education experience has ranged from teaching to directing budgets, curriculum, and staff. I have been an engaged collaborative leader in multiple nonprofit organizations such as Autism Speaks and former HOA president. In addition, I've had 13 years of experience in the business sector as a leader in marketing,

sales, and public relations. I attended public schools in multiple states and countries.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Sept. 14

Board receives report on long-term planning process

By Harriet Halbig

Doug Abernathy of contractor RTA presented a lengthy update on the longterm planning process during the Sept. 14 meeting of the Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education.

Of particular interest were indepth studies on the Monument Academy and Grace Best sites and their buildings.

Abernathy reported that the Monument Academy building is being fully utilized and is in good condition, although the cement board siding covered with stucco may need attention at some point.

Abernathy mentioned several shortcomings of the Monument Academy site. Among these were drainage problems caused in part by a water quality pond in the site's northeastern corner, which causes flooding in the

playground after heavy rain; building limitations due to the presence of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat; the necessity of sharing parking with the adjacent church; and traffic problems along Highway 105.

The shape of the property makes it impossible to use school buses at the site as there is no signal at the property's east end. There are plans to expand Highway 105 nearby, adding a turn lane to limit backups during beforeand-after school times. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to playgrounds is also a concern.

The facility planning committee said that this property should not be considered for purchase by the district due to these problems.

Board Secretary Mark Pfoff asked whether the limited access posed a safety concern in the event of evacuation or access by emergency services. Abernathy said that he did not believe this to be the case.

Board Treasurer John Magerko asked whether the land for the school was donated. Abernathy said that it was purchased.

Comparing the traffic issues and bus access at Monument Academy to the Lewis-Palmer Middle School, which is also located on a major thoroughfare, Superintendent Karen Brofft pointed out that the middle school has two parking lots, one of which is only open to buses during peak times.

Regarding Grace Best Education Center, which the district owns, Abernathy enumerated the current uses of the building as the home of the Home School Academy and the rental of the gymnasium to community groups. Some of the property's south end is

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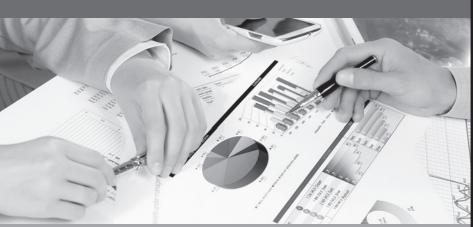


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