

She explained before and after school activities and praised parents and families for their active participation in the school's activities.

Gifted Education, assessment, and curriculum report

Executive Director of Learning Services Lori Benton explained the activities of the Gifted Education Leadership Team, the process of curriculum development, assessments, and goals for the department.

Benton said that the department strives to offer students many paths to graduation, including a conventional education, part-time online education, concurrent enrollment in the high school and a college to earn college credit, and a growing number of training opportunities leading to careers in such areas as healthcare and manufacturing without a four-year college diploma. Soon, paid and unpaid internships will also be introduced.

She stressed that such certificates in areas such as cybersecurity could lead to lucrative careers without a four-year college degree.

Benton said that in current times, individuals will normally have several

careers during their working life, and the schools should prepare them for the first of these.

At present, the state does not recognize military service as a continuing source of training. She hopes that this will change soon.

Benton mentioned the members of the Gifted Education Leadership Team and spoke of their responsibilities. These responsibilities include curriculum coordination, assessment, gifted coordination, instructional technology, and system analysis.

Benton explained that curriculum is a three-year process from recommending a class through choosing instructional materials and training staff to offer the class. She stressed that teachers are heavily involved in selection of instructional materials and sometimes are unable to find appropriate texts on the first try.

The gifted education program is audited every four years, and beginning next year, there will be an addendum to the district unified improvement plan to describe the achievements of the program.

Enrollment and

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, March 15

Board announces state recognitions, discusses safety, OKs Monument Academy contract

By Harriet Halbig

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer District 38 celebrated recognition by the state Department of Education, discussed safety and security in the schools, and approved a contract with

Monument Academy on March 15.

State recognition

Superintendent Karen Brofft announced that the district has once again been accredited with distinction by the Colorado Department of Educa-

maintenance report

Wangeman presented a report on projected enrollment figures for the next few years and the ability of the district to accommodate the additional students.

She said that the high schools are expected to have enough space for the next few years because a number of students are off campus at community colleges or other locations and some are working online.

The middle school and Monument Academy are at capacity, but a conference room in the middle school will be divided into four offices, and a storeroom will be converted into a yoga room.

Projections for the elementary schools vary. Prairie Winds and Kilmer both have large sixth-grade classes that will move on. Thirty percent of Prairie Winds students took advantage of open enrollment, and therefore the school could control its population by limiting the number of students from outside.

A favored plan to increase space at Lewis-Palmer Elementary and Bear Creek Elementary is to centralize preschool students, opening classrooms

at the schools to accommodate a larger number of older students.

Regarding maintenance and capital expenses, Wangeman said the district would need \$1 million a year for 10 years to catch up on deferred maintenance. The district is on target for roofs and boilers, partially thanks to state BEST grants.

Cameras are needed to improve security, \$150,000 is needed to replace classroom computers, and the track at Palmer Ridge needs to be replaced.

Wangeman said that 10 architectural firms have come to tour the Bear Creek Elementary site in preparation for proposals to build an elementary at that site.

Board of Education liaison Tiffney Upchurch reported on board activities and pending legislation, encouraging members to consider testifying in support of improved funding.

The next meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee will be at 7 p.m. on April 17 at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St.

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

Shield of Faith Charity Dinner

Hosted by Living Word Chapel

Living Word Chapel, in partnership with Shield 616, is honored to announce the Shield of Faith charity dinner! The purpose of this event is to take a step in equipping the Palmer Lake and Monument Police departments with active-shooter and crowd control gear.

There will be a delicious five-course meal along with live music and a silent auction that will have items donated from several local businesses. Please join us in our mission to make sure our local police forces have the equipment they need to continue protecting our communities.

Where:

Living Word Chapel
290 Highway 105
Palmer Lake, CO 80133

When:

Saturday, April 28th
6:00 – 8:30 pm

Price:

\$61.60 per head

Contact:

Lori Megginson
(719) 332-2489

Five-Course Menu

Appetizer
beef & bleu cheese crostini

Salad
apple, pickled red onion, radish, arugula, micro greens, cotija cheese, jalapeño vinaigrette

1st Main Course
grilled chicken, wilted spinach, goat cheese, artichoke hearts, chiffonade basil, lemon/beurre blanc, herbed rice

2nd Main Course
fig-stuffed pork roulade, cherry/balsamic reduction, potato puree

Dessert
flourless chocolate torte (gluten-free), whipped cream, berries, fresh mint

For tickets, scan the QR code below, or go to www.goo.gl/8FFvmy



Ephesians 6:16
In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

If you have any questions about this event or would like more information, please contact Lori Megginson at lori.megginson@livingwordpalmerlake.org or (719) 332-2489

tion.

Also, the John Irwin School of Excellence award went to three district schools—Prairie Winds Elementary, Lewis-Palmer High School, and Ray Kilmer Elementary. These schools exceeded expectations in math, English language arts, and science. Lewis-Palmer High School was awarded the Inez Lewis Award for academic growth for increasing overall student growth by 10 percentage points.

Brofft also recognized the Challenger Learning Center for sponsoring summer boot camps for students. In the past these camps have been held at the Air Force Academy and Bear Creek Elementary, but representatives from the Learning Center said that a larger facility is under construction and will enable more students to participate. The Mikkelson Foundation was also recognized for grants to purchase materials at Bear Creek.

Superintendent update

Brofft reported that the district has come to an agreement with Monument Academy for a new contract and that the academy has declined the use of Grace Best at this time.

She explained a proposal for revising support for the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) that would increase the employee contribution by 3 percent and the district's contribution by 2 percent, adding that the district also pays the employees' portion. This 5 percent increase is too large, she said.

Brofft also announced that Palmer Ridge is participating in the national concert band festival.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported that nine architectural firms have expressed interest in designing the proposed two elementary schools in the district.

Safety and Security update

Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates and Wangeman offered a presentation on proposed actions to improve safety and security in the district. (Please see the article on the District Accountability Advisory Committee on page 17 of this issue for details on the presentation.)

The district hopes to purchase

cameras that can be accessed remotely for use by law enforcement agencies. Some changes are proposed to limit the number of entrances to each facility and put alarms on those not in use, while allowing all those inside to get out.

Coates says that he encourages law enforcement agencies to conduct training in the district's buildings, allowing them to become familiar with the facilities.

He also described the Watchdog program in which parents and other community members act as volunteers to monitor playgrounds and bus areas for suspicious activity. These individuals do not act in a supervisory capacity and are not armed, but simply offer additional eyes. Training will be provided for these volunteers. The program is now in use at Palmer Lake Elementary.

Brofft said that the district is sharing information with law enforcement agencies and continually doing threat assessments. The information shared includes disciplinary information on students.

As part of threat assessments, Coates says, it is important to interview individuals who complain of bullying behavior and to determine how bullying is defined. Find out the exact behaviors involved, because individual perceptions vary, he said.

In response to Coates' proposal for security dogs (which would identify scents related to guns) or portable metal detectors, Secretary Sarah Sampayo suggested that community members could "sponsor" the purchase of such equipment as they can now sponsor a classroom.

Growth discussion

Board Treasurer Chris Taylor reported on an analysis of the growth projections provided by RTA to the Long Term Facilities Planning Committee. He determined the rate of growth to be 2.2 percent per year, confirming the necessity for new elementary schools.

He proposed a motion for Brofft to engage a data analyst for the next four years to monitor actual population growth.

D38 (cont. on page 20)