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other. It is important to note that a charter school is no one's home school, and defeating the bond on the basis of this action would hurt the entire district.

Board Treasurer Chris Taylor said the board voted to sell the land with the stipulation that part of it would be given to MA to build a school. The board offered Grace Best to MA to house its new school and MA declined. This was not a sudden decision and it is hard to understand the sudden uproar. We need to improve our communications, he said.

Board President Matthew Clawson agreed that improved communications are necessary and said that he would have liked to hear the comments sooner.

Brofft spoke of the bond information on the district website (lewispalmer.org) and explained the transition from her to the new Superintendent K.C. Somers. She thanked all staff members who were leaving for whatever reason and for the privilege of working here.

The board approved the 2019-20 budget as proposed. The budget may be viewed at <https://www.lewispalmer.org/Page/5230>.

The board passed a resolution to authorize the superintendent to borrow available unencumbered cash balances in the Capital Reserve, Insurance, Building, and Nutritional Service funds to continue projects currently underway. It further authorized that unused funds from this year's budget be carried forward into next year.

Wangeman commented that this is necessary because revenue from taxes is not received until the end of the year and because equipment for the food service must be purchased.

Board Administrative Assistant Kathy Nameika was designated to serve as the district's representative to the county regarding participation in the November election and placing advertising to seek nominees for positions on the board.

Pfaff said he and Taylor would meet during July to work on wording for the bond issue. He said he hoped they could propose wording in August at a work session.

Board Secretary Theresa Phillips stressed that it is essential that the board present a united front on the subject and appear in public forums to support it.

Executive Director of Personnel and Operations Bob Foster presented a first reading of a number of policies involving students in foster care and treatment of public complaints and concerns. These policies were updated due to input from the Colorado Association of School Boards. No action was taken.

The board then discussed the possibility of creating a dashboard of Colorado Open Records Act requests. Foster said that 50 requests have been received this year. He has discussed the concept with legal counsel and was told it was acceptable.

Foster said that some requests can be settled with a brief phone call, while many take an hour or longer. Some requests involve individuals and contracts. There is a form online for submitting requests.

Pfaff said that putting the requests and responses online reinforces the district's transparency, and once a request is made it is public information.

Board President Matthew Clawson asked whether some requests come in repeatedly and perhaps the answers could be put on the website. Foster said that he often finds responses in "boarddocs" and that requests do not tend to repeat.



Above: The board expressed its gratitude to Superintendent Karen Brofft and Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman as they leave the district. Pictured, from left, are Tiffiney Upchurch, Mark Pfoff, Karen Brofft, Matthew Clawson, Cheryl Wangeman, Chris Taylor, and Theresa Phillips. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

Phillips said the dashboard could allow the board to see trends in what people want to know. Pfoff agreed and said that it is also good to know what information is being sent out.

Upchurch said that personal information should be protected and that names should not be included.

Brofft commented that the requests often seek employee information.

Upchurch said she felt it was fine for the board to have the information but not to put it on the website.

Pfaff said people have asked him for this information, and it could counteract misinformation on social media. He suggested that Foster collect the requests, responses, and time involved and bring the information to the August board meeting.

Pfaff, Phillips, and Taylor voted yes, Clawson and Upchurch voted no.

The board discussed changes in the MA contract to include elementary and secondary schools.

Brofft said any objections should have been raised when MA applied to open its high school.

Pfaff commented that nothing in the contract mentions location. The only thing that changed was to include the middle school with the high school.

Wangeman said the contract stipulates that MA can lease, grant, or purchase facilities so long as they comply with state and federal law.

Brofft said the county Planning Commission took a vote rather than remand the question to the district. Since the Planning Commission has voted, there is no going back, she said.

The board approved the contract.

The board also approved the Colorado Academic Standards. Districts have the option of developing their own standards or adopt the state standards every six years.

Pfaff presented outgoing Superintendent Brofft and Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman with framed photos of the board and a commemorative brick from the renovation of Big Red.

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the district's education center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The board does not meet in July. The next regular meeting will be held on Aug. 19.

Harriet Halbig can be contacted at harriethalbig@ocn.me

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 3

Board approves transportation fee hike, budget for modular construction

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education approved fee increases and bus route adjustments for transportation and a budget adjustment to cope with cost overrides on construction of modular classrooms

at its June 3 meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman presented a brief overview of the 2019-20 district budget. Because board Treasurer Chris Taylor was attending by phone, it was agreed to postpone a vote on the budget to the June 10 meeting.

Bus route adjustments, higher fees approved

The board held a lengthy discussion about the need to increase fees and change the route structure for transportation of students. Budgetary restrictions require decreasing the number of bus routes and postponing the purchase of new buses to cover other expenses in the coming year. It is also difficult to find drivers.

Eliminating two to three routes could save the district \$84,000 to \$126,000.



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