

rates. However, no one is sure whether de-Gallaghering violates TABOR. See www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlmfpd, www.ocn.me/v18n6.htm#tlmfpd, www.tlmfire.org/board.

Chief’s report

Truty’s report included the following:

- The collective bargaining agreement discussion introduced this

winter will continue at the July 25 meeting. See www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlmfpd.

- Lt. Kevin Richmond was named firefighter of the year by the Masonic Lodge.
- Truty is working with Emergency Services Consulting International to create a master plan and strategic five-year plan.

- Battalion Chief Jamey Bumgarner said he’s had 60 requests for mitigation inspections, especially in Red Rock Ranch which is doing needed wildfire risk reduction work.

Board comments

Tharnish said Bethesda Gardens visitors are giving the town a lot of trouble with illegal parking along Beacon Lite Road.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. July 25 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at (719) 484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see <http://tlmfire.org/board>. Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 18

Board installs new member, finalizes funding requests for November ballot

By Harriet Halbig

The June 18 meeting of the Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education consisted of a budget work session, an opportunity for public comments on the proposed budget, and a regular business meeting. During the regular meeting, board President Matthew Clawson administered an oath of office to new board member Theresa Phillips, and the board approved ballot requests for a \$33 million bond issue for a new school and a \$1 million mill levy override (MLO) to fund security personnel.

Superintendent reports on polling results

Superintendent Karen Brofft reported on the results of polling by Hill Research Consultants regarding the request for a bond issue in November. Her presentation included detailed information on responses of 302 voters. The poll was designed to reach all demographics in the district regarding income, educa-

tion, and whether or not the individual had family members in school.

Some general impressions were:

- Individuals gave high marks to the district as a whole.
- People did not seem to view a bond as a tax burden and felt that the district should keep up with growth but not overshoot that goal.
- Support for a new school at the Bear Creek location and centralized pre-school services were not as strongly favored as anticipated.
- Security polled very favorably.
- 70 percent of respondents agreed that good schools help the local economy.
- 72 percent feel that the district should build for current enrollment.
- Respondents felt that if a bond should pass, there should be an oversight committee that would re-

port quarterly on administration of the funds.

Brofft said that the pollsters recommended not mentioning Bear Creek as the site of the new school in the wording of the ballot measure. The pollsters also said that many respondents didn’t seem to be aware of a capacity problem.

Regarding an MLO for security, 76 percent of respondents favored more staff including mental health staff.

Treasurer Chris Taylor asked Brofft’s general opinion of the responses. She said that the bond polled less than the anticipated 60 percent positive, while the MLO polled more positively. The pollster recommended that if the district requests both, both may fail, and if the district proposed only the MLO it would most likely succeed.

Clawson asked about the appropriate next action.

Taylor said that the middle school is currently at capacity and action must be taken. Security is also important.

Brofft commented that bond funds cannot be spent on personnel and therefore the MLO would be necessary.

Director Phillips agreed that action must be taken to address the growth situation and asked whether it would be best

to jump one large hurdle now or several smaller ones over the next several years.

Brofft said that if a new school were built in Jackson Creek, all K-5 students at Bear Creek would not fit, and parents object to the idea of putting fifth-graders in the middle school at that location (Bear Creek Elementary would be re-converted into Creekside Middle School). Redistricting may be necessary.

When asked about consideration of the use of Grace Best to solve capacity, architect Brian Risley said that his firm is finalizing the costs of demolition versus remodeling. He estimated that eight or nine preschool classrooms could be accommodated at the site.

Clawson said that a new school is needed as soon as possible and perhaps the district could sell other of its properties to help fund the construction.

Board Secretary Mark Pfoff said that, by putting both a bond and an MLO on the ballot, the public is given the right to decide on priorities. The board’s role is to package what it considers appropriate. He said that the bond is for a building and it should include safety and security improvements at all school locations.

Brofft reminded the board that final ballot wording was not to be determined at that meeting, but the amount of funding should be determined.

Pfoff suggested asking for \$29.5 million for a school at Jackson Creek. If money is left over, it can be put in to the capital reserve fund to help with deferred maintenance and other issues.

Regarding the need for mental health professionals to be funded by an MLO, Brofft said that such professionals are in short supply and perhaps we should view it as a priority to have additional people who could interact one on one with students.

Pfoff suggested that we refer to such professionals as wellness counselors rather than mental health professionals due to the possible stigma.

Phillips said that such a stigma is not as prominent as it once was.

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Labyrinth Retreat


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9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Includes moonlight walk at 9:30 pm
Fee: \$65.00
Presenter: Sister Jan Ginzkey, OSB

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Sister Jan Ginzkey, OSB is a Physical Therapist who has combined her knowledge of physical strengthening with contemplative spiritual practice by leading labyrinth retreats, healing retreats and teaching workshops.

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