



Above: At its Nov. 15 regular board meeting the Lewis-Palmer D38 Bour of Education recognized first responders from the community. From left to right are: Superintendent KC Somers, district Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates, Palmer Ridge High School Resource Officer Cory Adkisson, Woodmoor Pubic Safety Chief Kevin Nielsen, Palmer Lake Police Chief Jason Vanderpool, Monument Police Chief Sean Hemingway and Sargeant Timothy Johnson, and board Vice President Theresa Phillips. Not shown are Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Chief Andy Kovacs, Palmer Lake Fire Department Chief Christopher McCarthy, Lewis-Palmer School Resource Officer Chad Wheat, Palmer Ridge High School Resource Officer and Monument Academy Resource Officer Deputy Josie Haag. *Photo by Jackie Burhans*

Security Dennis Coates.

Superintendent Update

Somers spoke briefly of the recent school-related shootings at high schools in Aurora, where he used to live, saying that such events are happening too often in this country and that he was glad that District 38 is invested in taking care of each other. At a previous meeting he had also commented on violent protests at school board meetings elsewhere in the country and his gratitude that citizens in this district try to work together toward a common goal.

Somers reported that students recently responded to a climate survey for grades 3 through 12. Responses are being compiled and he hopes to report at the December meeting.

He praised the Lewis-Palmer Middle School presentation and said that the school is committed to social-emotional learning, learning self-management skills, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

Somers said that he and other superintendents are in touch with county health officials regarding possible new guidance, not necessarily resulting in new restrictions. He said that the availability of vaccines for younger children make quarantining less frequent.

Somers reported on recent ac-

tivity reflecting the five goals of the long-term strategic plan. Among these was, in response to priority 2, offering a world-class education. The district leadership team is in the process of visiting each school to see how they respond to the plan. The most recent visit was to Ray Kilmer Elementary where there are specific learning zones, classrooms where students can get additional help in a specific subject area during the school day.

Regarding priority 3, deepening professional learning, Somers said that a new effort to offer support to new teachers and administrators is proving successful and that the administration

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has heard staff presentations about compensation.

Regarding priority 4, effective asset management and use of resources, Somers reported that the district is reviewing applications for membership in the Financial Advisory Committee.

Priority 5 involves internal and

community communication. There will be a post-board meeting recap newsletter emailed to stakeholders and there is now a D-38 news website.

Priority 4 update

Chief Financial Officer Overton and Somers spoke of the process of creating a new budget for the school year. Overton referred to an exercise during the board work session on Nov. 2 where board members were asked to prioritize use of available funds in support of the strategic plan without using dollar amounts. They were asked how the success of each initiative could be evaluated. This exercise was based on the fact that 80 percent of the district budget is devoted to compensation. Some of the additional funds have to be held in reserve due to TABOR requirements and bond servicing.

Following a brief recap of the draft budget, Overton said that short-term emphasis is on current per-pupil revenue and enrollment figures and the tax climate in the state and district. When designating the use of revenue, its

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