

bills now being considered which involve education, including institution of universal preschool and universal free lunches, both of which would require hiring additional staff.

She has made several visits to the state capitol to lobby on behalf of the district and encouraged others to do the same.

Due to redistricting, D38 now has two members in the state House of Representatives. Upchurch has visited both and requested more funding so the district could better compensate its teachers. The onus is on the individual district to educate its community to support the schools. Only in this way can we ensure ongoing funding and influence our compensation in comparison to neighboring districts, she said.

Upchurch said D38 won't know until May what level of funding it will receive from the state.

Title programs discussion

Melissa Gibson-Steiner, coordinator of Special Programs, and Tiffany Brown, coordinator of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Educa-

tion, reported on the district's use of title funds.

Title I supports improving academic achievement of at-risk students. The funding of \$193,163 is being used at Bear Creek and Palmer Lake Elementary schools to provide reading intervention, before and after school tutoring, and assessments for students in private schools.

The McKinney-Vento Title I set-aside addresses the unique barriers which those experiencing homelessness must overcome. This funding ensures that those students have immediate access to public education and the right to attend their school of origin. Efforts are made to provide stability and support for these students and their families.

Title II supports provision of high-quality educators to improve achievement and greater access to effective educators. Funding for this year is \$92,643 and is being applied to literary coaching, Capturing Kids' Hearts, teacher mentors, paraprofessional training, and stipends for professional learning fa-

cilitators.

Title III supports improvement of the education of multilingual learners. This funding of \$14,018 is being applied to purchase supplemental materials, provide tutoring, assess language ability, and training and support for newcomer immigrants. It also helps to fund the annual international dinner.

Title IV supports academic enrichment and increasing capacity for programs. This funding of \$15,037 is used to offer access to a well-rounded education and creation of the position of coordinator of Learning Services to facilitate curriculum mapping of K-8 science and high school biology.

Strategic plan update

Director of Communications Mark Belcher reported on developments regarding the district's strategic plan, first created in 2020. The original plan included five sections: safe and healthy schools; world class education; value our people; fiscal stewardship and transparency; and relationships and communication.

In response to continuous input from stakeholders, staff, and oth-

ers, the strategic plan now consists of six sections with a newly added section on facilities and operations. This reflects the board's recent focus on analyzing the condition and replacement value of district resources such as buildings and buses and incorporating the information into the plan.

For detailed information on this and other presentations, please see the district website, lewispalmer.org, under Family Resources, District Accountability Advisory Committee, meeting content and the date of the meeting, Feb. 7.

The D38 Parent and Community Advisory Committee meets six times a year. Locations vary. The next meeting will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 11 at Bear Creek Elementary School, 1330 Creekside Drive in Monument. For further information, contact tmckee@lewispalmer.org.

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

Monument Academy School Board, Feb. 9

Board hears finance and mid-year COO updates

By Jackie Burhans

At its Feb. 9 regular meeting, the Monument Academy (MA) board heard an update from its financial consultant and interim chief operating officer (COO), discussed the proposed school calendar, updated the middle school uniform policy, and heard committee updates. After the meeting adjourned, the board heard from a parent about withdrawing her student to home-school.

Financial update

Glenn Gustafson, MA's financial

consultant, reported that he had been working diligently on integrating into MA's financial systems. He spent time in the past month on the annual bond deadlines for compliance reporting. He said he was working on payroll posting, the general ledger, and bank reconciliation. He noted that the board should have the quarterly statement in its new Colorado Department of Education (CDE)-compliant format. The new format, Gustafson said, is easier to read and shows the balance sheet, bond information, and school information with graphs

and charts. This will be more user-friendly for the board and community and will benefit the school in the long run, he said. The report will also be on the school's financial transparency page at <https://www.monumentacademy.net/financial-transparency/>.

Interim COO mid-year update

Interim COO Kim McClelland began by acknowledging the work it took to open MA in 1996 with 180 students and grow it into a thriving public charter school. She said her goal for the work that she and Gustafson are doing is to provide hope, sustainability, and cohesiveness.

The last strategic plan was done in 2016, and she wants to take that work and build upon it to provide a living document that will be updated and monitored. One key update she recommends is simplifying the mission and vision statement. Since she started, she has felt the need to bring the two campuses together as one unified community and build trust and collaboration between them.

McClelland highlighted activities in the previous 53 days, including revising financial systems by updating them for compliance, creating efficiencies, and beginning budget development. She also discussed ensuring the secondary campus complies with its bond covenants and reviewing service contracts to see if they are an efficient way to do business.

McClelland provided the following additional updates:

- MA will have its first high school graduating class next year and will continue to focus on character development and partnership with parents. MA will review the special-education process and working with the district. MA needs more

assessment data, more often to show results from beginning, middle, and end of the year on a dashboard. This would allow MA to fine-tune the academic program. She will review a draft of curriculum development policy with the curriculum

- She is conducting a survey of staff in elementary and secondary schools to make informed decisions and budget for devices since the Colorado Measures of Success (CMAS) testing is moving to devices only.
- Saxon math is going away, so MA needs to determine a replacement.
- Work on the modulars at East Campus should be complete by spring break. Both campuses need maintenance work. She is looking at staffing a facilities manager to cover both buildings and updating facility rental processes and costs.
- MA needs to improve communication and consistency around discipline. She has started a discipline matrix with level one for classroom disruptions through level three for very serious matters. MA needs to determine how often and when it does in or out-of-school suspensions, follow state law while ensuring conversations with the social worker and counselors but leave room for administration to have decision autonomy.

McClelland also touched on Title 9 training, the mandatory reporting process, enrollment, safety and security, the recirculation project at West Campus, athletics, outreach and communication with parents, outside committees and group alignment, the fundraising cam-



Professional Deck Construction and Upgrades Since 1999. Now Offering Fence Construction and Repair.

BORDERS DECK & FENCE

Call Shaulin Today! (719) 332-6292
shaulinkr@decksbyborders.com
FREE ESTIMATES