

problems are considered to be disabled, so preventing the facility would go against the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The board agreed that they disapprove only of the location and not of the need for treatment.

The board voted to table the resolution indefinitely. Board Treasurer Chris Taylor voted no.

Next steps for possible bond issue

During its work session, the board discussed whether to place a new bond issue on the 2019 ballot.

Pfoff said that the board had voted at its December meeting to lease modular classrooms and voted to spend money on this. He suggested that the district should use them for a while to demonstrate their

need. Another concern, he said, is that the district is in the process of choosing a new superintendent and three positions on the board will be up for election, causing distractions from a possible campaign.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman said that the portable classrooms are leased on an annual basis, and their installation is the primary expense.

Director Theresa Phillips said that the teachers, staff, and students are now crowded and that delaying the bond issue until 2020 would mean that the earliest there would be a new school is 2021.

Upchurch agreed with Pfoff that there are too many distractions this year and if a second bond failed it would be demoralizing to all involved.

Clawson said that he was concerned about the morale of students. He suggested that members of the board attend staff meetings in the schools to listen to teachers and their concerns. He also expressed concern about the economy, referring to the mill levy overrides that were proposed to build and staff Palmer Ridge High School, when only one of the two succeeded.

Brofft said that the board must be unanimously behind the next bond and that education of the public will need time.

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

Monument Academy School Board, Jan. 10

Board hears plans for assessment season, Saxon math replacement

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Jan. 10 to hear about plans for assessment season, possible replacement of the Saxon math curriculum, and an update on the new school.

Assessment season

Principal Elizabeth Davis reported on assessment season in public schools in general and MA's plans to host a parent night titled "Data & Testing" on Jan. 30 to demystify the topic. Scheduled speakers included Karen Michael, director of Intervention and Literacy and Marty Venticinque, assessment coordinator. Topics included the Colorado Measure of Academic Success, the Northwest Evaluation Association, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and how MA uses the results from these assessments.

Davis noted that there is assessment every day as a result of good instruction that leads into state and national assessments. MA is slated to have selected eighth-graders participate in the NAEP assessments this year. Parents of selected students have been informed and provided with information including their rights with regard to this testing.

For more information, see the respective websites at www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas, www.nwea.org, and <http://bit.ly/naep-assess>.

Saxon math curriculum replacement

Board member Melanie Strop expressed concern about elementary math scores. Davis indicated that MA is looking to see if the current curriculum is serving all of MA's kids. She noted that the curriculum committee had significant concerns and is looking at options other than Saxon that may augment or replace the current curriculum. She noted that MA is seeing more students come in at lower levels of math ability who need more remediation and that Saxon math is oriented toward computation and getting the right answers. However, assessments are looking to

measure math reasoning and while students may get the results correct, they were not talking about how they got those results. Davis thinks that being able to do so is important and it will continue to be part of future assessments.

New school update

Director Don Griffin reported that progress is being made on multiple parallel tracks for the new high school such as financing, infrastructure, etc. MA is looking at bonds and bank loans and plans to close financing in the spring in time for groundbreaking with an August 2020 planned opening. Griffin noted that MA is planning a three-phase project and said discussions with the YMCA do not include an aquatics component in phase 1.

Highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Board members responded to a question by this reporter that they had no idea former board President Scott Saunders planned to place an ad in OCN requesting the district give MA \$2 million toward its new school but would not object to receiving the money.
- Davis reported that MA expects to receive the National Association of Education of Young Children accreditation a half-year in advance of

- the original projections.
- Board President Patrick Hall asked Davis about a report showing counselors had seen a spike in suicide issues. Davis noted that holidays can be hard in contrast to assumptions and that MA had done a number of threat assessments in December.
 - MA opened its second semester with an assembly featuring Reggie Dabs, who was very well received.
 - The board approved the 2019-20 school calendar unanimously, moving fall break away from the student count window, coordinating spring break with parent conferences, and building in a break in April at the end of the testing window. See the calendar at: <http://bit.ly/ma-2019-20>.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 14 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 except for July and December. 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.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education Regular Meeting, Jan. 15

Board recognizes district achievements, hears Monument Academy Annual Operations Report



Above: Pictured from left are teachers Danielle Holmes, Cynthia Eversole, Monica Kaler, Julianne McDaniel, Beth Kenny, Pam Kern, Lewis-Palmer Elementary School Principal Jenny Day, Lewis-Palmer School District Superintendent Karen Brofft, and Lewis-Palmer School District Board President Matt Clawson. Lewis-Palmer Elementary School earned the John Irwin Award and the Inez Lewis Award. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education recognized many of its schools and the district for awards received in the past school year, and the Monument Academy Annual Operations Report was reviewed at the Jan. 15 regular board meeting.

Recognitions

The school district received a number of awards for the previous school year.

Once again, the district was Accredited with Distinction because it achieved 80 percent or more points in all aspects of its Performance Framework, which encompasses academic achievement, academic growth, growth gaps, and post-secondary and workforce readiness.

Lewis-Palmer Elementary School and Prairie

Winds Elementary School were awarded the state John Irwin Award for exceptional academic achievement.

The district's Inez Lewis Award to recognize growth for showing an increase of 10 or more percentile points in English Language or math was awarded to Ray Kilmer Elementary School, Lewis-Palmer Elementary School, Prairie Winds Elementary School, and Lewis-Palmer High School.

Superintendent Karen Brofft also acknowledged National School Board Member Month by thanking the board for its time and effort and presenting gifts from some of the schools.

Monument Academy Annual Operations Report

Executive Director Don Griffin of Monument Acade-

Val Ross-Coy

Broker Associate

(719) 237-8787

val.erashields.com

vcroy@erashields.com

Specializing in Residential Cleaning

Overwhelmed? Want your home spic and span?

Call Stacy today!

(719) 930-2178

www.agiftoftime.us

Weekly • Bi-weekly • Monthly • Move-outs • Move-ins.

Woodmoor Handyman

Remodels • Electrical • Plumbing

No job too small

Call for an estimate today!

(719) 640-5751 (office)

(719) 650-7252 (cell)

1-719-568-2957 (cell)