

- 1528 - Homebound Instruction Policy (new) - MA previously used D38 guidelines but wanted its own policy. Homebound Instruction is for a student with a medical illness, surgery, or trauma who cannot come to school. Guidelines are designed to help students meet their requirements. MA must pay for a tutor under state law and wants to make sure an adult is present at home, or tutoring happens at a public location. This policy only covers core courses, and a quarterly evaluation with an estimated return date is required.

Board policies can be read at <http://bit.ly/ma-bd-policies>.

**Other highlights**

- Board elections will be scheduled for May; two people have expressed interest.
- In April the board will do a self-assessment survey.

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 12 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The MA School Board 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](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

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*District Accountability Advisory Committee, March 13*

# Special security briefing, updates on Gifted Education Leadership Team

By Harriet Halbig

The District Accountability Advisory Committee of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 held a special presentation on district safety and security in addition to regular reports at its March 13 meeting at Bear Creek Elementary School.

Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates and Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman briefed the committee about safety measures being considered by the district due to heightened concern caused by a recent school shooting in Florida.

Coates and Wangeman addressed concerns about mental health care for troubled youths in El Paso County and the need for additional social workers and counselors in the schools. Due to lack of funding for the hiring of such specialists, the district will concentrate on physical safeguards.

A goal of the Safety and Security department is to have one armed security individual at each elementary school, two at the middle school, and three at each high school. These individuals would have no classroom responsibilities. A current request is being made to upgrade three secondary campus supervisor positions to armed security and add two more armed campus supervisors.

Cameras and intercoms are also needed in many locations. Cameras at the middle school, the high schools, and Kilmer Elementary are funded with carryover funds from last year. No funding is available for cameras at other elementaries.

Other physical precautions would include construction of security vestibules at all locations, and 3M film for windows near entrances to make breaking glass more difficult. Funding for these precautions is not available.

Coates said that fixed metal detectors are impractical because they would slow the process of entering

a school and would require staff to deal with anyone found to be carrying dangerous items. Instead, he suggested the use of dogs trained to sniff out odors connected with firearms. These dogs could sweep through a building several times a day. He recommended one for each secondary school. They could also be used at special events.

Other suggestions were increased exterior lighting around schools, keeping vehicles farther from schools, new fire alarms, and improved event security.

Also mentioned was a Watchdog program of community volunteers who would be available on playgrounds and around the buses at the beginning and end of the day to watch for such things as strangers nearby and unlocked or open doors or windows. These individuals would not have a supervisory role, but simply provide an extra set of eyes. This program is being tested at Palmer Lake Elementary.

Another suggestion is to have each student issued a badge to be scanned as they enter their school. Students found to be dangerous can have their badge deactivated so they are denied access.

Committee Co-chair Anne-Marie Hasstedt encouraged committee members to attend the community engagement event on the subject on April 16 at Lewis-Palmer High School.

**Campus introduction**

Bear Creek Principal Peggy Parsley provided information on her school and its history. The current population is 959 for grades K through 6. There are also preschool classes in the building and before and after school care are provided.

## Update on Fuel International Puerto Rico Project Relief



The first Fuel International team to help Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria focused on a small church, Iglesia de Dios MB in Ponce that lost its entire roof and pretty much everything inside the church March 9-17. So far, we have raised \$5,407 of the estimated \$12,000 to complete several projects including cleaning, painting, building a sidewalk, and constructing a new roof. Special thanks to Wesley Owens Coffee; Full Circle Tile & Stone, LLC; Freedom School of Martial Arts; JJ Tracks Auto & Tire Service; Bertrand Accounting; Hogan Mechanical, Inc; RE/MAX Properties (Rick Van Wieren); State Farm (Matt Inama); Joy on the Rock Church; Fuel Church; Eagles Nest Church (Grand Rapids, MI); Gosen de la iglesia Ponce (PR); and several individuals who donated toward Puerto Rico Project Relief 2018! You can check out photos on the Fuel International Facebook page and still donate at [www.fuel.org](http://www.fuel.org). Local team members were Pastor Dan Crosby, Maria Crosby, Alyzsa Crosby, Pastor Jim McMillian, Scott Andrews, and Anne Andrews, as well as Shelly Carter-Peck from Washington. Thank you for helping us make a difference!



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