



Above: Lewis-Palmer High School Principal Tony Karr, right, introduces Girls Volleyball Coach Susan Odenbaugh, winner of the Dave Sanders Colorado Coach Award. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

this problem is one of transparency.

Sampayo and Brofft agreed that it is critical that all parents are aware of the lines of communication in the district. They pointed out that the Board of Education has only one employee, the superintendent, who in turn supervises all others. Complaints, therefore, should not be directed to the board.

Brofft said that the district does acknowledge the obligation to follow up on complaints, but she added that it is important for the staff to feel that the district trusts them. For this reason, the policy is explicit about acceptable and unacceptable behavior, obviating the need for direct oversight. She said that mentoring is a large part of the job of the athletic director.

Pfaff observed that it is also important to defend coaches if they are abused by parents or other audience members.

Pfaff suggested that the District Accountability Advisory Committee or another similar group should review the policy sections of the student handbook to see whether it requires further clarification.

Sampayo commented regarding the policy regarding student use of district technology. The policy says that digital storage is the property of the district. She said that she acknowledges that this protects the district from liability and the student must sign a statement of agreement in order to use the technology.

Brofft said that the physical system is the property of the district, but not the information contained thereon. She acknowledged, for example, that there is a concern about the confidentiality of medical information.

Pfaff commented that by signing an agreement, the student acknowledges no reasonable right to privacy during the use of the technology.

Brofft commented that, if a parent refuses to allow a student to use the technology, there are often hard copies of instructional materials available.

Regular meeting Aug. 17

Most of the time spent in the regular board meeting on Aug. 17 also involved policy. Several policies had their first reading at the June meeting (there was no meeting in July) and were up for a vote in August without need for discussion.

This included a list of policies that were repealed at the request of the Colorado Association of School Boards and revisions on several policies including such topics as school safety, closings and cancellations, security access to buildings, fees and fines, instruction time, and discipline. See <http://www.ocn.me/v17n7.htm#d38> for further details.

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster moderated the discussion of additional policies. These included policy JICJ regarding use of personal technological devices such as phones, tablets, and cameras, and GBEB-R, the regulation associated with policy GBEB on staff conduct. A regulation, also called a procedure, deals with enforcing a policy. Both policies were approved.

To view the policies, please go to the district home page, lewispalmer.org, Board of Directors, Meetings, and Agendas. By activating Board Docs you can see all supporting materials for each meeting.

The board approved a motion to present an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Nov. 7 election. This document designates Vicki Wood as the district's representative to follow all procedures involved with participation in the election.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman updated information on the district's request for a waiver on deadlines for approval of a new charter school. In the past, the deadline was in October. The request is to move it back to April, giving the district a longer

time to research the application. Wangeman reported that all required procedures had been followed, including advertised public meetings and discussions with the District Accountability Advisory Committee and others. She said that this waiver would not affect the application by Monument Academy to create a new high school. The board approved Wangeman's submission of the request to the Colorado Department of Education.

Wangeman said it is too early to submit a "dashboard"—an update—for July, but that, as of this date, there were fewer new enrollments than anticipated, which could later result in an adjustment to the budget. She did stress that there are more state funds available than anticipated.

Wangeman also said that the recent rains caused delays in such improvements as the replacement of the turf in the stadium and a new roof at Palmer Lake Elementary School. It is hoped that these projects can be completed during Thanksgiving break.

Superintendent Brofft presented an update of other district subjects, including attendance at all schools by members of the administration during the first day, a successful five-day new teacher orientation, elementary meet-and-greet events, back to school night scheduling, and plans to view the solar eclipse on Aug. 21.

Brofft also said that professional development is ongoing, and work continues on two studies involving teacher pay, one of which involves employees in place during a pay freeze, and the other concerns developing new pay scales.

Brofft also said that an online course on data privacy has been developed by Director of Instructional Technology Integration and Professional Develop-

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Aug. 15

District prepares for November election

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWF-PD) board meeting on Aug. 15 was shorter than usual. The resolution adopted by the board at its July meeting activated a series of election obligations that Chief Vinny Burns enumerated. Regular business items consumed little time and no meeting attendees spoke during the opening and closing public comment sessions.

