

Pfoff commented that some statements about student privacy are overstated. For example, the district opted out of participation in the Healthy Kids survey. This was a district decision and an example of local control of access to student data. He also said that it is not true that biometrics are used in the district.

Superintendent update

Superintendent Karen Brofft reported that Monument Academy wishes to renew its contract with the district. Treasurer John Magerko will be meeting with representatives of the academy monthly to develop a new contract for board approval.

Brofft also said that 50 students attended the Convocation earlier in the week. These students, some of whom had previously graduated from district schools, told the teachers and administrators what they valued most about attending Lewis-Palmer schools.

Brofft reported that superintendents from throughout the state are meeting to discuss such issues as unfunded mandates, local control, and privacy issues. The group is creating a list of costs of unfunded mandates. Monitoring the changes in graduation requirements is also a costly activity.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported that the previous estimates of enrollment will be exceeded. Additional staff has been hired to accommodate the growth in student population.

Wangeman also listed summer projects undertaken throughout the district. The new buses have not yet been delivered. Replacement of library windows in Palmer Lake will begin shortly.

AP update

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton reported that 1,183 AP tests were administered to 677 students last spring. Seventy-six percent of the students scored proficient in college level studies. The exams encompassed 25 subject areas. LP students generally score a point higher than average in the state.

Benton also reported that district students outscored themselves on the ACT test, improving by a whole point over the previous year. She said that administration of a practice ACT seems to have made the difference.

Brofft also reported on a new policy regarding assessments, which would make the use of pencil and paper an option in test administration. Parents and guardians may also request an exemption from assessments, and assessments could be offered when they fit in best with a district’s calendar. No college or career assessments would be administered to sophomores or juniors.

IT update

Director of Instructional and Informational Technology Elizabeth Walhof reported that data privacy is a major concert in the IT community, with over 120 new laws proposed. She said that it is critical that staff or student data not be personally identifiable.

Walhof also said that policies regarding communication should be directed at keeping students safe. All tools being used should be carefully vetted.

Wangeman said that the district hired a consultant to vet all software contracts.

Paraprofessional update

Director of Exceptional Student Services Mary Anne Fleury reported on developments resulting from a result audit of paraprofessional (para) services. Among the subjects examined were instructional support, safety, and accountability, noting that development of independence and inclusion of students were the goals.

Suggestions included inclusion of paras in staff discussions regarding safety, offering increased training for teachers, increased interaction between paras and teachers, and additional professional development for paras.

Fleury said that many of the paraprofessionals have advanced degrees and choose to work part time. Taking advantage of their expertise is wise, she added.

Policy discussion regarding staff conduct

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster provided a draft of policy GBEB regarding staff conduct. Following an extensive discussion, the board requested that Foster redraft the policy to stipulate a zero tolerance for the use of intentionally offensive language, profanity, and gestures in the classroom and at all school-related events such as sports, music or drama events.



Above: The board awarded the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) a certificate for its support of the district. Left to right are Board President Mark Pfoff, Woodmoor Public Safety Chief Kevin Nielsen, WIA administrator Denise Cagliaro, WIA President Jim Hale, and D-38 Superintendent Karen Brofft. Photo provided by Harriet Halbig

Foster said that volunteers also sign a contract and that this stipulation could be added to it.

Other action items

The board approved a new textbook for Ancient World History. Director of Curriculum Sheila Beving said that this textbook had been reviewed by parents, teachers, and others before being presented to the board. The text involves broad topics such as culture, religion, and agriculture and it is to be used as a reference, not a core text. The course is an elective at the high school level and covers the period between pre-history and 1500.

The board approved an intergovernmental agreement involving district participation in the Nov. 3 election, appointing Vicki Wood as the district’s election official.

The board approved a list of routine matters regarding personnel, finance, and operations.

The next meeting of the Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer District 38 will be on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. in the district’s Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The schedule change is due to a scheduling conflict.

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

BRRTA, Aug. 14

First-half BRRTA tax revenue up 16 percent

By Jim Kendrick

At the Aug. 14 Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) board meeting, BRRTA’s district manager, Elaine Johnsen, who is the funding optimization manager for El Paso County Budget Administration, advised the directors that sales and use tax revenues had increased enough over the first six months of 2015 to reduce concerns about a shortfall for future BRRTA revenue bond debt repayment. Her five-year projected budget shows growing annual budget surpluses starting in 2018.

The BRRTA board consists of two Town of Monument elected officials and three elected El Paso County officials. The current members are Monument Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Kaiser (chair), Monument Mayor Rafael Dominguez, County Commissioner Darryl Glenn, County Commissioner Dennis Hisey, and County Assessor Steve Schleiker. Mayor Dominguez did not attend this meeting.

The county staff members now performing staff tasks for the board are Johnsen, Sales and Use Tax Manager Brian Olson, Finance Manager Nikki Simmons, Sr. Asst. County Attorney Lori Seago, and Asst. County Attorney Kenneth Hodges.

Financial items

Simmons first recommended approval of the BRRTA first-quarter financial report. The March 31, 2015 report was unanimously approved as presented without discussion.

Simmons pointed out that the second-quarter financial report also included a general fund revenue line from the 2015 BRRTA general fund budget that listed \$100,000 for total annual road use fee revenue and a 2015 year-to-date total revenue of \$3,000 that was collected by the Town of Monument for road use fees from Classic Homes and Vantage Homes in early December, before the road use fee was suspended as of Dec. 19, 2014, but this \$3,000 amount was not included in the financial reports until

Meet the Candidates

Lewis-Palmer District 38 School Board

Kris Beasley

- Parent of a HS student; member of Building & District Accountability and Safety & Security Committees.
- Retired Air Force Colonel; proudly serving our nation for 28 years.
- Experienced leader in large organizations in technology & cyber security.
- Believes in academic excellence, fiscal responsibility & developing citizen students; supports STEM.

Matthew Clawson

- Parent of 4 children in the district & current school board member.
- Local, small business owner & Colorado native.
- Former President of Pikes Peak Boy Scouts of America Council. Involved in United Way & the Boys/Girls Clubs of America.
- Believes in advocating for children, increasing fiscal transparency, attracting & retaining the best-qualified teachers.

Sherri Hawkins

- Current LPSD school board secretary with 2 children at PLES and member of Building Accountability.
- Former high school teacher and local coach since 2000.
- Believes in the strong values of the community, community involvement & balanced budgets.
- Wants to produce strong citizens & global leaders.

Mark Pfoff

- Parent of 2 kids in the district.
- Served on the school board for 7 years; currently as president.
- Strengthened reserves while maintaining balanced budget.
- Retired Detective with 17 years in law enforcement.
- Committed to student achievement, safety, data privacy, transparency & balanced budgets.

Different Ideas-Shared Values-Continue the Excellence