

Examples of these federal sources of revenue include the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, which can be applied to programs to compensate for learning loss during the pandemic and improvements to make schools a healthier environment, such as improved air filtration or circulation. The district must request these funds by specifying their intended use.

Sources of grant money this year include \$530,000 in a technical grant for the purchase of Chromebooks, \$740,000 to be spent over the next four years on early literacy programs, and \$100,000 to offset tuition for preschool. The receipt of these additional funds made possible a recent compensation action that benefits all district staff and compensates for a lost step in compensation during the

pandemic.

Another source of funding is the school lunch program administered by the federal government.

A longstanding concern of the board has been the issue of deferred maintenance of facilities due to funding shortages. There is an ongoing effort to budget for these repairs and improvements each year. Continuing work on the geothermal system at Palmer Ridge High School is an ongoing expense.

Overton explained the process of internal controls, including compliance with laws, risk assessments, proper authorization of expenditures, and a review and approval process.

Legislative update

Board liaison Tiffiney Upchurch reported that the recently opened legislative session is considering 53 bills

involving education and offered the website address for monitoring this legislation: <https://casb.memberclicks.net/2022-legislative-bills>.

Referring to recent board actions, Upchurch said that there is new technology available to filter internet content and monitor student data and devices. The district has also received a grant to train paraprofessionals in the application of a Multi-Tiered System of Support for students.

Curricula for health and foreign languages are now under review.

The board is conducting a compensation marketing analysis to determine where the district stands in comparison to other similar districts in the state and determine what can be done to make District 38 competitive. The board will also host several listening sessions throughout the district at various times of day to gather community input.

Prairie Winds Elementary update

Principal Alicia Welch presented an introduction to her school.

Prairie Winds Elementary (PWES) received the James Irwin Schools of Excellence award each year from 2011-19. This award recognizes schools which exceed expectations in English, math, and science in their performance framework.

PWES is a responsive classroom school which includes meetings each morning. It is home of the Hawks and practices STAR, the Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research. The school also abides by the acronym CARES, which includes cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy and self-control.

The school, founded in 2001, initiated its Dual Diagnosis program in 2011, and it addresses individuals with autism and an additional diagnosis. The goal is to get all students into the classroom.

The student population is 349.

PWES has a number of traditions, including a Veterans Day observation, science fair, honoring first responders, the Sweetheart Dance, literacy and math days, and the turkey trot.

The Parent Teacher Organization is very supportive and has raised funds to replace library and cafeteria furniture and provide a Smart Board for each classroom. 3M window film provides additional security by preventing breakage of glass near entrances.

PWES also participates in K-Kids, a program for 4th-to 6th-graders sponsored by Kiwanis and offers such after-school clubs as photography and gardening.

The Lewis-Palmer D38 District Accountability Advisory Committee meets five times per year. Locations vary. The last meeting of this school year will be held at 7 p.m. on April 12 at Palmer Ridge High School, 19255 Monument Hill Road, Monument. A tour of the school will be offered at 6:30.

Corrections and Clarifications

Monument Academy's Amy Torrence submitted the following corrections and clarifications to the Monument Academy information as covered in the DAAC article in OCN's February issue:

- The academy was founded in 1996.
- The total middle and high school target population will be 900-1,000. Currently, the east campus serves grades 6 through 10. Grades 11 and 12 will be added over the next two years.
- MA does not use common core standards, but standards based on classical foundations. In grades pre-K through 8, the curriculum is based on Core Knowledge Sequence involving recommended content in language arts, music, mathematics, and science.

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TLMFPD (Cont. from 1)

- The situation is not getting any better throughout the region and there needs to be a conversation with the area fire chiefs.

Bradley gave the following update:

- The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Battalion Chief Sean Pearson and EMS Coordinator Stephanie Soll had met with the AMR regional director in mid-February to discuss the increase in requests for service.
- Pearson and Soll raised the district's concern over the number of requests made by AMR that had gone "above and beyond the norm" in January and February.
- The combined district received 24 AMR requests so far for February, a significant decrease from the 83 requests made in January.
- The district had turned down half of the AMR requests for service so far in 2022 and those decisions were made by the on-shift battalion chief to ensure the district would not be left without EMS support.
- During the meeting, AMR laid out its plan to recruit additional staff including recruiting incentives, but they said they received little interest and the situation is unlikely to lessen until the AMR training program catches up in



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