

til a second elementary could be built.

Pfoff reminded the board that in 2008 an elementary school, Grace Best, was closed and not reopened. He suggested asking for a bond to cover two new schools, reminding the board that the bonds that funded Prairie Winds and Creekside Middle School will be paid off in 2024-25, which would take some pressure off of taxpayers.

Taylor warned that it would be unwise to emphasize the idea of the cost declining if the district needs to ask for a third school at that time. He recommended seeking a bond that would fund two schools, but not issue the bonds for the second until needed.

Brofft reminded the board that building two schools would not double the cost of one, as the infrastructure for a school at Jackson Creek is already in place.

Upchurch suggested the option of building a second middle school in Jackson Creek so that the large population of Bear Creek, excepting the sixth grade, could stay in the current building while the new elementary was built.

Risley said that it costs about a third more to build a middle school than an elementary, due to the additional technology, labs, and so forth required. He also said that at the Bear Creek campus, there is not enough land or utilities for an additional middle school.

Taylor said he wanted more data before making a final decision and suggested waiting until the board receives information from the polling now underway. He asked if there is a downside to going for a second bond issue in a few years.

Brofft said the board could go for two separate bond issues on the same ballot.

Pfoff said that he would prefer to be able to build two schools back to back and that everyone should be prepared to make a decision at the June meeting.

Brofft reminded the board that the second school would not be built

as quickly as the one at Jackson Creek because the infrastructure would not already be there.

### Timeline for selection of new board member

Secretary to the Superintendent Vicki Wood outlined the timeline for selection of a new member of the board to replace recently resigned Sarah Sampayo.

She said that the deadline for applications is noon on Wednesday, May 23 and that the board will interview prospective candidates at a special public meeting on Tuesday, May 29 from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

### Individual and district recognitions

The board recognized the coaches from Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Ridge High schools for their achievements during this year. They are:

- LPHS boys basketball Coach Bill Benton, who is the Pikes Peak Area Boys Basketball Coach of the Year and Gazette Preps Boys Basketball Coach of the Year
- LPHS boys soccer Coach Brian Barkey, Pikes Peak Athletic Conference Boys Soccer Coach of the Year
- LPHS girls tennis Coach Paul Kardel, PPAC Girls Tennis Coach of the Year
- PRHS cross country Coach Rob Collins, 4A Cross Country Coach of the Year and Gazette Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year

Brofft was selected as the Colorado Schools Public Relations Association Communicator of the Year. The award acknowledges her communication and public relations work in every aspect of public relations planning, implementation, and evaluation. The organization especially recognized Brofft's promotion of district accomplishments at board meetings and through the media.

Lewis-Palmer Elementary School



Above: Caleb Landrum, left, and Andrew Deeds were congratulated by Superintendent Karen Brofft for their fundraising for the Shield 616 organization. Photo by Harriet Halbig

students Caleb Landrum and Andrew Deeds were recognized for their efforts to raise money for Shield 616, an organization that provides tactical gear for law enforcement personnel. Together they raised over \$10,000, enough to outfit the Monument and Palmer Lake police departments.

Lewis-Palmer Middle School Band Director Mike Mazingo announced that D-38 is one of three districts in the state to win a Best Communities for Music Education award from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. The district offers musical education in grades beginning at the kindergarten level including choir, band, and clubs. The district includes ensembles that do and do not require auditions and that have received na-

tional recognition over the past years. The district answered a detailed questionnaire regarding funding, class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the program and community music-making programs. District graduate Isabel Taylor, now a student at Colorado State University in Pueblo, spoke of her appreciation for music education in the district.

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The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education meets once a month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Beginning in June the board will meet on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on June 18 at 6 p.m.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

### Monument Academy School Board, May 10

## Parents speak out on new uniform policy, phasing out of National Junior Honor Society

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on May 10 to hear parents' concerns about the new uniform poli-

cies and the phasing out of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), hear highlights of a teacher survey, and to vote on a builder's representative and

architect for the new high school.

Board member Mike Molson was absent, and Matt Dunston has resigned from the board.

### Uniform policy concerns

Four of the five parents speaking at the board meeting indicated concerns with the new uniform policies 1501-ES and 1501-MS (see <http://bit.ly/ma-bd-policies>). One parent felt that there was an unwelcome shift coming with the new high school being positioned as a preparatory school. She said there was already a rift in the community, which sees MA as elitist and very militaristic and she felt the uniform changes would widen the rift. She expressed concern about the financial burden of purchasing new items for the uniform rather than being able to use hand-me-downs. She noted that there was concern with kids hiding vaping pens in sweatshirts but felt it was harsh to punish the entire student body for the acts of a few. She indicated that skinny pants were the only ones that fit her daughter and asked that the board consider softening the policy or grandfathering in middle schoolers.

Another parent was able to find compliant shoes at a discount but asked why this was a concern for the teachers and felt it didn't make sense that their shoes would prevent students from focusing.

A third parent, who claimed to represent 20 other parents, expressed support for the new policy but had



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