

op a partnership with the YMCA as reporting previously. The answer was no.

Board President Chris Taylor asked whether the elementary school would now have room for additional students and still maintain required social distancing.

Herrera responded that an additional fifth-grade class was added this year and potentially there will be room for more next year. There is not currently a waiting list for admission.

#### Online programming update

Chief Academic Officer Lori Benton and Executive Director of Student Services Rick Frampton reported on the status of online learning in the new academic year.

The options for elementary students are part-

time home school and part-time online, part-time in school and part-time online, or full-time online. Somers commented that the demand for full-time online learning was greater than anticipated.

The elementary program has been developed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students are connected to their home school via a weekly session with their grade level peers so that they continue to feel a part of the school. To additionally support social/emotional learning, students also meet regularly with a mentor online.

At the secondary level, the options are part-time homeschool and part-time online, part-time online and part-time in person, or full-time online.

The challenges are the need to reassign staffing, communication between staff and students, and the need for administrative support. Programs for access and email communication are required. At all levels, core subjects are available online except for technology.

Sixth-graders can choose two electives each trimester. Interventions and enrichment programs in math and reading are also available.

At the high school level, students attend class two days a week or full-time online. Core courses are taught by district teachers, and some electives, such as various Advanced Placement courses, are available through a third party.

At the middle school and high school levels, participation is monitored and students who do not participate are contacted privately. Online mentors are also provided.

At present, 322 elementary school students, 171 middle school students, and 373 high school students are participating online.

For further details, please see boarddocs on the website, lewispalmer.org, board of education, meeting agendas.

#### Strategic Plan update

In keeping with the board's goal of aligning actions with the five-year Strategic Plan, Phillips and board Treasurer Ron Schwarz reported on implementation of the goal of providing a safe, healthy, and welcoming school environment.

In discussing the physical environment, Phillips and Schwarz conferred with Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates.

Projects recommended to add to physical safety include the installation of vestibules at all schools, improved public address systems, alarms on all outer doors, the use of film at doors to avoid glass breakage, and upgrade of cameras and radios. Needs vary by location.

Phillips and Schwarz said that in estimating the cost of such improvements, it must be remembered that the lifespan of some devices such as the cameras is limited and should be figured into future budgets.

In answer to a question, Coates said that most of these improvements could be achieved over one summer if the budget were approved.

Regarding comprehensive crisis planning to emergency preparedness, Phillips said that the district has proven this year that this can be done.

Regarding comprehensive health and wellness planning and supports, Phillips said that there should be various disciplinary choices and social and emotional content such as the empathy program previously used at the elementary level.

When asked whether these proposals would be made to the public, Phillips and Schwarz responded that they feel this is premature before other aspects of the Strategic Plan were examined.

Coates also commented that it would be inappropriate to call attention to vulnerabilities in physical locations.

Phillips said that she and board Secretary Tiffney Upchurch could develop a presentation on community relationships for a future meeting.

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The Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education usually meets on the third Monday of each month at its Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Due to a school closure on Oct. 19, the October meeting will be on the 26th. Seating is limited. Those wishing to submit a public comment should contact vwood@lewispalmer.org by noon of the day of the meeting.

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

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