

State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to host a fully funded teacher of Chinese. Xingping Gao has arrived and will be living with a local family. She has taught English in China and will teach a class called Introduction to Chinese Language and Culture to ninth to 12th grade students twice each semester during the year. She will also speak to younger students throughout the year.

Brofft thanked Lewis-Palmer High School Principal Sandi Brandl and Director of Curriculum Sheila Beving for their contributions to making this possible.

Brofft also listed a number of capital projects that were completed during the summer, including:

- New siding and clerestory windows at Kilmer Elementary
- Security updates and univents at Lewis-Palmer Elementary

- Completion of the asbestos removal at Palmer Lake Elementary
- Playing field improvements at Bear Creek Elementary
- Parking lot improvements at Lewis-Palmer Middle School
- Balancing of the HVAC system at Palmer Ridge High School
- Security enhancements for the transportation system

An additional purchase of 269 computers, 386 Chromebooks and 26 iPads was also announced, and the Educational Technology Department has developed a draft of teacher technological proficiency requirements and a list of technological skills required for 21st-century learning.

Brofft also reported that the district is working on its communication abilities to include a new internal newsletter for staff and improved access to financial informa-

tion on the district website.

Also mentioned was a goal to ensure compliance with state law regarding charter school reporting on waivers, property, and funding.

Regarding data privacy, in compliance with a state law in effect since Aug. 10, Brofft said that the district must report on what Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is collected by the district, how it is maintained and used, and how and with whom it is shared. Also required is a method for parents to view PII information for their students and request corrections in case of errors.

By December 2017 the district must develop a policy regarding hearing parent complaints including a path to submit such requests to the board, a mechanism for having a board hearing, and a requirement that the board act on such complaints within 60 days.

Brofft said that state law requires approving the annual report of Monument Academy during August. Academy Executive Director Don Griffin was unable to attend the meeting, and therefore Brofft requested that the board provisionally approve the report although it will be delivered at a future meeting. The board approved the annual report.

Exceptional Student Services update

Director of Exceptional Student Services Rick Frampton gave an update on his department's activities. He discussed the process of creating Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students qualifying for services and said that the district's approach is based on the strengths of the students. About 8.7 percent of district students qualify for various services, both on campus and in the community. He said that the district prides itself in its ability to identify those qualified.

Frampton said that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) takes seriously a district's compliance with its requirements and administers spot checks throughout the year.

Among the goals for the department are to anticipate future needs and to mentor new teachers. Because CDE paperwork can be burdensome, another goal is to streamline this process.

Frampton acknowledged that paraprofessionals play a major role in the success of the program, and he wishes to offer professional development for them, especially in the areas of data collection and supporting students in the classroom.

Noting that board Treasurer John Magerko and Director Sarah Sampayo both attend meetings of the Special Education Advisory Council, Frampton thanked

them for their support and expressed a goal of making council meetings less formal to encourage greater participation.

The English Language Learners (ELL) program also falls within Exceptional Student Services. The ELL program currently serves 315 students speaking 35 languages. The program has received an Excellence Award as one of the top 10 in the state for growth in English proficiency for two consecutive years.

Policy discussion

Brofft reminded the board that the district had contracted with the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) for a review of pre-existing board policies to ensure that they satisfied state statutes. Policies were submitted a year and a half ago and a group of policies has already been ratified.

Regarding additional policies, CASB recommended that the board approve them with the intention of fine tuning at a later date.

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster moderated the discussion, saying that few of the changes submitted by CASB were substantive.

Director Sampayo suggested that the district receive a signed note from legal counsel whenever board policies differ from those recommended by CASB.

Brofft commented that law supersedes policy, especially in such areas as drug and alcohol testing.

The board passed a resolution to accept CASB recommendations.

The board passed policies involving student publications and board access to student records.

The board then discussed the matter of administration of medical marijuana to students during the school day. The products must be non-smokable and must be administered off campus in compliance with a new state law. The district's legal counsel has approved the draft policy.

Among the concerns was that such devices as patches could be shared. Therefore, the materials involved would most likely be oils or tinctures that could be ingested. No products may remain on campus, and district staff may not administer or store the devices.

The individual administering the medical marijuana must be a parent or guardian 21 years of age or older and the student must have valid registration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on file. The parent or guardian will also have on file a letter accepting responsibility.

Foster said that only District 49 has a policy in place at this time, but suggested passage.

Secretary Matthew Clawson ex-

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