

while remaining a member of the board. Director Theresa Phillips was confirmed as the new secretary. The board passed a consent agenda.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of the month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting is on May 20.

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

Monument Academy School Board, April 12

Board approves 2019-20 budget

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met briefly on April 12 to discuss and approve the 2019-20 budget. The meeting had been postponed due to a snow day.

Budget

Revenue estimates come from the 2018-19 funded pupil count of 904.98 times a tentative per pupil revenue of \$8,034, according to the Colorado Department of Education website. Additional anticipated revenue per pupil will come from the Charter School Capital Construction Fund (<http://bit.ly/cc-capconstr>). Total

general fund revenue from all sources has increased 3.48 percent from the 2018-19 budget. The total estimated revenue is \$7,921,780.

Overall expenses have also increased by 3.48 percent and include a 3 percent salary increase for all MA employees, the Public Employees Retirement Association, and Medicare costs at a rate of 21.85 percent of salaries, and an anticipated 3 percent increase each for health, property, and other insurance as well as a 2 percent increase for utilities. Total expenses are estimated at \$7,921,780, for a balanced budget.

The motion to approve the budget for 2019-20 was approved unanimously by the board. The budget

summary is posted on the MA website at <http://bit.ly/ma-budget>.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 9 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, committees, 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 District Accountability Advisory Committee, April 16

Committee hears updates on communications, technology, and security

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) heard several end-of-school-year updates on district departments.

Executive Director of Learning Services Lori Benton reported that technology is now part of learning services.

Benton reported that curriculum is replaced in a cycle of five to six years, but the cycle was largely suspended during the recession. The district is now trying to compensate for the lost years and to comply with changing state standards. This year's curriculum updates involve math for grades K to 5, high school chemistry, earth science, science for grades 5 to 8 and the use of science kits for grades K to 3.

The district is also trying to offer more digital access for students and parents.

Benton said the department is using creative problem-solving to overcome funding restraints by reworking the Lewis-Palmer High School and Lewis-Palmer Elementary School libraries for increased use as computer labs and employing older technology for one purpose while purchasing new.

Public Information Officer Julie Stephen reported on her department's relationships with local organizations and media and on updating the website. Stephen emphasized that the district is disseminating information through many sources, such as Facebook, Twitter, email, radio and television, print news, and the website. She said the website always contains the most up-to-date information on closures and delays.

Stephen said it is critical that parents keep their contact information up to date.

She also said that the use of Thoughtexchange as a feedback mechanism has proved very successful. In Thoughtexchange, the district can ask the community for feedback on a single issue. In its first use, patrons were asked why they thought the two financial issues on last year's ballot failed.

Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates reported on accomplishments and goals for his department. He said cameras have been installed in Lewis-Palmer Middle School and Bear Creek Elementary School. The Bear Creek cameras were funded by a grant.

Cameras will be installed in the remainder of the elementary schools in June.

Alarms have been placed on doors and additional security personnel have been hired, increasing the security presence in elementary schools.

Coates said that grants are available through Safe-schools and the Department of Homeland Security,

among other sources. He hopes to fund security vestibules at Prairie Winds Elementary and Bear Creek Elementary with grants from Homeland Security.

Coates also hopes to receive a grant to fund student ID cards, which will be scanned whenever a student enters a building. In this way, a student who has been suspended and other unauthorized individuals cannot gain access.

He reported that the stress on security is supported by the increased use of Safe2Tell, a program that allows students and others to report suspicious activity anonymously. There were 275 reports this school year.

In the future, Coates hopes to have more mental health resources. By hiring individuals with years of law enforcement experience, he is putting people in place who have dealt with others' mental health issues.

Changing traffic patterns around schools due to residential development are a concern, especially near Lewis-Palmer Elementary. School resource officers are allowed to work only in schools and on school property, whereas the traffic problems are off school property. He hopes that the Sheriff's Office will help with this issue.

Board liaison Tiffiney Upchurch reported on legislative activity, including expansion of BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) grants to include technology and new construction, progress of the free full-day kindergarten initiative on its way to the state Senate, and the authority to spend excess tax dollars rather than refund them.

Upchurch then introduced K.C. Somers, the district's new superintendent. Somers thanked the interview teams and the board for their confidence in him. He said he supports and is committed to public schools and that his management style revolves around relationships.

Somers said that he hopes to get to know the community before he takes office on July 1. He will attend various meetings of district committees and community organizations.

Representatives of each school reported on their school's achievements and original activities over the past year.

Nanette Walker-Smith was elected to be co-chair of the committee for the next two years following the retirement of Deb Goth. The committee acknowledged Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman for her contributions over the years and Dara Simington for communicating with committee members and preparing agendas and minutes of meetings.

This was the final DAAC meeting of the 2018-19 school year. Meetings will resume in the fall.

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

Specializing in Residential Cleaning *A Gift of Time*

Overwhelmed?
Want your home spic and span?

Call Stacy today!
(719) 930-2178
www.agiftoftime.us

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



Get help for your teen today!

Depression • Self-Harm
Suicide Prevention • Anxiety
Autism Spectrum • Substances
Behavioral Issues • Grief/Loss
Rebellion • Social Challenges

Alpine Connection Counseling
Text/Call **719-233-TEEN (8336)**
alpineconnectioncounseling.com



Christian T. Hill, MA

FACINELLI MOTORS

\$3 OFF Oil Change
\$10 OFF \$100 Service
Good through 5/31/19.

QUALITY AUTO REPAIR
SUBARU • HONDA • TOYOTA

CALL TODAY 488-6729
Visit us at our
NEW LOCATION!
706 Westward Lane, Palmer Lake
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-6:00 pm
Sat. by appointment



Support Our Community.
Shop Tri-Lakes and Black Forest!

CONCRETE WORK
All types of concrete work
25 Years Experience • Insured
www.sharpestcut.com
Sharpest Cut 719-491-4811