

must be balanced.

Crews was therefore asked to provide a range of budget proposals reflecting anything from a 5% to 15% cut in expenditures.

Crews stated that at least \$5.96 million will need to be cut from the budget, while also considering that the state could provide 14% less funding in the coming year.

Clawson remarked that this may not be a worst-case scenario, because the state may also demand rescissions to compensate for shortfalls during the year.

Somers said that he has been advised to prepare for the worst and that the virus pandemic is likely to have a multi-year impact. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding a ripple effect.

Board Secretary Tiffiney Upchurch asked whether the proposed budget included salary cuts or a sal-

ary freeze. Crews responded that the salaries will remain the same, but increased health insurance and retirement contributions (to the Public Employees Retirement Association) will result in a net loss of income.

Somers commented that he did not feel comfortable addressing salary cuts at this stage of the planning.

Clawson asked Crews whether Nutritional Services is the only cost-neutral program in the district. Crews confirmed that it is.

Clawson speculated whether it could be possible to make other aspects of the district cost neutral, perhaps through increased fees, as this is an affluent community. In this way the families of students could contribute.

Schwarz commented that he was aware that a number of stakeholders were attending the virtual meeting and wished to assure them that all was being taken into account as these decisions are being made.

Upchurch said that she also wants it understood that some revenues such as the Colorado Preschool Program, which is state funded, would not be cut from the budget.

Director Chris Taylor commented that the recent shutdown will have a depressing effect of unknown duration after three years of a booming economy. He discouraged spending a large portion of reserves in one year in case the impact is long-lasting. He said that this also suggests the importance of having a multi-year budget plan.

Upchurch said she would wish all cuts be kept away from the classroom to the extent that is possible. She suggested cutting funding for conference attendance and expenses for board members.

Taylor asked whether Somers would conduct a survey of teachers regarding the acceptability of furloughs. Somers said that he wished to postpone that until further along in the process.

Taylor pointed out that many people are now losing their jobs and the district compensated two years ago for the cuts made during the recession.

The board approved changes to two policies regarding discipline, which were required by legislation.

Somers said he continues to meet with a consortium of regional superintendents regarding plans for reopening, and he announced approved plans for graduations on June 11 and 12 at UCHealth Park, where the Rocky Mountain Vibes play. Only staff and students will be allowed to attend.

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The Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education normally meets on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m.; however, the June meeting will be held **June 22** rather than June 15. All meetings are now conducted virtually. Please see the website at lewispalmer.org for details.

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### MA (Cont. from 1)

Herrera returned to the previous meeting's questions on bailout money, state funding, and stimulus money. She noted that MA's preschool doesn't qualify but hoped that a future package might help. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds were distributed to each district based on Title 1 percentages. D38 gets \$288,000, of which \$40,000 goes to MA. This is \$41 per student and doesn't go far in shoring up the budget shortfall. She noted that D49 received more ESSER funds because it serves more military and low-income students. Other hopes for funding have fallen through.

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