

rooms, a full-size gymnasium, and a playing field. In the meantime, it may be necessary to use modular classrooms when grade 10 is added in the school year of 2022-23.

Brocklehurst listed participation of MA in various athletic activities at the middle and high school levels and said it would apply for membership in the Colorado High School Athletic Association in January 2023.

To view the entire presentation, please see boarddocs in the Board of Education tab on the lewispalmer.org website.

District Unified Improvement Plan

Assistant Superintendent Amber Whetstine presented the district Unified Improvement Plan for the 2021-22 school year. The district has a performance framework due to its strong performance in the past and therefore provides a UIP every two years. This year the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has begun to require submission of the document in October rather than the following spring.

This year for the first time, the UIP was aligned with the district’s strategic plan, the first goal of which is to provide a safe and welcoming environment, the second is to provide a world class education, and the third is to care for the staff by supporting robust professional development and sufficient compensation.

To view the UIP in detail, please see boarddocs. The UIP for each school outlines areas in need of support, plans to remedy the deficiencies, and sources of funding to support actions.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee reviewed the document at its Oct. 11 meeting and made some suggestions such as implementing a parent survey, informing families about how Professional Development Days were being spent, and celebrating and elevating alternative pathways at the high school level to a greater extent.

The board voted to submit the UIP to the CDE as presented.

Proposed change in public participation policy

At present, any individual wishing to address the board can sign up in the meeting room by 5 p.m. on the evening of the meeting or can email comments to the board to be read at the meeting.

The proposed changes to the policy would require individuals to email their intent to address the board no later than noon on the day of the meeting and supply their name, their affiliation, which would prove eligibility (student, parent, resident of district, etc.), and provide a street address, telephone number, email address, and the subject they wish to address.

A lengthy discussion followed. Some concerns were that not everyone has access to a computer, lead time was insufficient to study the boarddocs ahead of a meeting and decide to comment, and the board would unnecessarily limit participation.

Superintendent KC Somers commented that this board has performed well in ensuring that all discussion is respectful and civil, but some neighboring districts have reported that outside individuals have attended and disrupted their meetings. This proposal would ensure that those who speak have a right to do so as stakeholders in the district.

Board Secretary Tiffiney Upchurch commented that some individuals who own businesses in the district reside elsewhere but should have a voice.

Board President Chris Taylor and Director Matthew Clawson opposed the idea of excluding people from commenting. Treasurer Ron Schwarz asked if it is legal to require that those commenting have to be constituents and prove the fact.

Somers said that the board has a right to do whatever it thinks necessary.

The board accepted this first reading of the policy change and did not take a vote.

Resolution regarding state Proposition 122

Colorado Proposition 122 would classify certain psychedelic plants and fungi as natural medicines and approve their use by adults.

Upchurch proposed that the board pass a resolution to oppose Proposition 122 in keeping with the strategic plan goal number 1 to provide a safe environment for all students. She stressed that the proposition does not allow local jurisdictions to deny sale of these substances.

Upchurch said that the district will not actively campaign against the proposition but thinks this to be an important issue to address.

Other board members expressed reluctance to vote on a political issue. In the past, the district has voted on such local issues as a local drug rehabilitation center near a school, but never on a statewide issue.

Clawson felt that this action would set a bad precedent. He also asked for more time to study the issue. Board Vice President Theresa Phillips agreed that more time was needed.

The board voted to delay a vote until its Nov. 1 special meeting.

Joint resolution on 4A mill levy override

At a special meeting on Oct. 14, members of the Monument Academy Board and the D38 Board of Education passed a joint resolution confirming the fact that proceeds of the mill levy override, if passed, would be shared with Monument Academy in proportion with its student population, which is currently about 20% of the district.

Both boards passed the resolution that with this understanding MA would support 4A.

Superintendent update

Somers recognized October as Principal Appreciation Month and presented gift books to all principals in attendance and thanked them for their service. He especially recognized Peggy Parsley, principal of Bear Creek Elementary, for her 27 years of service, 16 as principal of the largest elementary school in the state. Also recognized was Jenny Day, former principal of Lewis-Palmer Elementary, who was employed by the district for 22 years and is leaving for a career at Ent Credit Union.

He also congratulated Lewis-Palmer Middle School employee Josefina Ramos for achieving American citizenship.

Somers outlined student achievements in athletics and music and promoted the two upcoming high school musicals.

He also praised the new construction program at the high school level, taught by Nate Strycker, Engineering and Design Technology teacher at Palmer Ridge and Andy Vrieze, Industrial and Engineering Technology teacher at Lewis-Palmer High School. The LPHS program leads to formal certification. The current project for the program is the renovation of the former senior center modular on the LPHS property.

Public comment on Nextdoor is entirely favorable, stressing that these skills are useful to all.

The Lewis-Palmer D 38 Board of Education usually meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of the month in the district’s learning center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next regular meeting is on Nov. 14 due to the Thanksgiving break.

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



VOTE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

JIM ROMANELLO FOR MAYOR



Ron Stephens
for
Monument Trustee

A trusted Voice for Monument’s Future

- Supports local control with limited government
- Keep Monument’s water supply and wastewater treatment at healthy levels to support the town
- Supports responsible growth of Monument (comprehensive plan)
- Back the Blue, Support Our Military, and 2nd Amendment Rights
- The Right to Religious Freedom and Conscience

Endorsed by:

4th Judicial District DA Michael Allen

HD-19 State Representative Tim Geitner

Monument Mayor Don Wilson

Paid for by Stephens for Monument

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