

cation, and the remainder are funded by tuition.

Initiatives in the early-learning area include stressing staff training, offering social-emotional support, and monitoring the new department of early childhood education.

In the later elementary grades, there are two new reading resources being implemented at various locations. Both resources are approved by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Forty teachers returned early from summer vacation to undergo training in reading resources.

Assessment Coordinator Michael Brom reported on student learning outcomes over the past year. He reviewed results on CMAS tests, Advance Placement, and the PSAT.

Some tests were not administered last year, and others were done remotely, so results are difficult to evaluate. He said that the district's scores were better than the state scores.

There was a report on the various pathways to graduation in the district. These included the traditional high school plan, Advanced Placement classes which could yield college credit, Career Start which allows high school juniors and seniors to attend Pikes Peak Community College part time, and concurrent enrollment which involves students attending college courses with credit guaranteed to transfer to college. Recently, some of the college classes have been offered at district locations. These include basic English, American Sign Language and beginning college math.

Other offerings include career and technical education and Project Lead the Way, which includes programs in business, construction, health care, and cosmetology. Some of these programs lead to certification.

There is also the district's online program,

created by Lewis-Palmer staff and approved by the CDE.

For those wishing to enter the military, the district administers the ASVAB Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) twice a year.

The board was presented with a list of policies with suggested changes. Most of the changes were recommended by the Colorado Association of School Boards.

Superintendent Somers said he would like to link policies to the Strategic Plan and have one or more board members review each before approval.

Chief Financial Officer Kitte Overton explained how emergency COVID funding was spent by the district. These funds included the COVID Relief Fund (CRF) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund (ESSER). Spending of CRF funds were for preparation for closing and reopening the schools, cleaning, sanitizing, and improving ventilation, distance learning development, and delivery and provision of food during closures.

ESSER funds were for continuing services during closures, coordination of COVID preparedness and response, assessments, improved student engagement, and facility improvement to reduce risk of transmission.

There are two additional ESSER funds that will be made available in the next two years. These will be earmarked for sanitation supplies, planning to implement activities during closures, technology for online learning, and mental health services.

In total, the per pupil funding from these sources equals about \$1,000.

The D38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on



Above: From left to right, seated to standing are Ryan Graham, Monument Academy (MA) Board president, Chief Financial Officer Marc Brocklehurst, and Chief Operating Officer Merlin Holmes. MA administrators and a board representative appeared at the Lewis-Palmer Board of Education meeting on Sept. 20, to discuss MA's annual report for the school year 2020-2021, at in accordance with the charter school's contract with the district. Holmes did not show the presentation, which can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/ma-2021-annual>, but asked if there were any questions. Holmes responded that MA's biggest accomplishment was to survive and thrive during the pandemic. Students are continuing to grow and learn, and enrollment continues to increase, he said. He highlighted middle school athletics and the orchestra program and said he appreciated the partnership with the district. The biggest challenge for MA is that the East Campus almost at capacity, he noted, saying that MA is working on financing for the phase 2 expansion. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

the third Monday of each month in the district learning center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Oct.18.

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

Woodmoor Improvement Association, Sept. 22

Board hears owner's concerns, discusses fee increases

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) met on Sept. 25 to hear an owner's concerns and discuss fee increases.

Owners' concerns

A resident called the board's attention to many dead trees behind his property, leading up the hill to the Woodmoor common area known as The Point. He has been mitigating on his property and asked WIA to do the same on the open space. Board President Brian Bush said the board would review the current mitigation projects on the 142 acres of open space it manages. Tom Smith, director of forestry, and Steve Cutler, director of common areas, agreed to go out the following day and look at the issue both from the homeowner's property and from the trailhead off Four Winds Way that leads to The Point.

The same resident raised a concern about erosion on the common area hill that impacts his property. Bush said this issue is more difficult, and he wasn't sure what could be done or how much it might cost. Colorado's water laws make redirecting water problematic. Bush said that staff will investigate the issue and will respond to both concerns in a week or two.

Another resident raised traffic safety concerns about Furrow Road from County Line to Highway 105 and had reached out to Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS), which directed him to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPCSO) because the road belongs to the county. He hasn't received a response and asked what more he or the board could do. Bush noted that WIA had partnered with a group of HOAs asking for traffic-calming measures for the extension of Furrow from Highway 105 to Higby as part of the Grandwood Ranch development. Once the county implements that, the board can request the same be done to the northern end of Furrow Road.

Fee increases discussed

Vice President Peter Bille has the task of look-

ing at the current covenant violation fee schedule and coming back to the board with recommendations. The current schedule is at www.woodmoor.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Fine-Schedule-Revised-2017.pdf. Bush noted the fines have not been updated in four years and recommended the board consider raising fines for uncut grass, weeds, vegetation, and nuisances to \$200 for a first violation and \$400 for a second. Third and subsequent violations will be whatever fine the board deems appropriate. He also recommended the board simplify the fines schedule for fireworks to start at \$5,000 for any use in Woodmoor. He noted that the board has discretion about imposing a fine or not, if appropriate. The board unanimously voted to accept these recommendations.

A resident said the increases seemed steep and asked if the current structure was not effective. Bush explained that the board has a table of fines but has wide discretion that allows them to suspend or lower fines. He said the board prefers to have compliance over fines but that some of these issues, when related to fire, are a grave danger to the community. Director of Public Safety Brad Gleason noted that there is a defined process, and the goal is not to make money but to have residents take covenant violations seriously.

Board highlights

- The deadline for nominations for board members is Nov. 16. The form is on the website at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-board-nomination/>. The election will be held at the annual meeting in January 2022.
- Gleason reported that the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) trail design is 95% complete and is waiting for Colorado Department of Transportation approval. The SRTS trail will connect Lewis-Palmer Elementary School with the middle and high school. Construction is estimated to begin in spring 2022.



Above: WIA Board President Brian Bush opened the meeting with a recognition of two student volunteers, (L to R) Brie Chester and Noelle Garcia. He noted that they generously donated their time to weed the island by the pavilion in front of The Barn. They also donated and installed flowers from Home Depot. This was part of their National Honor Society (NHS) project. Bush said they demonstrated caring for the community and set examples of leadership. Even as part of an NHS project, Bush said, any young adult who volunteers to do weeding is a hero to him. He presented Chester and Garcia with framed certificates of appreciation. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

- Bush presented certificates of appreciation to volunteers Brie Chester and Noelle Garcia.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 20.

The WIA calendar can be found at www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.