

many teachers have gone above and beyond their regular responsibilities.

**Board recognitions**

The board recognized Georgina Gittins for founding the AdoptD38 program, providing a way for community members to donate to schools and the district. During its 10-year history, the program has raised \$325,000 for the district. Gittins is now leaving the

program and encourages others to volunteer to coordinate it.

The girls' volleyball team from Palmer Ridge High School was recognized for being finalists for the state championship.

The Palmer Ridge football team was recognized for its third state championship.

An executive session was called to evaluate the performance of Superintendent K.C. Somers. No ac-

tions were taken following the executive session.

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The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on March 16.

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

*Lewis-Palmer D38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Feb. 11*

# Committee receives reports on gifted education, communications, curriculum

*By Harriet Halbig*

The Lewis-Palmer District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) received reports on a number of topics during its Feb. 11 meeting at Ray Kilmer Elementary School.

Kilmer Principal Drew Francis conducted a tour of the school before the meeting and then explained some of the school activities.

The Student Leadership, formerly known as the Student Council, plans and implements events at the school.

The Innovation Station room features various projects and supplies related to science, technology, engineering, and math. It was funded largely by grants and is part of the regular rotation of students of all grades.

Enrollment at Kilmer is now at 381, 50 fewer than projected for this year. Francis said a number of families have moved away due to increased development in the area.

Priorities in the 2019-20 year include maintaining a positive attitude, taking care of one another, teaching as an art, and using everyday math, especially with the digital curriculum.

Kilmer follows the responsive classroom model, where students know and empathize with one another and begin each day with a classroom meeting.

**Legislative update**

Board liaison Tiffiney Upchurch briefed the committee on legislative activity in the 2020 session. She encouraged everyone to monitor developments on the Colorado Association of School Boards website, CASB.org, under 2020 bills. Some bills involve increased reporting required of districts on such topics as military enlistments by graduates.

Upchurch reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Changing School Start Times reported to the board the previous evening and that the primary stumbling block to a change is transportation. There needs to be community dialogue prior to any change. The most likely change would be to have elementary schools start first each day, with middle and high schools to follow. A decision is unlikely before the 2020-21 school year.

Upchurch encouraged all to attend the community collaboration meetings being held at various lo-

cations and times throughout the district.

**Gifted education update**

Gifted and Talented District Facilitator Annette Bass explained the gifted and talented program to the committee on behalf of the Gifted and Talented Leadership Team.

The state reviews the program every four years, with the most recent review in November 2019. 11.36% of district students are considered gifted. The distribution varies over grade levels because the test to identify qualified students is administered in the third grade.

The budget for the program consists of \$96,544 from the Colorado Department of Education and \$712,054 from the Lewis-Palmer School District. Some funding is also derived from grants. The district portion of the funding covers such things as supplies, testing, salaries for specialized staff, and programs.

Bass said students who are identified as gifted in such areas as athletics are often referred to other programs such as the Olympic Training Center to develop their skills.

**Curriculum update**

Learning Services Coordinator Davonne Johnson explained the five-year curriculum cycle, including

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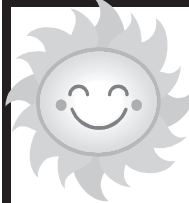
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