

LETTERS (Cont. from 18)

proposed bond, you will vote for constructing and equipping a new elementary school in the Jackson Creek subdivision. Due to the growing population, overcrowding in schools is the single issue for this bond election. The need to expand school facilities has increased. A bond for a new elementary school will enable District 38 to continue to maintain its high levels of educational programming. District 38 has long been known for its pursuit of excellence in serving students and community in safe and aesthetically pleasing facilities which also utilize form that enhances student curiosity, engaging activities, and intellectually stimulating curriculum and instruction. As patrons and voters in this community, we have an opportunity, if not a civic duty, to future generations to support this pursuit of excellence. Please join me and vote yes on Question 4A for the construction and equipping of a new elementary school in Jackson Creek.

Dwight (Ted) Bauman

*Superintendent of Schools, retired
Lewis-Palmer School District 38*

**On teacher compensation and
Bond Issue 4A**

To address a concern raised by the community, I am

writing about teacher compensation in relation to voting yes on 4A, the bond to open a new elementary school in Jackson Creek and reopen Creekside Middle School. Yes, it is correct that a bond does not address the issue of competitive teacher compensation in D38. That issue resulted from dropping funding at the state level and can only be solved locally through a mill levy override, which is not in front of us right now. Teachers in D38 know they can make more in neighboring districts but also know this to be true: We're not demanding more compensation at this time. What we want is two middle schools, to properly utilize the building now called Bear Creek Elementary, to properly utilize Lewis-Palmer Middle School, and to return to the 6-8 grade middle school model. So, if you truly want to support teachers as claimed in every other editorial, then vote "yes" on 4A.

Tim Bergmann
LPMS teacher

LPSD 38 needs Matthew Clawson

We strongly support Matthew Clawson's re-election to the Lewis-Palmer School District 38 school board due to his conservative and principled leadership, great support for students and teachers, perspective on advancing the district, and his work to move the district forward in accommodating needs created by growth in the Tri-Lakes area.

He is vested in maintaining our schools at the

high levels of performance they currently enjoy. As a Monument resident for the past 10 years and a D-38 parent himself, Matt personally knows the value of our excellent LPSD schools and is committed to working with all stakeholders to continue the district's stellar legacy. His integrity, work ethic, and legal background present a perfect skill set for ensuring the district gets its bang for our taxpayer dollars.

Since being elected, he has created a balanced budget, prioritized teacher compensation, responded to community input, hired the new superintendent, and championed LPSD through its successes and challenges. Our district needs his continued leadership.

Please join us in voting for Matthew Clawson for LPSD 38 School Board on the November ballot!

Chris and Shyrlene Brooks

Matt Clawson for school board

When we moved to the Springs area 19 years ago, our number one consideration in purchasing a home was the quality of the schools our children would attend, and District 38 was an easy decision. Our children have received a first-rate education due to the outstanding schools and teachers in this district. We believe that to sustain this quality of education there is once more a clear decision—supporting Matt Clawson for school board. As a teacher now myself in the trenches of D38, I have seen firsthand the importance of strong school board leadership who will rise above political acrimony and put students first. Matt Clawson has succeeded very well at this. He is a calm, data-driven, effective, and highly ethical professional, and will provide the leadership necessary to keep our neighborhood schools, charter school, and home-school academy strong. We strongly endorse Matt Clawson as the best candidate for keeping District 38 as a leading light in Colorado education.

Kara and Bill Busath

**The unmeasured costs of an
overcrowded middle school**

When discussing bond issue 4A, it must be noted that not all costs can be measured in dollars. After soliciting responses from teachers, here is a sample of those costs that can't be measured:

- We may have to go to one-way halls by the end of the year for safety. The halls just are not big enough.
- The lines for bathrooms and water fountains are so long that teachers are taking learning time to ensure students meet their basic needs.
- There is not enough room at dismissal. Students have to swim to the other sides of the building to get everything they need. Most exit doors cannot be used due to the modulars.
- There are so many kids that our arts and athletics programs cannot properly serve them all.
- Learning at the middle school directly affects a student's success in high school and beyond. 34-plus kids in a class means, despite best efforts, not every kid will get the attention they need or deserve.
- 18 Lewis-Palmer Middle School staff left at the end of last year. They did not leave with only their expertise but also their knowledge of the community and kids. It takes years to build familiarity—it can't just be replaced. There are already concerns we will experience it again this year if another middle school is not opened in Jackson Creek.

The bottom line is that opposition to the passage of this bond is literally telling students that their education and preparation for life are not important. That their experience in their most formative years is nothing compared to saving money. We are telling kids, "You just aren't worth the cost." If you need to know more, ask a teacher.

Tom Chapman
Lewis-Palmer High School

Vote Matthew Clawson for school board

Our school district is amazing! Last month, Lewis-Palmer School District 38 received another award: Accredited with Distinction by the State of Colorado, which is equivalent to an A-plus performance. This success and others are tied to our community support, parents, and dedicated teachers/staff and team members. It's been my honor to serve our community as board director/president while achieving our goals of creating top-notch student education and managing district resources judiciously. I plan on continuing this tradition of excellence upon re-election by delivering the following:

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REPLACE MATT CLAWSON HISTORY MATTERS

Clawson was elected in November of 2015. He campaigned on the teachers union slate.¹ Union members from as far as Denver descended on area neighborhoods to knock on doors for Matthew Clawson.² The union also gave his slate more than \$11,000 for mailers. They illegally hid the source of those contributions until after the election.³ Clawson was endorsed by Tri-Lakes Democrats,⁴ who praised him on Facebook between Hillary/Bernie posts.

These are highlights from Clawson's 4 years on the Board:

- Accumulated \$50 million in D38 bldg. deferred maintenance⁵
- A (failed) bond asking taxpayers to pay \$66M for a \$36M loan
- A \$1.4 million purchase of "construction documents" to build a school that voters never authorized⁶
- Spent \$1.2 million leasing 5 modulars, some for preschool classes that could have been in other locations, or eliminated⁷
- Continued use of math books with "Common Core" on covers
- Continual praise, raises, and contract extensions for the former superintendent who oversaw all of this in D38

References

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