

Hendrix was awarded special recognition as one of the Advisers of the Year by the Journalism Education Association.

Instrumental music students from Bear Creek Elementary performed patriotic music, and students from Bear Creek Elementary and other schools spoke of their involvement with Kiwanis from grade 4 through high school. The youngest participants are K-Kids, and the high school

group is Key Club.

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The next regular meeting of the Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education will be at 6 p.m. Monday, April 8 at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The date was changed from the 15th due to a scheduling conflict.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

## D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, March 12 Committee discusses budget, growth, proposed bond issue

By Harriet Halbig

The District 38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) discussed the coming year's budget, growth and the proposed bond issue, Unified Improvement Plans (UIP) for individual schools and the district, and crowding at Bear Creek during its March 12 meeting at Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

### Budget discussion

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wageman explained the proposed budget for the 2019-20 school year, referring committee members to the district website ([lewispalmer.org](http://lewispalmer.org)) for details.

She said this year's (2018-19) budget included half the cost of converting Bear Creek Elementary into a middle school. The bond on last year's ballot did not pass, so some of these funds were used toward installation of modular classrooms.

Wageman said the state government is proposing free full-day kindergarten for all. Currently, students attend half-day kindergarten at no cost, and tuition is charged for full-day attendance. Currently, those who attend half days are funded by the state at the rate of 58 percent of full time. If full-day kindergarten is required to be offered, they would be funded as full-time students, but there may be a problem with space.

If full-day kindergarten is required, the district would no longer be allowed to charge tuition for any students.

Wageman explained the process of on-site budgeting, whereby each school determines the use of its funds. The administration decides on the total funding, based on per pupil revenue. The school then apportions the use of those funds as they wish. If there are funds left over, the individual school may carry them over to the next year. This is a new policy to allow more flexibility for schools.

Wageman also explained that there will be increased expenses in the coming year.

- The cost of insurance will rise because this area is at high risk for hailstorms. The district is participating in an insurance pool with other districts.
- Rental of modulares is a new expense.
- Special education costs are rising.
- Curriculum needs to be updated and is behind schedule due to the recession.
- The district plans to fund staff cost increases for such items as health insurance.
- The district plans to fund compensation increases at the rate of inflation.

One question was how the committee could educate the community about the budget. Wageman said that there was recently a good half-page article in the Tri-Lakes Tribune on the subject.

An overarching priority in spending is to spend current revenues on current students.

### Growth and the proposed bond issue

Board of Education liaison Tiffney Upchurch reported on the hiring of new principals for Prairie Winds Elementary and Palmer Ridge High School, saying they would attend the board meeting the following week.

Upchurch summarized board Secretary Mark Pfoff's presentation on planning for district growth and the proposed bond issue. She said halting open enrollment for grades K through 8 is not a long-term solution but necessary to alleviate crowding.

She said Pfoff and board Treasurer Chris Taylor are striving to create a plan

in which the passage of a bond would not increase the tax burden for residential property owners. To do this, the district will pay some of the expenses involved in converting Bear Creek into a middle school. An additional cost savings will be realized by building the new school in a traditional 13-month schedule rather than the previously proposed accelerated schedule. The use of modulares will alleviate overcrowding in the meantime.

Taylor commented that all future reporting about the budget to the board will follow information on the Colorado Department of Education site. In this way the district may monitor its priorities in comparison with other districts.

Taylor also said many people commented that this was a bad year for a bond due to the election of potentially three new board members and hiring of a new superintendent. His response was that current Superintendent Karen Brofft has committed to helping the board with the bond, and the board is now fully committed to its passage.

### Unified Improvement Plans

The committee divided into groups to hear principals report on each UIP. These plans explain in detail the strengths and challenges of each school and plans to improve performance.

Executive Director of Learning Services Lori Benton reported that the entire plans may be viewed online in May at [CDE.state.co.us/schoolview](http://CDE.state.co.us/schoolview).

Regarding the district UIP, Benton said the district continues to be accredited with distinction despite low participation in standardized assessments. Although the district does not meet federal standards for participation, it is not penalized by the state.

Increased professional development is planned to correct deficiencies.

The district continues to stress to parents that participation in assessments is valuable as it can help identify weaknesses at an early stage. Such data are vital.

### Lewis-Palmer Middle School

Principal Seann O'Connor conducted a tour of Lewis-Palmer Middle School before the meeting and answered questions during the meeting. He said that the current population of the school is 894, composed of eight teams, each with four teachers (science, math, language arts, and social studies) and special education teachers.

O'Connor said that the new modular classrooms will allow some spaces, such as a staff lounge and restroom on the second floor, to revert to their original uses.

He explained the complexities of having several lunch periods and organized movement of students during passing periods.

O'Connor was asked several questions about the new modulares. He said that they will most likely be located in the front of the building due to proximity of outside doors. They also would most likely be used for elective classes.

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The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets six times a year. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16 in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument.

### Correction

In the March 2 issue of OCN, it was reported that, of the 661 students who qualify for special education services, 80 are severely disabled and need to be transported to other locations for services. That number should be 8. We regret the error.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).



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## 2019 MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS

★★★★★ One Member. One Vote. Your Voice Matters.

During the Annual Meeting on June 13, 2019, at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument, two directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. (MVEA), Board of Directors from the following districts:

**District 3:** Elbert and surrounding areas to include a portion of the Black Forest (incumbent Errol Hertneky)

**District 5:** Ellicott, Fountain, Falcon and surrounding areas (incumbent Kevin L. Paddock)

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting).

To view a territory map with districts, visit [www.mvea.coop/territory-map](http://www.mvea.coop/territory-map).

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting) for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. Before seeking candidacy, please contact MVEA at (800) 388-9881 to verify your district. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact a member of the committee or the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line. A candidate questionnaire must be received by the committee or submitted via email to [candidate@mvea.coop](mailto:candidate@mvea.coop) by 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2019.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures are available at MVEA's offices or on the Annual Meeting web page listed above. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire must be returned to an MVEA office by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 29, 2019.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. The questionnaire can be found on MVEA's website or you can pick one up at an MVEA office. If you have questions, please contact a member of the nominating committee or contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

**Nominating Committee** .....

**District 3:** Jean Mikita • (719) 347-2509      **District 5:** Dennis Carter • (719) 683-2675

MVEA Board Nomination Information Line

Tel: (719) 494-2528

Email: [candidate@mvea.coop](mailto:candidate@mvea.coop)

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