

accepted and welcome. By removing hateful behavior, all are able to concentrate on learning.

In one case, a student was outed by a classmate, causing great emotional harm. Pride flags in the school demonstrate that all are welcome and valued. The district slogan of Ev-

ery Student Every Day must respect the needs of everyone.

A gay student spoke that he had attempted suicide as a result of bullying by classmates. He said that the No Place for Hate program is not indoctrinating but promotes acceptance.

An additional individual said that

her son is a member of the No Place for Hate Club, having signed the pledge.

Two additional members of the public spoke against the recent proclamation by Monument Academy regarding the use of restrooms by transgender students. See the Monument Academy article on page 1.

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The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education usually meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the district learning center, 146 Jefferson St. in Monument. The next regular meeting will be on March 14 because spring break will be March 21-25.

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



**Above:** At its Feb. 22 regular board meeting, the Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education recognized Rhianna Lingle, a senior at Lewis-Palmer High School, who was recently announced as a soloist with the DYAO (Denver Young Artists Orchestra) for a Sunday, May 8 performance. Ms. Theresa Phillips introduced Ms. Lingle, saying that she has played violin since she was 4. Lingle played The Allemande movement from Bach Partita No. 2 for the enjoyment of those in attendance including her parents. From left are Superintendent KC Somers, Eric, Erica and Rhianna Lingle, and board Vice President Theresa Phillips. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Lewis-Palmer D38  
District Accountability Advisory Committee, Feb. 8

Budget overview, Strategic Plan  
Priority 4 fiscal stewardship,  
Prairie Winds update

By Harriet Halbig

The District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) of School District 38 spent much of its Feb. 8 meeting discussing financial matters, including the budgeting process and application of Strategic Plan Priority 4 regarding effective asset management and efficient use of resources.

Chief Financial Officer Kitte Overton addressed Priority 4 of the district's Strategic Plan.

Initiatives include developing short- and long-range plans for facility utilization, exploring multiple planning scenarios to reflect population fluctuations, and ensuring collaborative budgetary development with staff and the community

The collaborative budgetary development includes the formation of the new Financial Advisory Committee composed of staff and community members, which met the same evening as the DAAC meeting.

Overton said interactive software called Balancing Act will be added to the website to enable community members to see the budget as it is and to attempt to alter it to achieve their goals.

Overton pointed out that a large percentage of the budget is devoted to staff salaries and benefits. Food service and transportation also must be supported. These must be taken into account when attempting to alter the budget.

Overton also explained the budget process on a month-by-month basis, stressing that, although the district must submit a budget to the state for approval each June, the Board of Education can alter the budget throughout the year to respond to such developments as emergency repairs, receipt of grants, and variation in the amount of funding received from the state.

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