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character of students include the Bringing Up Grades (BUG) program for grades K through 3, the honor roll for grades 4 through 6 and recognition for perfect attendance. There are many before and after school enrichment programs and very supportive parents, Parsley said.

The school does not rely on door-to-door sales for fundraising and has been fortunate to receive iPads for the first and second grade classes from Neumann Systems, she said.

UIP introduction

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton explained the state-generated Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) document, which is the basis for evaluating the achievements and goals of each school. There is also a UIP for the district as a whole.

Benton said that part of the charge of DAAC is to review each UIP in draft form before it is submitted to the Colorado Department of Education. The committee will review two to three UIPs per meeting until April.

Each UIP provides scores from assessments from the previous school year and such statistics as the size of the free/reduced lunch population, those with disabilities, minorities, gifted students, and those with individual education plans.

The elements to be considered are the data and the trends it represents and whether targets have been met; challenges; causes of the challenges; and strategies to overcome the challenges.



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Benton said that all of the schools in the district score sufficiently well to require a performance plan rather than an improvement plan.

One of the challenges in the coming year derives from the fact that last year's assessments were being used for the first time, making it difficult to evaluate growth.

Benton said challenges and goals are presented in the form of data and narrative and must be research based, including funding sources and personnel involved in each solution.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Locations vary. The Dec. 9 meeting will be at Palmer Ridge High School, 19255 Monument Hill Road, Monument.

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

JOINT USE COMMITTEE (Continued from page 1)

of Strom and Ken Smith. There was JUC consensus to grant only a cost of living increase to the staff based on the Denver/Boulder index.

A related discussion was initiated when Ken Smith stated that a comparison of Burks' regular annual plan for giving operator bonuses to bonuses offered "in the real world" was required. Burks defended bonuses for his people because they are currently required to work full 40-hour work weeks plus overtime on weekends at a high level of responsibility under threat of severe EPA and state Water Quality Control Commission fines plus license revocation and prison time. Wicklund reviewed all the regulatory changes that have made running the facility increasingly more difficult and complex and Burks' professional reputation throughout the West for running the facility in a superior manner for two decades.

Ken Smith stated that he wanted to review the third operator to be hired before Burks makes a job offer.

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