

aid was enough to get the same level of service but at a lower cost. The board voted unanimously to terminate the agreement. See

MFD article on page 21.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The next board meetings are scheduled for Feb. 9 and 23. See the town's website

at [www.townofpalmerlake.com](http://www.townofpalmerlake.com) to confirm times and dates of board meetings and workshops. Meetings are typically held on the second

and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Town Hall. Information: 719-481-2953.  
*James Howald can be reached at*

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

Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Parent and Community Advisory Committee, Jan. 10

# Committee restructure, Kilmer presentation, strategic plan update

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Parent and Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) discussed a restructure of the district's committees, an update to the strategic plan, and initiatives related to financial transparency.

**Committee restructure**  
Board of Education liaison Tiffiney Upchurch and Assistant Superintendent Amber Whetstine reported on the board's discussions regarding the hierarchical structure of district committees.

At its September meeting, PCAC voted to include the Wellness Team and the Financial Advisory Committee subcommittees of PCAC in addition to the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Gifted Talented Leadership Team.

It was determined at the December board meeting that, since these committees as well as building advisory committees are required under state or federal law, they should be independent and hold their own meetings open to the public.

If this change is approved by the board at its January meeting, it will be necessary to change the PCAC's bylaws.

A draft application form for PCAC membership was proposed for use in the upcoming school year to ensure that all schools are represented by parents and staff in addition to community participation. Technically the board must appoint these members, and this form would make it possible to determine that all are represented.

Committee members were concerned that, by removing the former subcommittees from PCAC, information from them to PCAC would be less forthcoming.

Whetstine responded that the committees are still welcome to report to the group.

When a member expressed concern that a formal application would discourage participation, Upchurch responded that the application was designed to meet state statutes.

The discussion was tabled until February pending board action.

**Financial transparency update**  
In keeping with priority 4 of the district's strategic plan supporting responsible fiscal practices, Chief Business Officer Brett Ridgway asked for questions regarding recent financial actions.

When asked about the one-time compensation bonus, he said that it was a small step to resolving the gap in compensation between D38 and neighboring districts. The Staff Collaboration Committee, consisting of representatives from schools and administration, approved the bonus.

There was discussion about the recent staff/parent/community survey. Committee members commented that they did not understand some aspects of the survey and hesitated to respond.

Whetstine said that the purpose of the survey was to determine which actions would resonate with the community in the face of the recent mill levy override defeat. The survey indicated significant support for a four-day school week, and the board tasked the administration to investigate the ramifications of implementing it.

District staff approved the use of the survey because it indicated that the district supported them and was willing to take further action to correct the gap in compensation.

Ridgway presented a midyear financial summary. Details can be found on the district website, [lewispalmer.org](http://lewispalmer.org), under

Family Resources, District Accountability Advisory Committee, meeting content.

**Kilmer School presentation**  
Brian Pohl, the new principal of Ray Kilmer Elementary, offered a slide presentation about the school.

He said the school stresses academic growth and achievement, human growth, and character development. The school uses the responsive classroom model to ensure that students develop healthy relationships among themselves and staff by communicating daily. The school's vision is to educate the whole child.

One innovative practice at Kilmer is to devote part of each Friday to Innovation Day. In alternate weeks, students rotate to the Innovation Station where they learn computational thinking and Coyote Time which focuses on computational thinking, engineering design, and robotics.

In the Learning Zone program, students spend 30

minutes each day concentrating on a specific subject. For grades K to 3 this is usually reading. For higher grades this could be math or writing. The concentrated focus could be in or out of the classroom.

To view the slide presentation, please see the website as noted above.  
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The Parent and Community

Advisory Community meets six times per year. Locations vary. The next meeting is from 6 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School, 1315 Lake Woodmoor Dr. in Monument. For further information, please contact [tmckee@lewispalmer.org](mailto:tmckee@lewispalmer.org).

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

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**2023 MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS**

**One Member. One Vote. Your Voice Matters.**

During the Annual Meeting on June 8, 2023, held at Falcon High School in Falcon, two directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors from the following districts:

District 2: Simla, Matheson and a portion of the surrounding areas (*incumbent Rick L. Gordon*)

District 7: Monument, Woodmoor and a portion of the surrounding areas (*incumbent Jim Riggins*)

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting).

To view a territory map with districts, visit [www.mvea.coop/territory-map](http://www.mvea.coop/territory-map).

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting) for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. A member interested in nomination should contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528 and leave a message. You will be contacted to verify your membership, district, and to begin the nomination process. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by MVEA to be submitted to the committee by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, 2023.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures will be made available by contacting the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire, must be received by MVEA by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2023.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. If you have questions, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

Nominating Committee ••• District 2: Steve Wilson • District 7: Vince Guthrie

MVEA Board Nomination Information Line

Tel: (719) 494-2528  
Email: [candidate@mvea.coop](mailto:candidate@mvea.coop)

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