

advocate for themselves with teachers and with others. Davis said these are "skills that, frankly, are not being modeled very well on the national stage these days for our kiddos." She also indicated that parents are always included as a follow-up to counseling.

Agreement with D38 on bond use

Executive director Don Griffin indicated that MA lawyers have crafted an agreement with D38 on the 8,000-square-foot competition gym and 4,000-square-foot locker room that would be funded by the \$3.5 million portion of the district bond (ballot issue 4B) if it passes. The money would build the district-owned facility whose use and maintenance would be delegated to MA contingent on a land and facilities lease. MA legal counsel Tim Farmer has drafted a mutual 99-year lease agreement between the district

and MA for the land and facility at a cost of \$100 to each entity. D38 district lawyers are reviewing the agreement, which MA believes meets the parameters of the bond language and hopes to complete the agreement within 60 days.

June 2018 audit report approved

Paul Niedermuller of CliftonLarsonAllen presented the June 2018 audit to the board for its review and approval. The report, which can be seen with the previous two years' audits at <http://bit.ly/ma-audit>, was issued with an unmodified opinion. The audit includes accounting for MA's portion of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) pension liability at \$27 million. In the Legislature, Senate Bill 18-200 made some changes to Colorado PERA that required a higher contribution from employers and employees, but MA should see this liability decreased

starting next year. The board unanimously approved the audit report.

Other highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Wendy and Josh Bethauer reported on the fundraising efforts of their group, Monument Academy Safety Solutions, and their partnership with the Parent Teacher Organization to provide funds for a prioritized list of security items.
- Griffin reported participating in a site visit to Lincoln, Neb., to see how Philip Scho Middle School partnered with the Fallbrook YMCA on facilities. Also attending were Boyd Williams and Jeff Peterson of Pikes Peak YMCA, Brian Risely of CRP Architects, along with Matt and Bill Duston, residential developers.
- The board unanimously approved

board policy 1530—Parent Notification of Alleged Criminal Conduct by School Employee, which came out of a new law, House Bill 18-1269, and was codified under The Colorado Revised Statute 22-1-130. See <http://bit.ly/ma-bd-policies> for more details.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 8 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committees, and finances can be found at <https://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Oct. 15

Board hears about preschool services, recognizes students and Hall of Fame honorees

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education received a detailed report on preschool services in the district, enjoyed performances by elementary students, and recognized achievements of students and Lewis-Palmer Hall of Fame honorees at its Oct. 15 meeting.

Preschool service options discussed

Board Vice President Tiffney Upchurch and pre-school coordinator Julie Jadomski offered a detailed presentation on the value of preschool education and possible locations for future preschool services.

Jadomski stressed that kindergarten students of today are learning skills formerly taught in first grade. As a consequence, it is important to realize that preschool is not just a play environment, she said. Students learn such skills as counting, sorting, and classifying. Science teaches curiosity, observation, and discovery. Social studies teaches how to make friends and respect others, and students learn to listen and talk in turn.

The population of a preschool can be divided into a number of categories,

including those in the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) who are found to be at risk due to family or economic factors, special needs students who have been identified through the Child-find program to require extra services, English learners, and tuition-paying individuals.

Upchurch and Superintendent Karen Brofft stressed that state and federal laws require that preschool services be offered free of charge to CPP students and special needs students. It is required that a certain percentage of typical peers also be enrolled so that the population is balanced.

Upchurch explained the number of classrooms currently in use for preschool. There is one teacher for each eight students. Currently the district-wide enrollment is 193 students. Some schools utilize several rooms for this purpose, while some have none. Preschoolers from Palmer Lake and Prairie Winds elementaries are served in a building on the campus of the administration building. Cost of the services was also explained.

At one time, the Grace Best Education Center was considered as a poten-

tial location for a centralized preschool. After evaluations by architectural and engineering firms, however, the idea was rejected due to the condition of the building. Preschools can't be located on the second floor of a building by law. Instead, it was decided that the current uses of the building, including the Homeschool Academy, the Transitions Program, the robotics program, and storage of materials are more appropriate. The gym and other parts of the newer section of the building are rented out to the community.

Upchurch said that, after much research and consideration, the centralization of preschool services would prove to aid in consistency, space efficiency, and increased services by allowing specialized staff (such as occupational therapists and counselors) to remain at one site throughout their workweek.

The downside of centralization includes the fact that transportation is not provided for preschool students and there would not be older students as role models on site.

Board Secretary Mark Pfoff commented that the convenience of the

parents should also be considered. He said that many parents of preschoolers in the Jackson Creek area chose to send their children to Antelope Trails Elementary in District 20 when the current Bear Creek Elementary was a middle school.

When the middle school closed and was converted to an elementary, he said, many of these families came back to the district. He does not wish to risk having families opt to leave the district due to the inconvenience of transporting the youngsters some distance. Also, having preschools in several locations allows the preschoolers to identify with a school at an early age. He said that preschool is a business and the district wants to encourage the students to stay.

Jadomski agreed that it would be ideal to keep students in one location throughout their elementary career, but space does not allow it. She said that if the district convinces people that preschool is important they will overlook the inconvenience.

Upchurch said that the district must decide by February how to deal with the situation. One option would be to build an eight-plex modular building near Big Red. Board Treasurer Chris Taylor expressed concern about security in such a structure.

Board President Matthew Clawson suggested that further discussion take place in a work session.

Pfoff suggested a community deliberation on the subject.

Recognitions

Teacher and staff adviser of journalism Tom Patrick from Palmer Ridge High School introduced several of his students who had attended the Colorado Student Media Association Journalism Day conference at Colorado State University in September. The Palmer Ridge Yearbook won first place and the Bear Truth newspaper won a commendation. Other awards, including a scholarship, were also received.

Student journalists from Lewis-Palmer High School also attended but were unable to be at this meeting.

The board also recognized Becky Hassler and Susan Weese of the Tri-Lakes Women's Club for their many grants and other contributions to the district over the years.

This year's Lewis-Palmer Hall of

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D38 BOE (Continued on 20)