

at school to her email ebelisle-board@monumentacademy.net.

- The board unanimously approved revisions and additions to the Employee Handbook regarding extended and administrative leave.
- Middle School Principal Colin Vinchattle introduced Jeff Henry as the initial coordinator of the Watch D.O.G.S. program for MA's East Campus. The program,

which stands for Dads of Great Students, encourages the involvement of fathers in the school to provide a positive male role model. Henry said that the idea is to get fathers involved every couple of weeks or once a month. He said there will be a kickoff event on Jan. 10, and he is working with two other volunteers to initiate awareness, share experiences, and get input

- from teachers, parents, and staff.
- The board voted unanimously to update the preschool policy on inclement weather to bring it in line with the K-5 policy.
  - Athletic Director Mike Svendsen discussed his goal of building an athletic store to sell athletic wear to build morale and spirit and retain kids while building the high school sports programs.

He obtained approval from both marketing and administration and plans to partner with the Parent Teacher Organization to share funds. He said he believed the athletic wear follows the uniform policy at the middle school and the dress code at the high school. Buczkowski said the board would need to approve any proposed changes to the middle school policy at its Janu-

ary meeting, and the matter was tabled.

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The MA School Board meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The next regular board meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. on the East Campus. See more information at see <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

Jackie Burhans  
can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, Dec. 12

## Results of calendar survey discussed; mid-year compensation action approved

*By Harriet Halbig*

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education had lengthy discussions on budget matters, the district calendar, and bus purchases at its Dec. 12 meeting.

**District calendar survey**

Following the defeat of the proposed mill levy override in November, the district sought to find ways to compensate teachers other than through salary increases. One of these ways is to offer them more time to balance their work and family lives.

A survey was distributed to teachers, families, and students in early December. There were 2,261 respondents to the survey, of which 1,443 were parents/guardians, 332 were staff, 181 were staff who were also parent/guardians, and 288 were students. The survey remained live for a week following the board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Amber Whetstine detailed the results for the board.

She said that there was non-support for the idea of changing the calendar to a more extended year. There was also little concern about aligning the district calendar with those of adjoining districts.

There was general approval of the current calendar, but many would prefer to have full-day staff development programs rather than delayed starts.

have less frequent contact with their teachers.

Superintendent KC Somers commented that, were the district to adopt the four-day week, we would still be required to provide the state-mandated number of student contact hours. This could be done by lengthening the school year (begin in earlier August and end in later May) or lengthening each day by a few minutes.

Whetstine said that 120 (of 176) districts in the state are now on four-day weeks. The closest of these are in Cañon City and Pueblo. According to Somers, many are in rural areas.

Taylor asked whether Somers was convinced that this change would help with recruitment and retention of staff. Somers said that respondents were not directly asked whether they would stay or leave based on this decision, but it seems to be a solution favored by many.

Taylor said he is not satisfied that the district is considering only this one solution in depth. He asked to be supplied with alternate options at the January work session.

After further discussion, Somers was instructed to further research the option of four-day weeks in addition to other ideas.

Board Treasurer Ron Schwarz said that changing to a four-day week would not overcome the disparity in

compensation between D38 and neighboring districts and that utility savings during times when the schools would be closed would be small.

**Financial planning—mid-year compensation discussion**

Chief Business Officer Brett Ridgeway reviewed the budget as it stood at the end of November, saying district spending is below that forecast in the budget, largely due to unfilled positions and such other aspects as a mild fall. He determined that about \$1 million in funds from the general fund could be applied to a mid-year compensation action.

Ridgeway said that the use of recruiting and retention bonuses at the beginning of the school year were

successful, especially in hard to fill positions. He also said

there have been good investment opportunities through

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## MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS

One Member. One Vote. Your Voice Matters.

During the Annual Meeting on June 8, 2023, held at Falcon High School in Falcon, two directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors from the following districts:

District 2: Simla, Matheson and a portion of the surrounding areas (incumbent Rick L. Gordon)

District 7: Monument, Woodmoor and a portion of the surrounding areas (incumbent Jim Riggins)

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting).

To view a territory map with districts, visit [www.mvea.coop/territory-map](http://www.mvea.coop/territory-map).

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting) for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. A member interested in nomination should contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528 and leave a message. You will be contacted to verify your membership, district, and to begin the nomination process. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.


- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by MVEA to be submitted to the committee by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, 2023.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures will be made available by contacting the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire, must be received by MVEA by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2023.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. If you have questions, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

Nominating Committee • • • District 2: Steve Wilson • District 7: Vince Guthrie




MVEA Board Nomination Information Line

Tel: (719) 494-2528  
Email: [candidate@mvea.coop](mailto:candidate@mvea.coop)



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