

report to the Board of Education at its June meeting and said that one of DAAC's responsibilities is to offer feedback on the district's Unified Improvement Plan, which will be presented at the October meeting.

She said that two new committees are being formed in the district, the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) and the Wellness Committee. She requested that DAAC add these committees as subcommittees in addition to the present Special Education Advisory Committee and Gifted Education Leadership Team. Later in the meeting, the membership voted to accept this responsibility. The committee's bylaws will need to be altered to reflect this change.

Whetstine also requested that DAAC continue to link its activities to the district's strategic plan and that the committee consider a name change to increase public interest in attending meetings.

The committee heard proposed bylaw changes and suggested new names for the committee. A poll will be distributed to the members to vote on a new name. Some suggested names are Engage and Elevate, Educational Engagement Committee and D38 Engage and Elevate.

Board of Education liaison Tiffiney Upchurch reported that the board's current priority is staff compensation. The board voted in August to add a Mill Levy Override (MLO) to the November ballot. Current staff compensation is about 10% less than in surrounding districts.

Superintendent KC Somers shared a slide presentation regarding information on the MLO, highlighting statistics from neighboring districts and an annual turnover rate above 20%. The ballot resolution is specifically worded to provide funding only for non-administrative staff compensation.

Somers stressed that that School Finance Act, which funded a compensation increase last year, does not influence the district's status in comparison with neighboring districts. D38 does not meet some requirements for higher per pupil revenue, such as a high poverty rate, shrinking demographics, and a large population of English language learners.

The committee discussed ways to get information about the ballot issue out to the public. A kickoff event was scheduled for Monday, Sept. 19 at Limbach Park.

District again Accredited with Distinction

Assessment Coordinator Dr. Michael Brom presented assessment data from last spring. He said that district CMAS (Colorado Measurement of Academic Success) tests in math are significantly higher than the state average, but district participation is lower than state average. The district has once again been named Accredited with Distinction.

The district has a high rate of participation in PSAT and SAT tests, and scores are above the state average for college readiness. The district also shows special populations performing strongly.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee generally meets from 6 to 8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Locations vary. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at Lewis-Palmer Middle School, 1776 Woodmoor Drive in Monument. For further information, please contact tmckee@lewis-palmer.org or 719-785-4243.

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Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, Sept. 19

Board accredits schools, adopts character education programs, plans community engagement

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education discussed a number of aspects of the district's programs at its Sept. 19 meeting. Among these were programs involving character education at all levels, academic achievement as evidenced by last spring's assessments, and plans to increase community engagement in the coming year, especially until the Nov. 8 election.

Board President Chris Taylor was absent from the meeting. Vice President Theresa Phillips presided, with Director Matthew Clawson attending by phone.

Accreditation discussion
Assistant Superintendent Amber Whetstine presented information about results of various assessments last spring. This data included information about growth and academic achievement. Due to the pandemic, this data has not been available in detail since 2019. As a consequence, it was impossible to trace year-to-year growth based on comparative test scores.

D38 has been rated as accredited with distinction, among the top 6% of districts in the state. School districts are accredited by the state, and individual schools, including charter schools, are accredited by their district.

Whetstine explained that data in detail, referring to district and school performance frameworks. In these documents, data is described for each Colorado Measure of Academic Success (CMAS) test and subdivided by grade level and various other demographics including students with disabili-

ties, English language learners, and those qualifying for free/reduced lunch.

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