

the MPD command staff to make sure both agencies are working in harmony for the betterment of the community.

- Trost and Division Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley met with BFFRPD's Fire Chief PJ Langmaid on March 24 to finalize some minor language changes in the live-fire incident report. The report will be released within days.
- The West Metro Fire Academy students will graduate on May 7.

Financial report

Treasurer Jason Buckingham read the financial report and said the following:

- The district received \$189,011 in property taxes of the projected \$10 million.
- Overall revenues were below normal and will be until the bulk of the property taxes are received.
- Overall expenses were below average for January and February and 2% under the projected budget.

Buckingham said 18 electronic transactions were reviewed, and all appeared appropriate and within the budget. The following larger payments were:

- \$17,871 for Safeware (technical rescue equip-

ment).

- \$35,278 for F250 lighting packages.
- \$56,684 for Fire Station 1 remodel.
- \$15,878 for property taxes on the business office purchase.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 7-0. Kovacs said he and Bumgarner are discussing the collection of impact fees with area builders for all construction outside of the city limits.

Director of Administration Jennifer Martin said the impact fees are paid directly to TLMFPD for new properties within Monument.

Note: Impact fees are collected within the Town of Monument for both residential and commercial construction but are not currently collected in the unincorporated areas of Northern El Paso County.

Ready, Set, Go! Wildland Fire Prevention/Mitigation Day—May 15

Bumgarner said that the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has provided a contract assistant based in Oregon to help create media programs to garner public support for the Wildland Fire Prevention/Mitigation Day on May 15 outside at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. The event is a collab-

orative event to include: Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group; Dave Root, Colorado State Forester, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, and the county Sheriff's Office Wildland Crew. The event is exciting for the district and it will put the district on the IAFC's radar, said Bumgarner, who hopes citizens will visit the site to see the "before and after" of wildfire risk reduction work on the school grounds. See details in Calendar on page 31.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. April 28 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. Staff and the public are encouraged to attend the meeting via Zoom to comply with social distancing. Zoom meeting: 886-8850-7523 Password: 187219. For upcoming agendas and minutes, visit www.tlmfire.org/board or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

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Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education, March 15

Board approves contracts for two principals, discusses return to in-person learning, testing



Above: At the D38 board meeting March 15, Dr. Adam Frank (left) was approved as principal of Palmer Ridge High School and Davonne Johnson (right) was approved as principal of Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. Both begin work Aug. 1. *Photos courtesy of D38.*

By Harriet Halbig

The March 15 regular meeting of the Board of Education was held via Zoom due to a snowstorm and school closure.

New principals confirmed

The board approved contracts for two new principals, to start on Aug. 1.

Davonne Johnson was approved as principal of Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. Johnson has been with the district for many years, beginning as a teacher at Prairie Winds Elementary and continuing through various school and district-wide positions.

Superintendent K.C. Somers said there were many qualified applicants for the position and that Johnson impressed the panel with her breadth of knowledge and experience.

Johnson said that she has been touched by the amount of support she has received through calls, email, and letters.

Dr. Adam Frank was approved as the new principal for Palmer Ridge High School. Coming from Ohio, he is known for celebrating each student. He was a social studies teacher, an ice hockey coach, assistant principal, and athletic director at his former school. Somers said that his prioritizing of students impressed the panel.

Frank thanked Somers and the panel and was impressed at the rigor of the process. He said that he has relatives in the Denver area and looks forward to the process of finding a house and settling in.

Board members congratulated both individuals and welcomed them, offering any assistance they might need.

Return to in-person learning

In his superintendent update, Somers reported on the success of returning to in-person learning four days a week at the secondary level.

He said that it felt like a reunion when students were once again all together in school. There continue to be some quarantines, and the district will retain its Flex Fridays to allow for students to receive any additional support they may need.

Somers stressed that there may still be a need to shift things, as such issues as crowding during lunch hour may pose a challenge, but students seem eager to do what they can to remain in person. Students will continue to be encouraged to eat outside when weather permits.

Standardized testing decisions

In her legislative update early in the meeting, board Secretary Tiffney Upchurch said the Legislature has applied for a waiver from some of the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing. The state is applying for application of about 50 percent of the usual number of tests.

Tests that will be administered if their proposal is approved are English Language Arts in grades 3, 5, and 7 and math in grades 4, 6, and 8. Science tests will be waived.

Somers said the SAT test will be given to 11th grade in the week of April 12 and the PSAT will be given to grades 11 and 12. AP testing will be given in person starting on May 3.

Somers stressed that the district is ready to test to the extent required. He said that he is mindful that some parents will opt out of their students' participation and pointed out that results of the testing will not be used for the evaluation of teachers.

Board Vice President Theresa Phillips asked if financial aid is available to those who take the AP tests. Chief Academic Officer Lori Benton responded that

those who require aid should contact their counselor. Funds are available for this purpose.

Testing update

According to the *Denver Post* on March 27, the U.S. Department of Education approved most of Colorado's plans to amend testing this year. As stated earlier in this article, English Language Arts and Math will be administered, but federal officials did not approve skipping science tests.

The science tests will be administered to eighth-graders, but not to fifth- and 11th-graders.

A waiver request is being prepared and is expected to be submitted in April.

Consent agenda discussion

Upchurch asked for an explanation of the Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) program, which was proposed for approval.

Benton responded that eight teachers are qualified to teach these classes, which are part of a national program. The classes, geared to high school and Transition students (those who are on an Individual Education Plan and continue to attend school until age 21), cover such subjects as life skills, individual financial literacy, job searching, computer skills, and career planning. These classes appear on student transcripts and do not involve a fee. Eligibility is determined by counselors.

Benton also commented on the grant for Gifted Education. This is an annual grant to districts with personnel qualified for screening individuals for identifying gifted traits. The district has a higher-than-average ratio of students in the gifted category.

The board passed the consent agenda.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer District 38 meets on the third Monday of the month at the district's learning center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Due to COVID restrictions, seating is limited. Meetings are livestreamed on the district website, lewis-palmer.org. Individuals who wish to submit a public comment may do so online in advance of the meeting.

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Monument Academy School Board, March 11

Board hears from Concurrent Enrollment consultant, prepares for assessments

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held its regular board meeting on March 11 and heard from a consultant on concurrent enrollment, prepared for assessments, learned about the state of the athletic programs, and updated board policies.

Concurrent Enrollment

Rob Wilkinson, who oversees Concurrent Enrollment

(CE) at Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy (BLPA), a D49 charter high school in Colorado Springs, shared his parent information night presentation with the MA board. Chief Operating Officer Christianna Herrera noted that MA was able to use its Colorado Charter Schools Program grant to consult with experts for program development. She said MA will work extensively with Wilkinson as they formulate their program

and identify a counselor.

He explained that the BLPA CE program started three years ago with six kids and will have 100 next year. He said the main purpose for the program is to prepare students so they are ready for the rigor and expectations of college. Kids can start with one course and then add more. He has 17 students who take a full college load in their senior year and don't step foot on