Both Holyoke Elementary School and Holyoke JR/SR High were accredited with performance plans for 2012-13. The accreditation was made by the Re-1J Board of Education at its Oct. 9 meeting.

The performance plan level is the highest in the state, over improvement plan and turnaround status.

Supt. Bret Miles said the JR/SR High received 62.5 percent of the points available and the elementary received 60.2 percent. The cutoff between a performance plan and an improvement plan is 60 percent.

Miles pointed out the board should be pleased with the progress, especially noting how both buildings have contributed to correcting the junior high, which went from turnaround to priority improvement to performance in three years. He commended the collaboration and team effort involved in the progress.

Miles explained that the district itself will have an improvement plan. Even though all schools in the district are performance schools, the cut points for a district are set at 64 percent, so the district as a whole falls short of accredited with a performance plan.

Pupil count remains steady

Reviewing the annual student count and class size report following the Oct. 1 count day, Supt. Miles noted the numbers remain steady. He pointed out the count is unofficial at this point.

Four-year averaging is in place for determining the funded count for the district, which is

beneficial. Preliminary figures note the certified count to be 585, and the funded count through averaging to be 589.5.

Pupil count is consistent with the preliminary budget, within 1.3 pupils, said Miles.

Class size information was included in Miles' report. He emphasized that the district in no way believes it has ideal class sizes. However, they're doing the best they can with the $769,000 negative factor to the budget in the last three years.

Miles noted they're utilizing elementary staff for reading and math and the number of teacher preps stays at about six for JR/SR High staff.

Summarizing the impact of the pupil count, Miles said changes for the final budget are unlikely.

Zero-tolerance policies reviewed further

Continuing conversation on zero-tolerance flexibility from the Sept. 18 board meeting, it was a consensus to change zero-tolerance policies as now allowed by law.

This will allow for more flexibility and common-sense thinking at the local level. Revisions to these policies were set to return to the Oct. 16 board meeting.

In other policy discussion, the board approved second reading of several policies presented Sept. 4 and first reading of others presented Sept. 18.

First reading was also approved for repealed policies which Miles reported earlier in the meeting. The repealed policies were consolidated into other policies, Miles noted.

Miles also told the board about a public awareness campaign, “The Year of the Student,” which has been created to emphasize school funding in the legislature this coming session.

The board will determine whether it wants to take formal action on joining this Great Education Colorado project.

Other business

In other business Oct. 9, the Re-1J board:

—hired Nic Balog as JH boys’ assistant basketball coach for 2012.

—approved membership renewal for Colorado Rural Schools Caucus.

—proclaimed Oct. 21-27 as Classified School Employee Week and October as National Principals Month.

—held a 1.5-hour executive session without Supt. Miles to compile individual board member info for Miles’ final evaluation.

—reviewed resolutions that will be voted on at the Colorado Association of School Boards’

delegate assembly.

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