



Above: Board member Misty McCuen spotlights Elizabeth "Beth" Weber for her work as elementary education technology coordinator at Monument Academy. Seen here with McCuen and her husband, Weber has been instrumental in facing the myriad technology challenges presented by COVID. Photo by Jackie Burans.

especially if the recirculation construction is not completed on schedule.

School Spotlight

Board member Misty Mc-

Cuen spotlighted Elementary Education Technology Coordinator Elizabeth "Beth" Weber. McCuen said that she has heard many glowing comments about Weber who is said by her peers to be warm, open, and kind, offering help to all who approach her. McCuen said Weber had been vitally instrumental in facing the myriad technology challenges presented by COVID in addition to her normal duties. She has trained staff, conducted digital citizenship classes for students, helped create curriculum, and more.

From one of the nominating statements, McCuen read that she "helped so much last year when art and music went remote." McCuen thanked Weber and encouraged the audience to read her biography on the school website to learn more about her.

Highlights

- Chief Financial Officer Marc Brocklehurst reported that the audit presentation had been moved to a later date when final documents will be available.
- Holmes reported that MA had collected over 5,000 pounds of food for the Harvest of Love event benefiting Tri-Lakes Cares.
- Board member Meghan St. Aubyn reported that the car line was going well at the west campus in the afternoon but there is "work to be done" on the morning car line. Graham asked that parents not make U-turns on Highway 105 after they exit the car line.
- The board unanimously approved changes to board policies 1500A, B

and C removing a specific number of board members and referring to the bylaws, as well as change the word "will" to "shall" in several places since "shall" is the legal language that indicates an obligation.

- St. Aubyn reported that staggered end times at the west campus meant that it lost some snow days. To meet state contact hour requirements, MA identified Feb. 25, Mar. 11, Apr. 8 and 22 as optional full days if there are excessive snow days. Assistant Principal Kurt Walker said they would only be used if required and the board confirmed this was for the west campus only.
- St. Aubyn reported that there has been a discussion of having an all-school fundraiser like a

booster club. The board unanimously voted to implement the Resource Development Committee already defined in the bylaws with St. Aubyn serving as the board chair.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the east campus band room, in person only. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. For more information, see <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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

D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Nov. 9

Update on Lewis-Palmer High School, Strategic Plan Priority 2: world-class education

By Harriet Halbig

The November meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) was held at Lewis-Palmer High School on Nov. 9. Principal Bridget O'Connor, with the assistance of several students, conducted a tour of the facility prior to the meeting.

A theme of the school is EXCEL, which refers to engage, explore, communicate, empower, and launch.

Each day begins with positive statements to elevate each student.

The school also stresses character, leadership, academic achievement, school involvement, and service to the community.

To point out how the school uses the district's strategic plan, the following were addressed:

- To cultivate a safe, healthy and welcoming school environment, staff and students have a sense of belonging and endeavor to build connections. Students and teachers discuss viewpoints.
- To ensure high quality instruction, teachers focus on helping students be ready for the future and try to eliminate "busy-work" in class. At the beginning of a class, the teacher will explain plans for the year and why each assignment contributes to the whole.
- To deepen professional learning, teachers are encouraged to set goals and collaborate on how to achieve them.

There is a school culture and climate survey for students and the staff maintains an inventory of all materials.

Board update

Board of Education liaison Tiffiney Upchurch reported that at its last work session Chief Financial Officer Kitte

Overton explained the budget determining the use of ESSER III (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding. Among the priorities are an investment of \$500,000 in the geothermal system at Palmer Ridge High School, \$130,000 for food service to compensate for loss of revenue during last year, and other priorities. To view the entire budget, go to the district website lewispalmer.org, then click on family resources, DAAC, meeting content and the date of the meeting.

At the Nov.15 meeting, members of the board will take their oath of office.

A new board policy allows individuals to submit written comments which will be put in the public record.

Upchurch also announced changes in the board calendar due to the holidays. The regular meeting in December will be held on the 15th. The meeting in January will be on the 24th and the February meeting will be on the 22nd.

Governor Jared Polis has proposed reducing the amount of education money lawmakers set aside for other budget priorities in what is known as the "budget stabilization factor." Polis would like to reduce the annual withholding to \$422 million which amounts to a \$150 million "buy down."

Strategic Plan Priority 2 – high quality instruction for all students

Assistant Superintendent Amber Whetstine introduced Executive Director of Student Services Rick Frampton who explained that special education and gifted/talented instruction should fall in this category.

The Special Education Advisory Committee is a sub-committee of DAAC. The committee offers an opportunity for parent input, networking

opportunities, and advocacy on behalf of students with disabilities. Among its activities are an annual questionnaire

to parents and handing out the Aliorum De award for individuals making a difference to a student with disabilities.

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