activity, it is projected that there will be an increase in property tax revenue but a decline in special ownership taxes on such items as cars and boats.

In a positive note, Wangeman said that the parents and students of the district have raised \$3.3 million through ticket sales and other activities.

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