

students would soon be able to come to board meetings and acknowledged a Boy Scout in the audience. He praised Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wange-man and her staff for receiving an award for financial reporting and praised the Lewis-Palmer boys basketball team for reaching the finals in the state championship and behaving with class. He wished Monument Academy Lis Richard best of luck in her new job. He encouraged community members to attend public meetings about long-range planning for growth in the district. See Our Community Calendar on page 28.

Board President Hawkins said that she had attended a robotics meeting at the middle school and several other district events and agreed that the behavior of Lewis-Palmer students is always to be commended. She said that the Lewis-Palmer High School band had just returned from an event in Indianapolis, and the Palmer Ridge choir was about to attend an event at a theme park. Regarding the atmosphere at recent meetings, she said that a few people are causing disruptions and urged all to act with dignity and respect. She encouraged those who are dissatisfied to contact board members directly and individually and ask questions to resolve disagreements.

Sampayo spoke of visits to various district events, including participating in International Day at Monument Academy and reading at Bear Creek Elementary. Regarding recent controversy, she said that people are too quick to judge one another and the district has the three things needed for an outstanding district: quality teachers, supportive parents, and eager students. She commented that the people singled out at February's meeting were falsely accused and were her vocal supporters.

She suggested that following Robert's Rules of Order would eliminate the possibility that some speakers would be given more time to speak or other advantages. She asked that Pfoff's alleged false statements be retracted and that the current pattern of behavior end. Tolerance and inclusion should be stressed and the freedom of speech should be foremost above political reasons.

Sampayo said that the duty of elected officials should not always be to protect the status quo and that the best work would be done while practicing tolerance and patience and including freedom of thought, speech, and religion. The federal government's national standards, assessments, and data collection erode the freedom of parents to train their children according to their own values, she said.

**Superintendent update**  
Superintendent Karen Brofft also praised the achievements of the Lewis-Palmer basketball team and especially their team spirit. She announced that Monument Academy Principal Lis Richards has been hired as the new superintendent in Creede

and thanked her for her service to the district.

The open enrollment period has just closed and Brofft listed the number of student requests for each school. There were 22 requests for entry to Prairie Winds Elementary, but that school is closed to new students due to lack of space. Brofft said that the policy is to give priority to residential students over those wishing to enter the district or go to other than their neighborhood school. She said that as the student population grows, the district will be able to accept fewer new students from outside the area.

Brofft reported that there have been questions about a new tool for post-secondary planning called Naviance. This tool involves the use of questionnaires to help students plan for college. Parents may ask that their students not participate in the use of this tool and may come to the administration building to view the question-


naires. Parents should also be aware that there are links in the tool that enable students to learn of scholarship opportunities at colleges, and these links may ask for personal information.

**School recognitions**  
Brofft congratulated Bear Creek Elementary and Palmer Ridge

High School for receiving John Irwin School of Excellence

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