

as a way to take care of the whole child. She said that Responsive Classroom offers a sense of belonging and family involvement.

Teacher Chris Thomas and community member Jackie Burhans both spoke of the value of teachers remaining in the district and building long-term relationships between students and teachers. Increasing compensation is one way to encourage teachers to remain.

One parent expressed dissatisfaction

with the new provider of after-school care for students, saying they do not cover school breaks. The Y has stepped in to fill the gap.

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The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting is Oct. 17.

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

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, Sept. 8 and 22  
**Fire Department receives grant**

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans  
The Palmer Lake Board of Trustees met twice in September. Two ordinances were passed that finalized the ballot language for the cannabis and mill levy override ballot questions. An interim fire chief was introduced, and the board declined participation in the recently passed Colorado Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program. The board approved two special event requests. During public comments, the board heard concerns from a resident about the situation at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). Finally, dates were set for a 2023 budget workshop, a public hearing on the budget, public forums on the Community Master Plan, and a candidate forum.

Both meetings ended with an executive session.

**Grant covers structure and wildland gear**

Town Administrator Dawn Collins told the board that the Palmer Lake Fire Department received personal protective equipment from the Colorado Division of Prevention & Control valued at \$173,936. The equipment includes gear for use in fighting structure fires and for fighting wildland fires.

**Ballot questions get minor edit**

Town Attorney Matt Krob told the board that the town's bond counsel had reviewed the language for the two ballot questions that the board had approved at its last meeting. The bond counsel requested that the mill levy override question refer to the cannabis question by its title rather than by its question number,

replacing "ballot question 1A" with "ballot question relating to operation of retail marijuana." Krob explained to the board that each ballot question would need to be passed as an emergency ordinance so that the amended language would take effect immediately.

Ordinances 13-2022 and 14-2022 passed, with Trustees Nicole Currier, Darin Dawson, Glant Havenar, Samantha Padgett, and Karen Stuth and Mayor Bill Bass voting in favor and Trustee Jessica Farr voting against.

**Interim fire chief comes on board**

Collins introduced John Vincent, the town's new interim fire chief. Collins told the board that Vincent had been the town's fire chief during the Black Forest Fire. She said Fire Chief Christopher McCarthy had resigned as of Sept. 1 and had accepted another position. The town had been in discussion with Vincent before McCarthy's resignation, she said.

**Board opts out of FAMLI**

Collins told the board that town staff had overwhelmingly decided against participating in the FAMLI program, which provides 12 weeks of paid job-protected leave when an employee experiences a qualifying family or medical event. She pointed out that individual employees can still opt into the program even if the town decides not to participate.

The board voted unanimously to

*PLBOT (cont. on 12)*

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