

Thirteen staff members are currently funded through ESSER funds. Ridgway commented that he will discuss with principals whether these positions will then need to be funded by the district or whether alternative solutions are available.

Upchurch asked when the board would approve new pay schedules.

Somers responded that an extensive cost/benefit analysis must first take place, but he hopes to have something to discuss at the March 7 work session.

District school calendar discussed

Assistant Superintendent Amber Whetstine reported that following discussions with the Staff Collaboration Committee and the Parent and Community Advisory Committee, a tentative calendar for the 2023-24

school year has been prepared.

Changes to the calendar include the addition of two full-day professional development days to replace five late-start days, closure of district buildings during winter break, a day added before the opening of the second semester so that teachers can prepare, and continuing to have May 17 as the last day of classes but reserving May 20 and 21 in case of excessive snow days.

Upchurch commented that because May 20 and 21 are a Monday and Tuesday, many families may already be on vacation. She suggested that the 20th and 21st should be included in the school year, then classes could be dismissed on the 17th if those days are not needed.

Whetstine said that

planning for the 2024-25 school year has begun, but since four-day weeks may be adopted it is difficult to finalize plans. She said that assessment days must be taken into account during the planning process.

New principal selected for Bear Creek Elementary

Somers introduced Donnell Potter as the new principal for Bear Creek Elementary School following the retirement of Peggy Parsley.

Somers said there were many applicants for the position and six were interviewed.

Potter has a long history in education as a teacher and principal in the Fountain district and District 11.

Potter said that his wife is a teacher in District 11 and all four of his children attended Bear Creek. He

said he is grateful to be able to spend time with Parsley before her departure and that he hopes the board and members of the school community will feel free to contact him regarding the school.

To view the presentations from this meeting, please see the district website, Lewis-Palmer.org, Board of Education, meetings, boarddocs. See the superintendent update for recognition of athletic and academic achievement by district students and teams.

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education meets from 6 to 10 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the district's learning center, 146 Jeffer-

son St. in Monument. For further information contact vwood@lewispalmer.org.

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

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Family and Community Advisory Committee, Feb. 7

Committee learns about Lewis-Palmer Elementary School, legislative issues, and title programs

By Harriet Halbig

The School District 38 Family and Community Advisory Committee (formerly the District Accountability Advisory Committee) discussed a wide variety of subjects at its Feb. 7 meeting at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School (LPES). School presentation

Principal Davonne Johnson delivered an engaging presentation about LPES, introducing committee members to the aspects of school culture, which include a daily morning meeting where students greet one another, a brief sharing moment among them, and a brief game which involves all. The game demonstrated was the Left-Right Story Game, where Johnson provided several balls to committee members and read a story. If the word left was said, the ball was passed to the left. If right was mentioned, the ball was passed to the right. The results were a feeling of sharing among those involved and a positive opening to the day.

Lewis-Palmer Elementary School (LPES) has 407 students, 67 staff, and eight support staff. Its slogans are "The Road of Endless Possibilities" and "Go Eagles."

LPES' philosophy stresses that learning should be fun and enjoy an active partnership among teachers, students, and families to support this phi-

losophy. The community goal is to achieve health, joy and success for its students.

Board of Education update

Board of Education liaison Tiffiney Upchurch revisited the subject of board policy BDF, which involves restructuring of committees. Committees are now divided among three categories: those which are required by state or federal statute (such as the Parent and Community Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee, and the Financial Transparency Committee), those which are created to address a specific issue such as the Staff Collaboration Committee (SCC), an ad hoc committee to encourage communication among all workforce groups and address solutions to funding following defeat of the mill levy override, and Community Task Force Groups, which are temporary entities addressing a specific issues such as the Portrait of a D38 Graduate.

Upchurch said the board has approved this new structure.

She said that the SCC has discussed the possibility of instituting four-day school weeks, changes in the district calendar regarding professional development scheduling, and restructuring of the district pay scale. The four-day

week would not be put in place before the 2024-25 school year if approved. The SCC works in collaboration with the business and finance department.

Upchurch then explained the legislative process and said there are 50

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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.

To view a territory map with districts, visit 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 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

www.mvea.coop • (800) 388-9881

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