

District partnerships with such entities as Monument Hill Kiwanis, local first responders, the Tri-Lakes Chamber, and others were also mentioned.

Regarding enrollment, Brofft said the district has hired six additional teachers and has experienced an increase in enrollment of students with exceptional needs. The numbers for that demographic will be determined on Dec. 1 (the count for the general population was made on Oct. 3).

Brofft said that Lewis-Palmer Middle School and Monument Academy are both at capacity at the middle school level. Some spaces at the middle school have been converted to classrooms.

If this year's bond fails, there will be repercussions next year to accommodate the enlarged population.

Brofft stressed that the district is required by law to offer preschool services for at-risk and special needs students but can restrict the number of students paying tuition. For this reason, classrooms currently used for preschool cannot be repurposed.

Regarding the election, Brofft said that the results would be certified two weeks after Election Day, Nov. 6. If the bond passes, construction of a new elementary school could begin in early December, with a planned opening in August 2019.

Asked about potential boundary changes, Brofft said that such decisions depend upon the extent and location of new construction in the district.

Board of Education liaison Tiffiney Upchurch reported that passage of Amendment 73, which would yield the district an additional \$9 million annually through tax increases on corporations and citizens paying taxes on \$150,000 or more (see related Board of Education article at <https://www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#d38board>), could allow increases in teacher salaries, keep class sizes down, and allow completion of

deferred maintenance.

Upchurch said that this year's new hires are from all over the country, demonstrating the attraction of the district.

Upchurch will serve as the district's delegate to the Colorado Association of School Boards conference.

Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates said funding for security in the bond involves physical upgrades such as entrance changes, cameras, and similar improvements. Funding in the mill levy override (MLO) would be applied to salaries for such personnel as counselors and resource officers. He said the Sheriff's Office no longer funds a position for a resource officer.

Coates also acknowledged the importance of keeping parents notified of security breaches in the district on a timely basis, stressing that the priority would always be to bring order before notifying parents.

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster explained changes in the staff evaluation process, saying that the number of standards to be considered has been decreased, simplifying the process.

He also discussed the calendar for the 2019-20 school year, explaining that the process of building a new school could cause changes in the calendar if the school is not completed in time for the opening of the year.

Co-chair Deborah Goth explained the DAAC meeting schedule for this year, saying the November meeting is being postponed to occur after certification of the election results.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets six times a year. Locations vary. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 27 in the library

of Palmer Lake Elementary School, 115 Upper Glenway in Palmer Lake.

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

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Monument Academy School Board, Oct. 10

Board hears about increased counseling, agreement with D38 on bond use

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Oct. 10 to hear about increased use of counseling services, a preliminary agreement with School District 38 (D38) on use of bond funds to build a gym or auditorium, the 2018 audit, and to discuss a board policy of notifying parents of criminal conduct by a school employee.

Increased use of counseling

Principal Elizabeth Davis noted that since the beginning of the school year, MA has seen a significant increase in the counseling services that are being provided. They have been able to increase capacity by hiring one additional counselor and leveraging an almost full-time intern student from the University

of Colorado at Colorado Springs counseling department.

Davis said that MA has been able to do positive things with counseling and socio-emotional learning by reaching into the elementary level. Administrative staff visit classrooms to guide and work with kids around the character traits each month. The counseling is not one-to-one therapy but is triage, managing school behavior, and teaching kids how to be good friends, to handle conflict in healthy ways, and to



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