

vision of the 2017-18 school calendar that changed the last day of school to Thursday, May 17, as a full day with regular dismissal. Friday, May 18 will not be a teacher work day and checkout day. The board also noted that the calendar has built in extended weekends and Thanksgiving, giving kids and teachers a much-needed break.

### Board member changes

Board member Scott Saunders recognized outgoing board President Camarco, noting that she worked on refinancing the bonds in 2014, was involved in contract negotiations with the Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD) in 2015, and went to Capitol Hill to testify on behalf of charter schools. Camarco noted that having a great administration made her job on the board easier. Board member Gifford, who was absent, also reached the end of his term. Camarco then administered the oath of office for new board members, Mark McWilliams and Mike Molsen, who will begin their three-year term on July 1.

### Other highlights

- Executive Director Don Griffin highlighted that MA's high school application has been sent to Lewis-Palmer School District Superintendent Karen Brofft, Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman, and Dr. Lori Benton for review and recommendations. The formal review window will be in the fall.
- Treasurer Patrick Hall noted a net income loss for May of \$19,970 but said that they would be able to add six figures to the bottom line of the budget despite giving teachers raises thanks to Director of Finance Nancy Tive.
- Principal and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Elizabeth Davis reported that this time of year is used



**Above:** From left are MA board members Scott Saunders, Sonya Camarco, Julie Galusky, Matt Dunston, and Patrick Hall. Camarco, outgoing MA School Board president, displays her certificate of appreciation along with members of the board. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

for planning and reflection. She said she would look at training teachers in the appropriate use of technology in the classroom based on the indicators from the School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC) report about iPads.

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 20 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 [www.monumentacademy.net/school-board](http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board).

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### Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 20

## Board approves district budget and new or revised policies

By Harriet Halbig

The D-38 Board of Education approved a district budget, which includes an unanticipated boost of nearly \$1 million, and a list of new or revised school policies at its June 20 meeting.

### Budget presentation

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman said the proposed district budget for the 2017-18 school year is balanced and meets all TABOR and other legal requirements.

Due to an unexpected infusion of nearly \$1 million from the state, the board was asked to consider applying the funds to teacher compensation, maintenance projects that had been deferred due to lack of funding, or additional classroom space, or to be saved for construction of new schools in the future.

Wangeman cautioned that such revenue was unlikely to recur.

Goals for the coming year include site-based budgeting, allowing principals and staff to determine use of funds, maintenance of class size and teacher workloads, completion of the long-term planning process, and incorporation of increased alternative learning opportunities at the secondary level.

The per-pupil funding for the coming year is expected to increase by \$231, and 219 new students are anticipated. Wangeman suggested that expenditure of these additional funds should be deferred until after the October student count.

Wangeman explained that state funding includes money for special-needs students, English Language Learners, vocational programs, and such fees as pre-school and extended-day kindergarten tuition, rental of facilities, and other fees.

Asked about the step system of salary increases, Wangeman said that the district tries to keep salaries in line with those of nearby districts. Salary increases are not equal across the board as employees at the entry level often receive a higher percentage to remain competitive. Health insurance is considered to be part of an employee's compensation.

Superintendent Karen Brofft commented that the administration is considering the same percentage of increase for all employees and to compensate those employees whose salaries had been frozen. These options are under discussion.

Vice President Matthew Clawson asked if there were particular concerns about the use of the budget, Wangeman responded that the many maintenance projects that had been deferred should receive prior-

ity.

The board voted to approve the budget. Treasurer John Magerko reminded the board that the budget is constantly under review and may be amended during the year.

### Policies get OK

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster presented a list of policies recommended for adoption by the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB). These included policies involving safe schools, sexual abuse and assault, accident reporting, security access to facilities, and video surveillance.

Foster reminded the board that many of these policies are part of a manual presented to staff and students at the start of the school year and therefore should be passed immediately.

The board approved the policies with the understanding that they may be later amended.

Foster then introduced policies that CASB recommended be amended immediately. These included policies regarding staff conduct and staff/student interaction.

Policy GBEB involves staff conduct. Board Secretary Mark Pfoff expressed concern that this policy is not being followed, especially regarding profanity at sports events. He said that he is familiar with the policy but disappointed that it is not being enforced. He requested that this subject be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

Policy ADD regarding safe schools requires that the district develop training to prevent sexual abuse and assault. Community member Melinda Zark requested early in the meeting that such training be videotaped so that parents may view it. She requested that only the presenter be recorded and that parents be given two weeks' notice of such training and be allowed to attend. Vice President Matthew Clawson agreed that this was a good suggestion but suggested that the viewing of the video should take place in a school environment rather than online.

Director Sarah Sampayo requested that policy IC/ICA be amended to include passing periods and PE time in staff contact time. Foster agreed, and the amendment was approved.

The board approved these policies.

Policy JICJ addresses the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices by students. It states that such devices may be used for learning in class if approved by the teacher. They should otherwise be in silent mode and put away. The policy also prohibits

the use of any device with camera or video capability in locker rooms, bathrooms, or anywhere where privacy is expected. Devices may be confiscated and not returned until the parent of the owner attends a conference with the teacher. The policy was temporarily approved and will be discussed at the August meeting.

Foster explained a revision in Policy GBGH that involves the use of the district's sick-leave bank and allows its use for up to two days of bereavement leave. This revision was approved.

### Community recognitions

Founder Susan Pappas and student leaders of the group RAD (Real Alternatives to Drugs and Drinking) spoke of their program, co-sponsored by the YMCA, which offers a gathering place for teens on Fridays between 8:30 and 11:30 p.m. The program was founded after an automobile accident killed several Palmer Ridge students, some of whom had been drinking.

The students accompanying Pappas said that many of the activities, including a graduation party and several competitions, have been popular, and the attendance at the weekly events has been steady and encouraging.

Students from Palmer, Discovery Canyon, and Air Academy High Schools have also attended the evenings, and there are plans to expand to other YMCA locations.

The program will continue throughout the summer.

Brofft introduced Elizabeth Davis, the new school administrator at Monument Academy. Davis has diverse experience, including founding a charter school in District 20, serving on a legislative task force for online education, and as a consultant to the Colorado Charter School Institute where she reviewed charter school applications. Her education includes degrees in political science, licensure as a principal, and a doctorate in education in leadership for education

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