

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, May 21

# Pike resigns; board approves new administrators and principals

By Harriet Halbig

Board Secretary Robb Pike, who has served since 2009, resigned from the Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education at the board's May 21 meeting. Stating that other areas of his life have recently changed, Pike said that he could no longer serve effectively. He thanked the district for the privilege to serve and meet so many members of the community and to make a difference.

Board President Mark Pfoff commented that Pike had a talent for clarifying

problems faced by the board and helping in decision making. Board Vice President John Mann thanked Pike for his loyalty and commitment to his service, and Director Sherri Hawkins thanked him for his support and encouragement during her tenure.

Pike represented District 5 on the board. The vacancy was announced the day following the meeting, and a replacement must be appointed within 60 days. The appointee must then run for election in November.

### New appointees to district administration confirmed

The board approved the appointment of Elizabeth Walhof as the new director of Instructional and Informational Technology. Walhof comes to the board from Douglas County and has worked in the area of informational technology for eight years. Walhof said her approach to technology is to view it as a new language.

Jenny Day was approved as the new principal at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. Day has been employed in the district for the past 14 years, most recently as the assistant principal at Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

Peggy Griebenow, the new principal of Palmer Lake Elementary School whose appointment was approved last month, was also introduced.

All received one-year contracts beginning Aug. 1.



**Above:** Lewis-Palmer High School Women's Soccer Team: Front row from left, Rylie Britton, Tori Fugate, Haley Arsenault, Emily Barkocy, Abigail Weingart, Addison DiMarco, Sydney Prichard, Kirsten Hatton, Samantha Kazlauzky, and Annica Fletemeyer. Back row, Allison Housum, Karly Sandoval, Brianna Alger, Kate Devine, Anna Donisi, Lauren Ruebenson, Brenna Oakey, Addison Britton, Sarah Lyons, Danielle Hatton, Bella Mantaro, Jenny Allenspach, Varsity Co-Coach Joe Martin, JV Coach Jay Drake, and Varsity Co-Coach Ryan Parsons. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

### New instructional resources approved

Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Sheila Beving explained the process by which educational resources are evaluated and that all materials are available for parent review and feedback for two weeks before a final decision is made.

A new textbook for 11th grade French 3 was approved. The previous text had been copyrighted in 2003 and the new one in 2012. More current examples were found to be useful.

Director of Exceptional Student Services May Anne Fleury reported that her department had received a \$150,000 grant for a drug and alcohol prevention program for seventh and eighth grade students. Funds will be applied toward published materials, identification of at-risk students, and development of a peer counseling program.

Fleury said that the program will be applied during Academic Enrichment time, with a nurse who aided in writing the grant in charge of applying it. Parents may participate in discussions and may choose to opt out.

The board approved the application of both resources.

### Budget discussion

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman explained budget adjustments for the 2014-15 school year. She said that elementary school fundraising was more successful than anticipated, that \$177,000 of the food service budget will be applied to purchase of new equipment, and that spending for additional buses will be taken from the capital reserve fund rather than

the transportation budget.

The board approved all changes.

Wangeman also submitted the 2015-16 budget for the board's consideration. Wangeman said that among the goals of the budget are the ability to hire additional teachers to maintain class size and the ability to increase compensation in order to remain competitive with nearby districts. Purchase of additional technology resources will reduce the capital reserve fund.

Wangeman said that state funding is anticipated to be 2.8 percent higher due to inflation plus an additional one percent to address the negative factor (created to offset the fact that funding promised by Amendment 23 was not granted). A formal hearing will be held before the board votes on the budget at its June 18 meeting.

### Superintendent update

Superintendent Karen Brofft noted the passage of a new bill in the state Legislature known as the Claire Davis Act, which waives immunity for the school districts in the event of violence in the schools. The bill would allow victims to sue for damages.

Wangeman reported that a state inspector recently certified Grace Best to have encapsulated all asbestos on site and have created sufficient records to that effect.

### Community partnerships

The board expressed its gratitude for the contributions of Lifetime Fitness, Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership, the Red Cross, the Air Academy Credit Union, the Monument Hill Country Club, and Donna's Dolphins for their support

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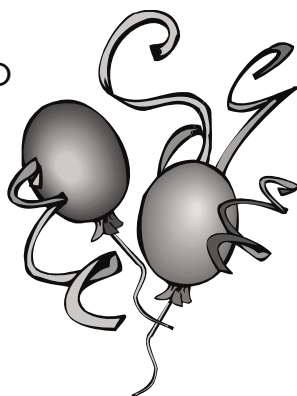
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