

- Coach Bill Benton and members of the Lewis-Palmer High School 4A champion basketball team were congratulated for their fifth title.
- Career/Technical Education coordinator Jess McAllister spoke of a program at Lewis-Palmer Middle School which is connected with the high school Gateway to Technology program. The middle school has founded an organization called Skills USA. Also introduced were middle school Assistant Principal

Amy Sienkoski and Skills USA instructors Ken Motta and Paul Lewis. A few students displayed their projects.

During his superintendent update, Somers also mentioned the following:

- Makenna Flores and Amber Wright of Palmer Ridge High School and Gavin Flores-Caballero of Lewis-Palmer High School were congratulated for winning Best and Brightest scholarships from the Colorado

- Springs Gazette.
- Palmer Ridge's Bearbotics robotics team was awarded the Gracious Professionalism Award at the regional competition. They missed making the world competition by one point.
 - The Homeschool Enrichment Academy's Destination Imagination entry passed through regional competition, was fifth in the state, and has

been invited to attend the global finals.

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the district Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on May 16.

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Lewis-Palmer D38 DAAC, April 12

Community engagement and Title programs

By Harriet Halbig

In keeping with this year's theme, the D38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) devoted emphasis to a part of the district's Strategic Plan in April. The month's theme was developing community relationships through communication.

The district has sponsored a series of five public "Engage and Elevate with D38" events held at various schools throughout the district. This was the fourth meeting, with the fifth to be held at Bear Creek Elementary School on May 4.

Superintendent KC Somers, three members of the Board of Education, and several members of the administration were present to listen to citizen comments and answer questions at the April 12 meeting. Somers said that there was an average of 30 citizens present at earlier meetings.

Members of the administration briefly explained the five steps of the strategic plan dealing with safe and healthy schools, world-class education, valuing employees, fiscal stewardship and transparency, and relationships and communication.

Board Secretary Tiffiney Upchurch said that all actions taken by the board are now viewed within the framework of the Strategic Plan. The board especially stresses step three, seeking ways to improve compensation for staff in the face of increasing turnover in the district.

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