Pfoff resigns as president, remains on board; board discusses long-range planning, information security

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education discussed long-range planning and information security among other issues at its Dec. 15 meeting. Board President Mark Pfoff said he was resigning as president but will remain on the board. Also, several individuals and groups were recognized for their achievements.

Long-range planning discussion

Doug Abernethy of RTA presented a long-range planning update to include the steps the firm will take to formulate an action plan. The group is analyzing the demographics of the district and the rate of development and population growth. Other concerns are cost estimates if the number or use of school buildings changes, a district-wide security assessment considering school environments such as sight lines and lighting, and a policy as to who has access to which areas of schools.

Abernethy predicted that the district will have an enrollment challenge in the next two or three years if the present rate of growth continues. The planning steering committee will meet three times to discuss these issues. There will be community input by way of a survey regarding goals and preferences and meetings throughout the district. Abernethy stressed that the district is demographically diverse and he wishes to ensure that such outlying schools as Kilmer Elementary have equal input in the process. When possible, the community meetings may piggyback on another district event at the same location.

The committee includes representatives from all parts of the community, leadership from schools, students, and community members with a historical perspective on the district. He said, however, that he would prefer to keep the membership to 20 or fewer individuals.

The ultimate goal is to develop a master plan that would accommodate a variance in enrollment. Public meetings will be announced on the website, but the dates will not be determined until after the winter break.

Pfoff resigns as president; roles of board members discussed

The board conducted a lengthy discussion of the roles of board members and the necessity to listen to one another and work together. Some suggested solutions were to attend conferences together or meet in pairs to get to know one another.

Pfoff stressed that it is inappropriate for an individual board member to express opinions outside of meetings because the public may assume that the opinion is that of the whole board. Once the board votes on an issue, that must be the only opinion expressed.

Pfoff also said that when he first joined the board he made a point of asking questions and keeping the kids of the district as his only focus. Asked for her opinion, Superintendent Karen Broff said she has served in many roles in education and found that what often causes problems is the inability to listen. One should seek synergy in a group instead of only