

progress monitoring is difficult, especially now that the district is using several new assessments for the first time. Plans for improvement include intense deep intervention early in a student's career to avoid later weakness. In the area of reading, parent participation is part of the plan. Tutoring, teacher training, and data analysis are also involved in addition to summer school when needed.

District budget review

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman presented a review of the district's budget, stating that although the district's enrollment was lower than forecast for the 2014-15 school year, the population has increased significantly since Oct. 1.

The governor has requested a \$200 million drawdown in the negative factor (the amount actually funded as opposed to the amount required by Amendment 23, which requires an annual increase based on inflation) as part of next year's budget. Wangeman said that the district has suffered a loss of \$6 million over the last several years due to the negative factor.

If the governor's request were passed, the district would receive an additional \$252 per student in the coming year.

Statewide trends show that housing values are increasing in the areas involved in natural gas and oil production (Fort Collins, Greeley), while the values in the Colorado Springs area have not yet reached those before the recession. Because school funding benefits from real estate and other taxes, this is significant. Also, the TABOR amendment requires the state to refund excess taxes collected the previous year.

District officials meet with developers twice a year to learn of their plans and estimate potential increases in enrollment. The district remains flexible while planning the use of reserves in capital improvements and carefully monitors all expenditures. For example, while the cost of diesel fuel has

declined, the cost of water and electricity may increase.

Wangeman listed the district's goals for 2015-16 as follows:

- Improve communications within the district.
- Improve information technology capabilities.
- Review staff needs based on enrollment.
- Fund the position of technology director.
- Fund a wage increase.

Expenditure increases are expected in health insurance, PERA, and increased staffing required to maintain class sizes.

Wangeman explained projected capital expenditures to include computers, improvements to school facilities, and the purchase of computers, three buses and other vehicles.

Wangeman gave a brief review of recent safety and security activities, including the purchase of radios, staff training for emergencies, and designation of evacuation and reunification sites. The addition of more secure entries to schools is underway.

Campus introduction

Ray Kilmer Elementary School Principal Chuck Stovall gave an introduction to his school. He reported that Kilmer houses a center for students with significant support needs and offers before and after school enrichment opportunities in areas such as hockey, knitting, and speech. Many parents volunteer in the school, and Kilmer has the only student-produced news program on KCRCY.

The school also hosts such special events as a Harvest Festival, Polar Express Night, and an overnight trip for sixth-graders.

Board liaison report

Board of Education liaison John Magerko reported on developments in the Legislature, including bills that would reduce the amount of testing. He stressed that none of these bills has

passed in both houses.

Magerko also said that the district is developing a Fall Conference Day for students in coordination with local businesses. This fair would be similar to a job/career fair.

The next meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee will be at 7 p.m. on May 5 in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument.

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

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Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority, April 10

2015 administration resolution amended to reflect restructuring

By Jim Kendrick

On April 10, the board of the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) held a special meeting that focused largely on administrative matters. The meeting was held in downtown Colorado Springs at Centennial Hall rather than the Monument Town Hall due to El Paso County staff taking over the administrative management duties formerly outsourced to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP staff who drove to BRRTA meetings from Denver.

The board unanimously approved an amended 2015 Annual Administrative Matters Resolution to update the previous 2015 resolution approved on Nov. 14, 2014 in accordance with an intergovernmental agreement between BRRTA and the county that the BRRTA board approved on Dec. 19. The county staff members now performing staff tasks for the board are Funding Optimization Manager Elaine Johnsen, Sales and Use Tax Manager Brian Olson, and Senior Assistant County Attorney Lori Seago. The BRRTA "Designated Election Official" is now Dawn Fredette of Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP.

The new business address of BRRTA is:

Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority
c/o El Paso County Budget Administration
200 S. Cascade Ave., Suite 150
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

The BRRTA board still consists of two Town of Monument elected officials and three elected El Paso County officials. The current members are Monument Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Kaiser (chair), Monument Mayor Rafael Dominguez, County Commissioners Darryl Glenn and Dennis Hisey, and County Assessor Steve Schleiker. Commissioner Glenn did not attend this meeting.

Financial items

Johnsen reported that CliftonLarsonAllen was still responsible for BRRTA's 2014 audit and she would obtain a letter of engagement from CliftonLarsonAllen for the board to approve.

The board unanimously approved the following

first-quarter disbursements in the April 10 vendor balance detail/check listing, for a total of \$37,925:

- \$1,995 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for October 2014 management services
- \$1,668 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for October 2014 accounting services
- \$3,365 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for November 2014 management services
- \$5,722 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for November 2014 accounting services
- \$4,369 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for December 2014 management services
- \$1,112 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for December 2014 accounting services
- \$3,191 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for January 2015 management services
- \$4,548 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for January 2015 accounting services
- \$1,331 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for February 2015 management services
- \$2,517 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for February 2015 accounting services
- Check No. 1450 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for this total of \$29,508.
- \$379 to Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP for October 2014 legal services
- \$2,539 to Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP for November 2014 legal services
- \$328 to Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP for December 2014 legal services
- \$19 to Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP for January 2015 legal services
- Check No. 1449 to Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP

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