All board members were present except Rachel Dunn, who was excused.

Election update provided

In July, the board approved a resolution to put a Wescott mill levy increase proposal on the November ballot, which would increase DWFPD property taxes. If approved by the voters, this mill levy would become effective beginning in levy year 2017 for collection in calendar year 2018 by increasing the sub-district's existing property tax of 7 mills by 14.9 mills for a total of 21.9 mills levied. <http://www.ocn.me/v17n8.htm#dwfpd>

Pinnacle Consulting Group Inc., the financial organization recommending the increase, had concluded that the increase "provides the necessary funds to maintain services, without allowing for extraordinary or unnecessary purchases." See the full Pinnacle report at <http://wescottfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Wescott-Fire-Financial-.pdf>. Background: The City of Colorado Springs annexed 22 square miles of DWFPD's tax-paying county service area. Although the annexation was initiated in 2003, DWFPD has been servicing the annexed city area to support residents until Colorado Springs Fire Department Station 22 was completed on Voyager Parkway. The city completed Station 22 in 2016. Now DWFPD is engaged in a two-phase process to exclude the annexed territory from its service area. As of Jan. 1, 2017, the district excluded the city's Phase One Property, from Interquest Parkway north to the proposed location of the Powers Boulevard extension with I-25 (north of The Classical Academy). As of Jan. 1, 2018, the city's Phase Two Property, extending the rest of the way up to Northgate Boulevard, will be excluded. When phase 2 of the exclusion is complete, the district's annual revenue from its remaining county property owners will have been effectively reduced by 65 percent.

Burns delineated the technical work that has been done or needs to be done before the election:

- DWFPD submitted a Notice of Intent to the El Paso County elections department prior to the July 20 deadline.
- The DWFPD board, on July 19, adopted the resolution calling for the election.
- DWFPD provided a boundary map and resolu-

tion for the election to the El Paso County elections department.

• DWFPD reviewed an address locator and provided noted revisions and confirmations to the El Paso County elections department prior to Aug. 15.

• The DWFPD board unanimously approved a motion for the district to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the El Paso Board of County Commissioners and the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder.

• DWFPD must work with the county Clerk and Recorder and the county Assessor to review and verify property owner eligibility between Sept. 5 and Sept. 29. A final eligible elector list must be submitted to the county elections department by Oct. 2.

• DWFPD must complete a certification of ballot by Sept. 8.

• Deadline to file comments is Sept. 22.

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings added that the group called Citizens for a Safer Wescott plans to educate the public about the mill levy issue through social media as well as door-to-door visits. Burns noted that the district expected to receive a preliminary budget figure from the county in August. He will prepare estimated budgets for each of the mill scenarios (7 mills versus 21.9 mills) to compare the difference in services if the mill levy fails. The budget comparison is expected to be available for the September board meeting.

Public comments addressed the excellence of education provided by the district, a request to reinstate board coffees, and acknowledgement of Vicki Wood's 10 years as secretary to the superintendent.

The board went into executive session to discuss matters of leasing or selling real property. No further business was conducted after the executive session.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 usually meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Sept. 14 because of Brofft's absence.

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Administrative business detailed

Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich reported that the district's three funds—Peoples National Bank (PNB), PNB Colorado Peak Fund, and Wells Fargo Public Trust—totaled \$1.644 million in June and \$1.991 million in July; an increase of \$346,583.

Popovich noted that the estimated reserve fund amount for the 2017 Profit and Loss Budget was higher than the actual reserve amount (the budget is determined before the actual reserve amount is available). She requested the reduction of line item 620.1 from \$600,000 to \$573,351, a decrease of \$26,649, to accurately reflect the final audited amount. The board unanimously voted to accept the adjustment.

Chiefs report on recent activity

Ridings said that in June 2016, the district responded to 223 calls, and in June 2017, the district responded to 225 calls, an increase of 1 percent. The current June calls included one mutual-aid fire with the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department and one small in-district grass fire. The July 2016 and 2017 calls were 241 and 177, respectively; a 27 percent decrease. July fire calls also included one small brush fire in-district and one mutual-aid structure fire out-of-district with