

Monument Board of Trustees, May 6

LPHS boys' state champion basketball team recognized

By Jim Kendrick

On May 6, the Monument Board of Trustees again formally recognized the Lewis-Palmer High School Rangers boys' state champion basketball team. At the start of the 6:30 meeting, Mayor Travis Easton presented a certificate of recognition to Head Coach Russ McKinstry for winning the Colorado 4A state championship a second year in a row by beating Valor Christian 51-40 on March 16. The Rangers have made the final four in the state championships five years in a row.

Coach Russ McKinstry thanked the board for its recognition and support for the team's athletic and academic performance, character, integrity, work ethic, and unselfish teamwork. He thanked his players and his coaching staff of Bill Benton, Kevin Englehart, Kevin Phillips, and Derrick Stone.

Trustee Steve Kaiser's absence from the meeting was excused.

Public comments

Former Monument Trustee Gail Drumm, who continues to serve on the board of the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department, announced that the department had awarded a \$27,000 grant to the town to fund a summer jobs program for fire and erosion mitigation.

Role of the Colorado Municipal League discussed

Sam Mamet, executive director of the Colorado Municipal League (CML), discussed CML's roles in legislation, advocacy, information, and training for board members. He answered questions from the board and citizens and stated that he feels there will be a tax increase proposed on the November 2014 ballot to support transportation and transit.

D-38 "State of the District" briefing

John Borman, Lewis-Palmer School District 38 superintendent, presented a lengthy "State of the District" briefing on the status of D-38.

Some of D-38's achievements that Borman discussed were:

- Accredited with distinction.
- Advanced Placement Honor Roll—the only district in Colorado to receive the award all three years of program and the only district in southern Colorado to earn it this year.



Above: On May 6, Head Coach Russ McKinstry thanked his players and assistant coaches for all their work in winning the boys' Class 4A state basketball championship for Lewis-Palmer High School. The Rangers became back-to-back champions on March 16. Monument Mayor Travis Easton presented a Board of Trustees Certificate of Recognition to Coach McKinstry. The team has made it to the "Final Four" in the state championships five years in a row. *Photo by Jim Kendrick*

- However, Lewis-Palmer accreditation scores have dropped from 85.8 percent in 2009-10 to 81.6 percent in 2011-12.

Some of the items Borman discussed about D-38's recent graduates in the Class of 2012 were:

- More than \$14 million in scholarships and awards offered.
- National Merit Scholarship recipients at both high schools.
- Five U.S. Military Academy appointments.
- More than 82 percent will go on to postsecondary education.
- Advanced Placement scores—74.5 percent scored well enough to receive college credit (national average is 58 percent).

Regarding D-38's impact on the community, Borman noted:

- Property values are higher than in neighboring districts.
- Numerous studies show strong schools are consistently a major factor in home sale values and growth.
- Great schools boost economic development and strengthen the business community.
- Strong schools improve quality of life by successfully preparing students to become productive citizens, skilled leaders, and caring contributors to society.

Some of the things Borman said D-38 is working to improve on are:

- In the past, some mistakes were made regarding financial and election issues and lack of transparency in decision making.
- It takes hard work to regain community trust and credibility.
- Major improvements have been made to financial transparency and the public decision-making process.
- The central staff in the Big Red school building has

been reduced from 47 to 34 people, saving \$1.05 million annually.

Borman went into great detail on the negative fiscal impacts the district has suffered in recent years. For example, the total annual reduction in available funding caused by increased costs and decreased revenues has risen from \$1.2 million in 2008-09 to \$11 million in 2012-2013 due to decreased state funding and local revenues, mandatory retirement cost hikes, inflation, utilities, fees, and other factors.

A total of \$1.1 million in support cuts equal to 23 full-time positions has resulted in the reduction or elimination of Gifted and Talented Services; science coordinator; intervention for struggling students; math, reading, and writing labs; librarians; summer school programs; technology teachers; music/PE/art teachers; guidance counselors; and instructional coaches.

Other financial problems Borman noted were:

- 15 classroom teachers were cut to save an additional \$750,000.
 - Annual individual student fees have risen from \$75 in 2001-02 to \$560 in 2012-13.
 - The deferred maintenance and capital replacement backlog is up to \$30 million.
 - The technology replacement/upgrade backlog is up to \$2 million.
 - There is significant risk of losing more quality teachers in the future due to salary freezes and future cuts.
 - The rise in user fees has reached its practical limit.
- Borman recommended:
- Small class sizes, smaller teacher course loads.
 - Math and language intervention.
 - More gifted and talented coordinators, aides, instructional coaches.
 - A solid elementary foundation.
 - Necessary number of teachers restored.
 - Maintain advanced learning opportunities.
 - Strengthen support for struggling students.
 - Necessary technology.
 - Safety and security.
 - Quality teachers through recruitment and retention efforts.

For more information on how to help D-38 improve, Borman recommended that citizens:

- Monitor district news at www.lewispalmer.org.
- Attend monthly D-38 Board of Education meetings at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.
- Watch board meetings on www.ustream.tv/channel/lpsd-live.
- Attend events listed on the district's website calendar.

Proclamations

The board unanimously proclaimed April 27 as World Tai Chi & Qigong Day. Tai Chi, a traditional Chinese exercise, is a series of relaxed movements, increasingly found to benefit the health of people of many fitness levels.

The board also unanimously proclaimed May 25 as Take Pride in Monument Day to celebrate Monument pride with volunteer participation in community projects, clean-ups, minor exterior home repairs for those in need, and flower plantings.

Three liquor licenses approved

The board unanimously approved annual art gallery liquor license renewals for:

- Margo's Inc., doing business as Margo's on the Alley,

JUNE 24TH - JUNE 28TH
9AM - NOON

is coming to

Kids entering
1st grade through 6th grade
will learn how to
stand strong for God

Registration information can be found
online: HolyTrinityAnglicanChurch.org
Contact Cathryn Karmondy 719-331-3084

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