

three children in District 38 over 15 years. During this time, I have witnessed students receiving an exceptional education. District 38 is a top-performing school district in the state because of committed board members, educators, community members, and families who hold education in the highest regard. The considerable value we place on our children's education reflects who we are as a community. Successful school districts are led by individuals with a selfless commitment of educating our students and preparing them for life. I have been fortunate to know Matt not only as a board member but as a parent. Matt is a devoted father, an accomplished attorney, and a strong youth advocate. Serving on the school board since 2015, Matt has been a sound decision-maker in a complex system. Matt Clawson has a proven track record in which he has been paramount in making sure Lewis-Palmer remains one of the top school districts in Colorado. Our kids and community need Matt's experience as a D38 school board member. I believe Matt will continue to empower school leaders, advocate for teachers, and serve our community while relentlessly supporting our students.

Paula Perconti

D38 student estimates wrong

The D38 School Board seems befuddled on their bad estimates of student numbers for 2019.

The State of Colorado budgets over \$8,100 per student to school districts.

The D38 2019 budget estimate for student enrollment seems higher than actual enrollment by 138 students, as of their data of Sept. 9.

The D38 budget left to our school district with the departure of our old superintendent and chief financial officer seems at this time over \$1 million in shortfall, not just for State of Colorado funding, but also more shortfalls TBD per student funds, from other government sources.

What is very worrisome is that our current D38 School Board seems to not be providing the expected and required oversight to preclude such large errors in student and associated funding.

In fact, it calls into question the fiscal oversight capabilities of every D38 School Board director to successfully do the job they were elected to perform.

Our financial future is at risk from a lack of oversight of current D38 elected directors.

Gordon Reichal

Lewis-Palmer School District and your property taxes

How will property taxes change if District 38 builds a new elementary school? If history is an indicator, taxes will stay about the same. We moved into our home in Woodmoor in 1996 (a new build). Here's what I found with my analysis of our property taxes from 1996-2018:

- Property value increased 89%
- Total property tax increased 7%
- D38 General tax increased 15%
- D38 Bond tax decreased 19%
- Total D38 school tax (Gen plus Bond) increased 2%

Much of the property tax increase was due to the increased fire protection approved by voters in 2017.

During the same time period (1996-2018), District 38 built Prairie Winds Elementary, Creekside Middle, and Palmer Ridge High School. The district also built a bus barn and renovated the administration building.

Property taxes remained low because old bonds are often paid off when new bonds start. As the district grows, there are more property taxes being collected. The sole purpose of the new \$28.985 million bond is to build and equip an elementary school in Jackson Creek on land that the district already owns. The district's reserve funds were used to build the bus barn and update Big Red. Reserve funds will be used to convert Bear Creek Elementary back to a middle school if the voters pass the bond.

There's no denying that our district continues to grow. Pupil count has increased by 552 students since the 2015-16 school year, and 578 new homes were built in 2016 and 2017. Almost 500 vacant lots zoned for homes remain. Schools are crowded, class sizes have grown, and three schools installed portable classrooms over the summer.

Examine your taxes, gather the facts, and vote "yes" for a new elementary school—we can't wait.

Marie Revak, Ph.D.

Vote for change

The conservative community with a liberal board—"How is that working out?" That's what someone

asked me in the halls of the Golden Dome of Denver years ago. Yet many continue to follow the advice of the certain beloved members of our community in choosing our School Board representatives. And the result? A board that makes decisions that don't reflect the values of this community. A board this community is not willing to put its money behind because it can't be trusted. A board that is willing to spend our taxpayer money to hide, subvert, and cover up rather than be transparent and honest about district mistakes and would rather ask us for money than exercise conservative values in its financial decision making. (Modulars are not lawn ornaments, they must have kids in them to justify a bond/MLO!) We learned just having one conservative on the board was not enough—we need three. We thought we did that last election; we now know the kind of representation and decision making we get with Clawson's and Pfoff's picks (local control should not mean controlling the locals!)

It's time for a change. My vote is for Adam Cupp and Ryan Graham. It's a good thing our school board elections are non-partisan, because voting along party lines could get you candidates that don't represent traditional conservative values! I have seen what happens behind closed doors—there is a reason they won't release the tapes. Your only hope is in your vote. It's your choice! Reward this behavior? Or vote for change?

Sarah Sampayo

Former D38 secretary director District 2

MA's new school provides new seats in D38

Monument Academy (MA) is building a secondary school for 800-plus middle school/high school students. This new school will quickly and cost-effectively solve capacity challenges as Phase 1 is complete in 10 months!

