

**Online curriculum proposal discussed**  
 Director of Assessment, Gifted Education and Technol-

ogy Lori Benton and Lewis-Palmer Middle School Principal Seann O'Connor spoke to the board about a new online curriculum for grades 5-12.

After researching several options and testing two, O'Connor said that A+ Colorado Courseware is the favorite. It meets the cost requirements of the district and offers superior customer service while providing diagnostic capabilities and suggesting ways to support the weaknesses of specific students.

The program is useful in many capacities, according to O'Connor. Among them:

- Students who miss school for long periods can catch up at home and teachers will not have to prepare catch-up materials.
- Students in special education can do their lessons individually if desired.
- More levels of instruction can be offered with additional support materials to add practice for those who may be struggling or more challenging work for

gifted students. Remedial materials are included in the program.

- Homebound students at the upper elementary level may also use it.
- If approved, the materials could be used starting next summer.

When asked about budget concerns, Benton said that the high schools have a budget for online resources and the middle school has shifted funds from other programs to support this.

**Other matters**

The board voted to approve an increase of 10 cents in the price of school lunches. This increase is required by the Colorado Department of Education and the federal government in order to continue to receive funding for the free/reduced-cost lunch program.

Wangeman said that, due to the success of the district's food service program, excess funds will be used to replace equipment in the district's kitchens.

The board approved the provision of worker's compensation insurance by Pinnacle.

The board passed a list of routine matters such as approving school closures due to weather, minutes of previous meetings, and contracts.

Representatives from the Lewis-Palmer Home School Enrichment Academy in grades K-2 presented a program about Colorado geography and demonstrated a square dance.

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The Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on June 20.

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

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