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**D38 BOE (Cont. from 1)**

achieve success in each of these areas.

The interns then created an infographic depicting each of these four characteristics and how they can be developed at each stage during a student's 12 years of education in the district as expressed in a series of "I can" statements.

Somers and the board presented Haworth and Smith with certificates of appreciation for their efforts.


**Financial planning and budget adjustments**

Chief Financial Officer Kitte Overton presented a PowerPoint illustrating the state of the district budget at the halfway point in the school year.

Beginning with a discussion of enrollment figures, Overton stressed that a portion of the enrollment increase is due to an increased enrollment at Monument Academy, and that amount of per pupil funding is passed through to them directly.

Board Treasurer Ron Schwarz asked whether this increase in enrollment is sustainable. Overton responded that there is no way to know for certain.

In addition to the grants mentioned above, the district received \$1.8 million in federal grants (not including Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief or ESSER funds), \$30,000 in local grants, and funding from ESSER II and ESSER III for a total of \$5.6 million in relief for the General Fund.



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Once these grant funds were allocated as required (for example, ESSER funding must be applied to accelerating learning recovery and addressing the social and emotional well-being of students and staff, and other grants were applied to literacy), the General Fund was increased by \$1.2 million.

As a consequence of this increase in the budget, the administration proposed a compensation adjustment in the form of a proposed payment of \$1,400 annually on average for certified staff retroactive to August, an adjustment to the salary schedule for classified staff retroactive to July or August depending on the calendar for the employee, and a one-time action of an average of \$1,500 for administrative staff to be paid in June 2022.

In response to a question from board President Chris Taylor, Somers said this action would compensate for lost earnings due to last year's hiring freeze, but would not make the district's compensation more competitive with surrounding districts.

Somers said this is the best that can be done for now.

During the general discussion of the budget and its allocation, Taylor pointed out that the Capital Reserve Fund has large obligations in support of the Schneider Electric project to achieve greater energy efficiency and the long-term project to repair the geothermal system at Palmer Ridge High School. The ultimate cost of the Palmer Ridge project is unknown, and Taylor suggested it be considered deferred maintenance because it has been underway for several years.

To view the budget in detail and the PowerPoint presented by Overton, see the district website [lewispalmer.org](http://lewispalmer.org), board of education, BoardDocs and enter Jan. 24 as the date of the meeting.

The board approved the budget adjustment as presented.

**Policy discussions**

The board approved a second reading of Policy IKF regarding graduation requirements. The policy states that high school credit begins with the first day of ninth grade. Students must demonstrate proficiency in technology and personal financial literacy as part of the graduation requirements. This may be done by taking specific classes or through demonstration.

Technology classes were previously required, but it is now accepted that technology is used throughout a student's education.



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