

Parent Michael O'Hare spoke about recent articles in the Tribune and OCN on statements made during the February District 38 Board of Education meeting. He stated that everything done was directed toward the school board and superintendent rather than teachers. He stated that as far as he could see, it

has been a very respectful disagreement regarding philosophy and charter school funding.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The Monument Academy usually meets at 6 p.m. on the

second Thursday of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, March 16

Many voice concerns at meeting

By Harriet Halbig

Controversy over meeting behavior continued at the D-38 Board of Education meeting on March 16. Sixteen community members voiced their opinions early in the meeting. Due to the number of individuals who spoke, each was allowed only two minutes to voice their opinions because board policy limits the comments to a total of 30 minutes. Some of their comments were:

Derek Araje said that Mark Pfoff falsely accused him of threatening someone on social media, when in fact he was responding to comments the woman had posted. He said no threats of violence were made and that he intends to continue to hold all accountable for their actions.

Michael O'Hare said he was a victim of a smear campaign by Pfoff, board President Sherri Hawkins, and Treasurer John Magerko and asked for an apology from the board to individuals whose names he said were slandered in the February meeting.

Ivan Anthony and Elissa Brooks spoke in support of Director Sarah Sampayo and were disappointed in what they said was the general lack of tolerance on the board and a lack of public apologies to Sampayo. Brooks emphasized Sampayo's hard work on curriculum and attention to legislation and stressed that attention must once again be devoted to the business of the district. She said the feeling now is that one must align with the liberals in the administration or be ignored or face repercussions

for speaking out.

Terry Ladau said that he is a satisfied customer of the district and that it is producing college-ready students by providing a rigorous curriculum including foreign languages, science, and math to prepare them to understand people from all over the world. Wendy Ladau concurred that her children are receiving an excellent education and said there will always be disagreements but attention must be focused on education.

Cheryl Darnell also expressed support of the board but is disappointed at what she said was a lack of tolerance for conservative viewpoints, the change in rules on public speaking at this meeting, and inappropriate conduct by some administrators at the February meeting.

Terry Miller praised the district and regretted the fact that opinions are classified as liberal or conservative and that the district is being assaulted by a small group making caustic remarks. Teacher Susan Odenbaugh and a group of staff members from Lewis-Palmer High School expressed their support of the board and superintendent and regretted that students could not attend board meetings.

Heather Jacobson, who spoke in February in praise of Path 2 Empathy, said that she loves the district and the quality of education her children are receiving. However, she said that as a result of her public comments she has received accusations of being part of a smear campaign.

Tammy John was disappointed in the letter admin-

istrators presented at Feb. 16 meeting and the way children's photos and personally identifiable information were being shared with testing companies.

Tammie Oatney, who moved here a few years ago from Florida, praised Principal Jenny Day, and thanked the district for its Path 2 Empathy program, explaining that it has helped her children recover from past bullying.

Amy McKenzie referenced a board policy that says it is important to engage with parents and the community, pointing out that a limited time allotted for comment and no board response does not fulfill this requirement and the environment discourages parents from speaking up. She requested that the board reinstate community coffees so that dialog on "our common goal, our children" could resume.

Jackie Burhans referred to the ad in *Our Community News* signed by "D38 Community," saying that she had heard from individuals whose names appeared without their permission and that she does not consider herself to be represented by the group and wanted to know specifically who placed the ad since she could not find a "D38 Community" online.

James Howald referred to state statute and board policy against running for the board as a member of a political party and that the board should not be used as a vehicle to forward the opinions of a particular party rather than the needs of the district. He referred to emails soliciting names for the OCN ad with no reference to education but only to conservatism.

Teacher Phyllis Robinette thanked teachers for being connected to the community by making donations to Tri-Lakes Cares.

Board comments followed a similar tone. Treasurer Magerko spoke of being accused of being part of a group to orchestrate the previous month's comments and of falsely accusing Sampayo. He said that board members can only speak as individuals and administration members were only calling for civil discussion. He said all board members have detractors and that individuals should seek a more productive outlet to their energy by volunteering for a committee or in a school.

Board Secretary Mark Pfoff said that he has much to be thankful for to this district and its role in his children's education. He said that he did call out people by name at the February meeting and chose his words carefully. His hope was to "knock off" the bullying atmosphere at meetings. He asked for an end to attacks between individuals on social media and at meetings. He also stressed that individual board members can say what they wish, but there should be respect and that the board is wasting time on this controversy.

Vice President Matthew Clawson said that he hoped

WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY



Where: Tri Lakes United Methodist Church
20256 Hunting Downs Way
Monument, CO



Neighborhood Leadership Wildfire Summit

May 6, 2017

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD READY FOR WILDFIRE?

Join neighborhood leaders from throughout El Paso County working to create more Firewise Communities. Share success stories and learn how your area can improve on its wildfire preparedness. Representatives from any homeowner or community organizations are welcome to attend the free workshop.

Sign up at www.epcwildfire.eventzilla.net prior to May 4th. Space is limited, register soon!

Tri Lakes United Methodist Church will provide meeting room, meal and snacks.



PEOPLE PROJECTS PURPOSE

#WildfirePrepDay
www.WildfirePrepDay.org

NFFPA and State Farm are pleased to support the 2017 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day campaign, but have not assessed or evaluated any of the community projects, activities or initiatives. Recognition of any kind in no way implies endorsement or approval of a project, its safety or effectiveness, and the supporters disclaim all liability in connection with any such project, activity or initiative.

Sponsored by 



53rd Annual

Spring Show & Sale

Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild

May 4 – 7, 2017

Thu-Sat 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Black Forest Community Center
(Black Forest Road just north of Shoup Road)

Admission is Free.

More than 90 artisan and culinary members will sell their work. Included will be quilts & afghans, baby items, paintings, pottery, jewelry, woodworking, stained glass, dolls, stitchery, note cards, baked goods, jams & jellies and much more.





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