

right to opt out of services if they wish. If a student participates, he or she is monitored and assessed on a regular basis. Once considered proficient, the student may exit the program but is monitored in high school due to complex new vocabulary in science and math.

Students are evaluated to determine adequate growth, and the state goal is for students to exit the system at the rate of 12 percent a year. In this district, students exit at the rate of 30 percent per year. The goal is for a graduation rate of 50 percent and in this district the graduation rate is in the 90s.

In answer to a question, Johnson said that students who enter the program late in high school may continue to access it until age 21. Forty-two languages are now included and funding is based on the number

of students at each level.

The program also offers such activities as an annual international dinner, adult literacy classes, a summer bookmobile, summer school, and homework clubs.

Technology update

Director of Institutional and Educational Technology Liz Walhof reported on the use of a program called Seesaw where students can enter drawings and writings and store them so teachers can keep the work and absent relatives are also able to view the students' work. The work is deleted at the end of the school year, but parents may save some if they wish.

Walhof also said that she is conducting mini-conferences to train staff in the use of Google software.

She reassured the board that Google Apps for Education offers sufficient security for student activity, as the contract forbids Google from using student input in a commercial fashion.

Superintendent evaluation rating and contract extension

The board's evaluation of Superintendent Karen Brofft was read by Board Vice President Sherri Hawkins.

Board President Mark Pfoff said that he had discussed salaries with representatives of comparable districts and has received positive feedback from parents and teachers. He stressed the desirability of consistency in the position and that he wished Brofft to stay on for a long time.

After a brief discussion and praise from all members of the board, a resolution was passed to extend Brofft's contract through June 30, 2018.

Board member conduct and treatment of staff

Pfoff initiated a discussion on the subject of board member conduct, stressing that the board is an entity that must speak with



Above: The Palmer Ridge High School Cheer Team won the 4A state championship last month. On the far right is coach Jess Maynard. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

one voice. He said that this issue must be revisited when the composition of the board changes.

He explained that the community elects the five members of the board and the board is influenced by the community and other inputs in the form of feedback. The board then meets in public and votes to make decisions that set the direction of the district. Single members of the board should not exert influence.

The board as a group may instruct the superintendent to take action, but individual members may not instruct the superintendent or any other staff.

Pfoff said that the public does not have a vote on each decision but assumes that the board is well informed on the matters they discuss. He expressed frustration that many members of the community seem to form their opinions on the basis of rumor.

Director Sarah Sampayo said that the public should be able to review all background materials in order to make comments before a vote.

Pfoff said that releasing information before the vote may generate additional concerns.

Board Treasurer John Magerko commented that decisions are often altered in the future.

Sampayo asked, when visiting the state Legislature, whether she would be speaking on behalf of herself or the board. Pfoff said that the board could tell her what to say on their behalf.

Director of Student Services and Personnel Bob Foster discussed revisions to several board policies involving notification of board meetings, and public conduct on school property. The board voted to approve the revisions, with the exception of



Above: Palmer Ridge Athletic Director Jimmy Porter, right, congratulates football coach Tom Pulford for being named the Gazette Big Schools Football Coach of the Year. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

Sampayo who opposed.

The board passed a consent agenda including minutes of past meetings, personnel items, a budget summary and various other items.

Citizens' comments

Mike Burnett, Derek Araje, Tracy Burnett, Melanie Strop, Melinda Zark, and Tammy John expressed opinions on such issues as data privacy and local control. Members of the Lewis-Palmer High School Student Council thanked the board for its service by providing spirit bags to each member.

The board went into executive session at midnight to discuss matters involving negotiations.

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Feb. 18.

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

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VOTE 2016

Now Open! 2016 MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.'s (MVEA) 75th Annual Meeting is being held on June 2, 2016, at Falcon High School in Falcon. At this meeting two directors will be elected to MVEA's Board of Directors from the following districts:

District 3: Elbert and surrounding areas to include a portion of the Black Forest (Incumbent Errol Hertneky)

District 5: Ellicott, Fountain, Falcon and surrounding areas (Incumbent Bud Paddock)

The procedure for Director Elections & Member Voting is available on MVEA's website at www.mvea.coop/community/annual-meeting.


If you are interested in being a candidate, please contact a member of the nominating committee, see committee members below. A candidate must be a MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. For additional candidate requirements: visit www.mvea.coop/community/annual-meeting, click on "By-laws," and go to "Article III, Section 2." Before applying, please contact either MVEA office at 719-775-2861 or 719-495-2283 to verify your district.

A member may also petition for nomination. Petitions and procedures are available at the Limon Headquarters, 1655 5th St., Limon; or at the Falcon Operations Center, 11140 E. Woodmen Rd, Falcon, or online at www.mvea.coop/community/annual-meeting. Petitions must be signed by 15 members of MVEA and returned to either MVEA office by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 18, 2016. A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. This questionnaire can be found on MVEA's website or you may pick one up at either office. If you have questions, please contact a member of the nominating committee. Candidate questionnaires must be received by the nominating committee by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 31, 2016 for the committee's consideration. If you are petitioning for nomination, the candidate application must be submitted to either MVEA office with your petition no later than 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 18, 2016.

Nominating Committee

District 3
Earnest Mikita
18298 County Rd 81
Calhan, CO 80808
719-347-2509

District 5
Carl Alexander
25480 Little Springs Rd
Calhan, CO 80808
719-683-5212



(719) 775-2861 • www.mvea.coop • (719) 495-2283 • (800) 388-9881

D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Jan. 12

Committee discusses graduation requirements, safety and security process

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee discussed state and district graduation requirements, the district safety and security process, assessment results and other subjects at its Jan. 12 meeting.

Graduation guidelines

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton presented an explanation of state requirements for graduation and compared them with the requirements for entrance in state colleges.

The state Board of Education developed a list of competencies considered necessary for success in college and the workforce. These competencies must be demonstrated before a diploma is issued. Benton said that the competencies could be proven in various ways, including a predetermined score on an advanced placement test, concurrent enrollment in a community college or similar program, an

industry certificate, and scores on the ACT or SAT in the areas of English or math.

Explaining that Lewis-Palmer students generally take a more rigorous set of classes than required by the state, Benton asked committee members whether they would suggest any further competencies to improve the students' foundation for life after high school.

For example, although the state does not require competency in a foreign language, 70 percent of district students take at least one year of foreign language. Students also exceed the state requirement in math (four instead of two credits), science (four instead of two credits) and English (four instead of three credits).

Committee members made the following suggestions:

- Instead of requiring 1.5 physical education credits, students who participate in sports should get credit for that participation. Another member