

tain their current titles with Theresa Phillips as vice president, Tiffney Upchurch as secretary and Ron Schwarz as treasurer. Taylor also designated Shanna Seelye, the district's new chief financial officer, as assistant treasurer.

This brief meeting was held virtually.

COVID-19 resolution approved

The Aug. 11 meeting involved a number of policy considerations and the passage of a resolution regarding the district's responsibilities in response to COVID-19. This resolution empowers the superintendent to close schools and thus reduce the number of student contact days in case of emergencies that threaten the safety, health, or welfare of students and staff members.

The resolution instructs the superintendent to provide clear and specific procedures for in-person learning and to develop a contingency plan to temporarily implement distance or hybrid learning. Student contact days will include those when distance learning is provided, and attendance will be recorded on those days.

The superintendent will have the authority to



Above: The Board of Education now meets in person while enforcing social distancing among themselves and spectators. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

modify current fees to reflect modified calendars and to request any necessary waivers from the Colorado State Board of Education or the Colorado Department of Education as necessary.

Somers said this resolution allows the district to offer distance learning during snow days to meet the requirement of contact hours for the year. It allows him the flexibility to close all or part of a school if necessary. The closure of the entire district would occur only in the case of a state or county emergency.

To read the entire resolution, please see the district website, lewispalmer.org.

The board also discussed minor alterations to a number of existing policies, primarily concerning non-discrimination, prevention of disease/infection transmission, staff health, grading and assessment systems, open enrollment, bullying prevention, and visitors to schools. These alterations were recommended by attorneys for the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB).

Somers said CASB requested that the board affirm these policies before the start of the school year.

A new policy regarding workplace health and safety had its first reading at the Aug. 11 meeting. It defines a public health emergency as a public health order issued by a state or local public health agency or a disaster emergency declared by the governor based on a public health concern.

The policy forbids retaliation by the district against any district employee who raises concerns about workplace violations of government health or safety rules or a significant workplace threat to health



Above: A family arrives at Bear Creek Elementary on the first day of school. Photo by Julie Stephen, District 38 information officer.

or safety if the district controls the workplace conditions giving rise to the threat.

This policy was read a second time at the board's Aug. 24 meeting and passed at that time.

Allocation of relief funds

Chief Financial Officer Shanna Seeley explained the use of funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), passed in March. Funding is divided into two categories, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), which have been received and are being used, and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER), not yet received.

CRF funds cover costs incurred between March and December of this year. Any unused funds will be returned in January of 2021. A total of \$2.58 million was received, with \$368,396 transferred to Monument Academy. Expenditures so far include graduation and continuation ceremonies, Chrome books, carts, hot spots, thermometers, masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, and a program called Capturing Kids Hearts to encourage the forging of relationships between students and teachers early in the year. Air filters for schools have also been purchased.

The district was required to estimate its expenses by July 31 and will account for expenditures on a quarterly basis.

The ESSER funding will cover costs between March of 2020 and June 30, 2021. These costs would be related to continuing education services during

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