MA's two schools will alleviate seating challenges locally. How? With 800-plus new seats, there will be room for hundreds more District 38 students. Further, the added capacity will free up over 300-plus elementary seats at the current MA school.

Here is the math: 300-plus new elementary plus new 500-plus middle/high school seats = 800-plus brand new school seats.

By freeing up 300-plus new elementary seats, local parents who want their children in MA will now have that option. 300-plus new elementary seats also free up elementary seats at other District 38 schools. MA's 800-seat secondary school plus an added 300-plus new elementary seats at the current MA school provide an immediate cost-effective and high-quality education solution.

The cost in new property taxes is zero. Let that sink in. 800-plus new seats and no property tax increase.

The total cost for 4A is \$45 million, including debt and interest. 4A adds only 650 new seats. \$45 million divided by 650 seats = \$70,000/seat. Taxpayers know paying zero in new taxes for 800-plus new seats is a much better deal than \$70,000/seat. Why does District 38 falsely claim their plan is not a tax increase? Of course, \$45 million in new debt (which has a 350% increase in payments starting year 11 and going forward and \$9 million in excessive interest) requires new taxes. 4A reduces the number of elementary seats from 950 down to 650—a 300-seat loss of elementary capacity!

MA's new school continues educational excellence and maintains property values. The 4A bond unnecessarily increases debt/taxes and hurts local businesses, homeowners, working families, and retirees.

Scott R. Saunders

Schwarz announces candidacy

I'm writing you this letter to announce my candidacy for the District 38 Board of Education during this November's election.

After being asked by several members of the community to seek this position, I embarked on face-to-face meetings with: four former D38 superintendents, two D38 high school principals, student body teams from each high school, and dozens of teachers and members of the community. Following this process, I determined that I could make an impact and deliver lasting results in solving some of the challenges D38 faces. This decision was not taken lightly as it is a significant time commitment for a volunteer position.

The bottom line is to keep doing what works well, fix what isn't, and to build and execute a plan that gives the district the capacity to be successful well into the future. As we know the students' success is

our future.

Quality graduates = quality contributors to our community and country.

I am a 27-year Monument resident with two adult children and have been active in community service, youth sports, scouting and the USAFA Cadet Sponsor Program (20-plus years). I have over three decades of corporate experience and have managed large teams with accountability in excess of \$200 million. Building consensus and unity from diverse factions is a skill I can bring to the board. Currently, I'm a leader of a local veterans' nonprofit called VSAV. I plan to use my skills to build teams that get things done and my values of integrity and excellence to help our district generate lasting student success.

I look forward to serving the students of our community so they can become quality citizens of and contributors to our country.

Ron Schwarz

www.ronschwarzd38.com

2019 Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Bond—a "pro" statement

Before the Nov. 5 deadline, registered voters within the bounds of LPSD 38 will have an opportunity to cast a vote "for" or "against" 4A—the LPSD 38 bond. It is a privilege each of us should be grateful for as we seek enough understanding before casting our individual vote. As stated in my previous letters to the editor of OCN, the LPSD 38 Board of Education ("Board") provides construction and bond cost estimates on the LPSD 38 website: <https://www.lewispalmer.org/domain/1470>. Please view it from a critical-thinking perspective as you determine your support for the 2019 bond.

Today, I want to share some personal perspectives gained as I have served as the treasurer of the board during the previous two years. The 2019 bond, which will fund the construction and furnishing of a new elementary school in Jackson Creek, is modeled on fiscally conservative financial principles. As proposed, the 2019 bond will not increase the mill levy on assessed property values and will be paid off in 15 years.

The new elementary school proposed at Jackson Creek was included in the 2001 long-range plan. It should have been approved for construction two years ago, which would have prevented the expense of adding modular units for the current school year. However, there are voices in our community that use highly charged rhetoric to convince voters to not support the public-school system in LPSD 38. As a result, we have overcrowding at the middle school, which places undue constraints and stress on staff, students, and teachers.

Please set aside any personal partisanship as you study the information presented to inform your vote this year. I plead with this community to support its public-school system by voting "for" the 2019 bond. Thanks for your interest!

Chris Taylor

Treasurer, D38 Board of Education

55th Annual Fall
Arts & Crafts Show
 Christmas gifts!
Oct 31 – Nov 3
 Thurs-Sat 9 am-8 pm, Sun 10 am-2 pm
Black Forest Community Center
 (Black Forest Road just north of Shoup Road)
Admission is Free
Fine art, handcrafted & decorative crafts, and culinary delights in a boutique setting!



For more information on show details or member specialties, visit us at bfaccg.org or facebook.com/BFACC