



Above: Representatives of Monument Academy celebrate their receipt of the Inez Lewis Award. They are, from left, Director of Finance Marc Brocklehurst, Middle School Dean Julie Seymour, D38 Board President Matthew Clawson, Elementary School Dean Charlie Richardson, Chief Executive Officer Christianna Herrera, and D38 Superintendent K.C. Somers. Lewis-Palmer Middle School and Prairie Winds Elementary School also received the Inez Lewis Award. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

Bach, Austin Bach, Misty Bach, Hans Larsen, Melinda Clawson, and John Colby protested the recent dismissal of track and cross-country coach Rob Collins. All said that the students loved him, and he was instrumental in earning several athletic college scholarships. He excelled as a motivator and had been recognized at the state level for his work. Several parents said that more than one of their children had benefitted from the coach's encouragement. They requested that the board investigate the cause of the dismissal and reinstate the coach.

Jeff Lewis spoke about the subject of vaping and the fact that some districts in California have filed suit against Juul for endangering students.

Also, he said the Colorado Department of Education reported an 18% increase in suspensions last year due to marijuana use. He urged the board to take action.

During board comments, several members thanked those who came to speak during public comments.

Director Chris Taylor and Secretary Tiffiney Upchurch also thanked community members who have attended recent community collaboration events. These events will take place across the district and at different times of day to encourage attendance by a wide variety of citizens. For further information, please see the ad on page 9 of this issue.

Board President Matthew Claw-

son also thanked those who spoke and thanked Superintendent K.C. Somers for his efforts to increase community engagement by moderating the collaboration events.

Board Treasurer Ron Schwarz told of some success stories with special-needs students at Lewis-Palmer Middle School and how the efforts of the staff have enabled several students to enter the mainstream.

Somers thanked Monument Academy for its presence and the reception it hosted before the meeting. He outlined the format for the community events, beginning with a 20-minute introduction on the state of the district, individual comments from the community, and small group discussions. All results will be recorded and tabulated. He encouraged everyone to attend at least one of the events.

State Sen. Paul Lundeen spoke briefly about the upcoming legislative session, saying school board members are the heroes of elected officials.

Lundeen said that at least 50 proposed bills involve public education. He acknowledged that there are now too many unfunded mandates—actions required by the state without financial support. He also said that the flow of funding must change, as now some of the wealthiest districts are being supported financially by some of the most challenged.

Lundeen favors a bill that would reward highly effective teachers with bonuses. This bill has been referred to the Finance Committee.

Director Thomas asked for advice on how the district should proceed af-

ter repeated defeats of mill levy overrides and bonds.

Lundeen suggested that the district change its strategy to ensure that the public believes in the importance of education. He also said the improving relationship between the district and Monument Academy is a positive factor.

District calendars

Executive Director of Finance David Crews explained the calendar for the development of the budget for the coming year, including the development of a system to increase compensation, support new curriculum, decrease deferred maintenance of facilities, and develop parameters for school-based budgeting.

Taylor asked how the district was so inaccurate in its enrollment forecast for this year.

Somers said that the district has hired a new demographer and will receive the first information in April.

The board approved the district calendars for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years.

The board went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 9 p.m. No further actions were taken following the executive session.

The Lewis-Palmer D 38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 10 due to the conflict with Presidents Day on the 17th.

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Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 13

Board approves rules for election, business

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board voted on a pair of resolutions at their first meeting of

2020. The first defined the rules for the upcoming district election and the second addressed other rules about how the board will conduct its business. The

board's representative to the Joint Use Committee was re-elected and an alternate was confirmed. The board also heard operational reports from staff.

Rules set for upcoming board election and other tasks

Resolution 20-01 appointed Mandi Kirk of the law firm Norton and Smith P.C.

as the designated election official who will manage the upcoming board election. Her duties will include appointing election judges and possibly cancelling the election if there are no candidates for the board.

WWSD (Cont. on 16)

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