

plained the requirements for a co-chair according to state bylaws. DAAC is a state-chartered body. State statute requires that a co-chair must be a parent of a district student and may not be an employee of the district (including substitutes). Hasstedt said that current Co-chair Deb Goth was appointed last year because the elected co-chair had to move from the district unexpectedly and Goth's children attended district schools but have now graduated. She was approached for the office due to her many years of activity in various capacities in the district.

Susan Hunter-Smith was elected as the new co-chair.

Hasstedt thanked all individuals who volunteered for consideration and encouraged them to remain active in the group.

**Annual budget review**

Administration liaison Cheryl Wangeman presented a budget review for the committee.

School funding forecasts estimate an increase in per pupil revenue for the coming year due to a one-time infusion of funds from the state. As always, K-12 education, roads, and the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) are vying for limited funds.

Wangeman explained the various sources of estimates for future enrollment. Three estimates are currently under consideration, from site-based estimates based on current populations and number of students at each grade level, district-level estimates that involved retaining a reserve fund for hiring teachers if needed, and a new source called Metrostudy, which confers directly with developers to learn

of plans for building new homes, their price range, and the likelihood of the homes being purchased by families with children. This information will also help the district to determine the best site for new schools.

Considering these three sources of information, estimated growth in enrollment varies from 59 students at the middle and high school levels to a total of 170 students based on three-year growth trends.

In terms of administrative goals, Wangeman said that teachers' salaries are being adjusted to compensate for those whose salaries were "frozen" during the economic downturn, offering additional stipends for hard-to-fill teacher and medical field positions, and increased cost-of-living adjustments for staff.

Wangeman said the district is seeing a significant teacher shortage because fewer individuals are choosing teaching as a career and that some neighboring states (such as Wyoming) offer much higher compensation.

The district hopes to add teachers, a half-time counselor, a paralegal to do contract reviews and respond to Colorado Open Record Act requests, and a bus mechanic due to the age of the district's fleet.

Among the goals of the school board are to review the placement of pre-school resources (centralized or at various schools), to work on long-term facilities planning, to continue to consider the use of Grace Best, and to add three "gun sniffing" dogs and handlers.

Wangeman also mentioned a significant increase in property insurance costs due to hailstorms and national

weather issues. After considering bids from several sources, the district decided to stay with a pool including other districts.

Wangeman then asked for feedback from committee members.

One committee member expressed concern about PERA and the fact that,

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**LPSD Upcoming Events**

- May 17: Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.
- May 17: Last day of classes for high school students
- May 18: Last day of classes for middle and elementary school students
- May 18: Graduations, Broadmoor World Arena: Palmer Ridge High School 2:30 p.m. Lewis-Palmer High School 5:30 p.m
- May 28: Memorial Day – District Closed



**Lewis-Palmer School District #38 Teacher Spotlight: Virginia Monroe**

Virginia Monroe, a language arts teacher in Lewis-Palmer School District #38 for 29 years, is ending her career. She began her time at Lewis-Palmer Middle School in 1993. Monroe believes that learning is a process and realizes that it can be hard work for her students. She is not convinced that spell check is really a service to learners but is, in general, encouraged to see the increased use of technology in the classroom.

Virginia, the coach of speech teams for over 25 years, claims this area as her passion believing that public speaking is the cornerstone of a student's career. Four times a year she has the students in her classes perform a 2 - 5 minute presentation to their peers. Her speech teams include approximately 54 kids, and they compete four times a year in one of 12 different areas. She also works with the sixth grade students preparing them for an in-district tournament which helps them prepare for middle school.

When not working with students, Virginia is a champion pool player; she competed in a tournament in Las Vegas. She loves traveling and is looking forward to a Mediterranean cruise. With her pending retirement, she is also excited about spending more time with her family who live in the Colorado Springs area, especially her two grandsons.



**Adapted Physical Education Swim Program makes a big splash**

Lewis-Palmer School District #38 special needs students receive swim lessons at Safe Splash Swim School in Colorado Springs because of the generous grant funding from the Tri-Lakes Women's Club and the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. These two clubs have supported D38's Adapted PE swim program for many years. Without funding, this activity would not be available to D38 students.



LPSD is very appreciative of this funding that supports the Adapted PE program. Kristy Dorsey, special education teacher at Palmer Lake Elementary, says, "Adapted PE has made an amazing impact on my students not only in endurance and physical/motor skills, but also in developing higher self-esteem, furthering socialization skills, and learning good sportsmanship. Additionally, the program increases attention span and promotes on task-based behavior. These are all skills that benefit special education students both in and outside the classroom. Lastly, Adapted PE is impactful and powerful because it aids in the development of the 'whole' child since it encompasses all three learning domains of cognitive, physical, and social/emotional. This is critical for all students and absolutely essential in providing a high quality education for a special needs student." Julie Race, special education teacher at Prairie Winds Elementary, thanks

Dena Sikole, Adapted PE teacher coordinating the swim program for D38, "for supporting the autism program by providing the opportunity to work on a life skill, swimming. Our students can go out into the community, where we are able to generalize many language skills that are taught in the STAR (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research) program at Prairie Winds Elementary. Students focus on listening to adults and waiting their turns. They are also given the opportunity to learn swimming skills in a safe setting, so they feel more comfortable in the water."

Thank you to the Tri-Lakes Women's Club and the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club for your continued support of this program as it continues impacting our students in significant and meaningful ways.