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with a potential bond issue on the November ballot, the district needs specific information on costs to know what to ask for.

Another member expressed concern about liability for employees who are carrying firearms. Wangeman said that such insurance is already provided.

Wangeman said that at the D-38 Deliberates meeting on April 16, many attendees wished to stress mental health resources by hiring counselors over physical security measures.

A member asked whether the teacher shortage could be addressed by offering an incentive program for those who would teach here. Wangeman responded that the federal program that offers such incentives is valid only in schools with a high at-risk population, and only Palmer Lake Elementary School qualifies in this district.

Regarding plans for future ballot initiatives, Wangeman said that CRP Architects has been chosen to build a new school near Bear Creek Elementary. Seven firms were considered. Representatives from schools met with principals of CRP and talked about what they want and need, deferred maintenance, and ensuring that the funding requested would last for the long term. Maintenance needs of existing schools would be addressed as part of the bond in addition to new construction. See Board of Education article on page 1.

The design committee for the new school would include Principal Peggy Parsley of Bear Creek Elementary, as she best knows the area.

Wangeman said that the primary concern is to come up with a proposal that voters would support.

Hasstedt asked how DAAC could help in support of the bond issue. She suggested a DAAC subcommittee and said that there was a sign-up sheet in the room for those who wished to volunteer.

Communications update

Public Information Officer Julie Stephen reported on activities in her department, explaining the various avenues for disseminating information within the district through the website, Infinite Campus, and social media.

She explained that the department also gets the word out through television (district students perform the Pledge of Allegiance on Fox 21) and newspapers such as the *Tribune*, *Our Community News*,

and the *Gazette*, and also produces printed materials for military families relocating to the area and sends postcards to those who have purchased a house in the district.

To emphasize the district brand, there are banners, brochures, calendars, and other means of keeping the district in view of the public.

Stephen also mentioned a new resource called peachjar.com that shows e-flyers to district residents through the district website. The flyers can be printed or forwarded and include those from the district and offerings from outside sources that may be of interest to the district.

Stephen stressed that the most reliable source of information about closures and other matters is the district website, lewispalmer.org., and that it is critical for parents to update their contact information so that they may be contacted in an emergency.

School reports

Representatives from each school gave a brief report on activities and challenges during the past year.

High schools said that parking and security were concerns.

The middle school reported on the partnership with the Tri-Lakes Y, which allows seventh-graders free transportation to and from the facility after school.

Michelle Glover, the representative from Bear Creek Elementary, expressed concern that parents do not know what to expect as a result of the facilities planning process. She said that building only one school to address increased enrollment is a "band-aid" that will not solve the problem in the long term. She was disappointed that no members of the board were present to hear concerns.

Other elementaries reported on character education and successful strategies for growth resulting in the awarding of the Inez Lewis Award (recognizing 10 percentage points of improvement) to Palmer Lake Elementary and Lewis-Palmer Elementary, and the introduction of a trauma-based curriculum at Prairie Winds Elementary.

A representative from Monument Academy reported that its main focus this year is the building of a new high school.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee of Lewis-Palmer D-38 meets five times a year. Locations vary. This was the final meeting of the 2017-18 school year.

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

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONUMENT

Small Town **ART HOP**

Thursday, May 17

The **third Thursday** of each month, May through September, the galleries, restaurants and boutiques of historic downtown Monument stay open until 8 PM for a celebration featuring art openings, book signings, great food, live music, and other adult-oriented special events.

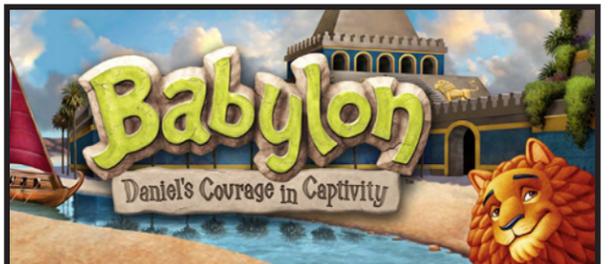


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