

while in the district and objected to the district recognizing her assailant as a successful athlete.

Superintendent KC Somers stated that the district is opposed to all forms of misconduct and takes all reports seriously. All students can file a report without fear of retribution, and he commended any student for standing up for their rights.

Somers further commented that there is an effort to educate on the concept of consent and responsible use of social media.

The district involves law enforcement when necessary

and is creating a district-wide safety task force.

Safe, healthy, and welcoming schools update

Executive Director of Student Services and Chief of Security Dennis Coates spoke about Priority 1 of the strategic plan: safe, healthy, and welcoming schools.

Coates said that the district's security protocols are confidential but outlined the comprehensive approach in use. The approach is divided into four categories.

Physical infrastructure includes the construction of

security vestibules in several schools, the use of 3M film to make it more difficult to break windows near entrances, addition of video cameras in many locations, and direct radio contact with first responders to allow the district to explain emergencies before their arrival.

The district has armed security on various campuses. Coates emphasized that the job of school resource officer is not just to look for troublemakers but to build relationships with all students so that they would feel comfortable confiding about things they had heard or seen that could cause a dangerous situation.

The district has active partnerships with the Monument and Palmer Lake police departments, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and Woodmoor Security. The Woodmoor Security officers also provide traffic control at school sites. The district also participates in the Tri-Lakes Social Emotional Wellness Coalition.

The district is involved with an active risk assessment program which involves a multidisciplinary team and parents. Monthly emergency drills including lockdowns and evacuations are held, and trainings teach students and teachers to be aware of their surroundings.

The district also utilizes a filter called Gaggle, which flags the mention of certain words and images on district Google devices. Gaggle is also engaged when a student uses personal devices if signed in on their district account.

Coates commented that the use of terms such as suicide are sometimes used in the process of researching a student project. In any case, school administrators intervene when an account is flagged.

Executive Director of Student Services Rick Frampton said goals of the district are to build relationships with students, encourage teachers to offer a respectful and inclusive learning environment, exhibit an ongoing commitment to nondiscrimination, combat bullying, and promote kindness.

Frampton said that the district has increased the number of counselors available at the high school level. Counselors for elementary students are hard to find, and psychologists and social workers are sometimes used in their place.

Frampton referred to last fall's student survey which found that at the secondary level, 76% of students felt that they knew an adult they could speak to about problems, 83% felt that teachers cared about them as an individual, and 70% felt a part of the school community. At the elementary level, 80% felt they know an adult they could confide in, 83% felt that teachers cared, and 80% felt like part of a community.

The spring student survey will be conducted soon.

Policy revisions

The board discussed changes in policy GCBA-R regarding revisions to the instructional staff contract. The primary change is to credit new hires with up to 15 years of previous experience. Previously, the district would credit up to 10 years.

Other aspects of the policy involve credit for achieving a master's degree or other outside training.

Policy IKF involves graduation requirements. The board voted to delete the requirement of a credit in world languages. The consensus of the board was that it is difficult to find teachers of world languages, but the district will help any student who requires this to apply to the college of their choice.

Financial planning and analysis

Chief Business Officer Brett Ridgway updated the board on developments in finance. He said that for the first time in many years, interest income has become a significant revenue source, yielding \$200,000 this year in the General Fund alone.

Schwarz asked how this money may be used.

Ridgway responded that this must be viewed as a one-time advantage and therefore could not be included in long-term use such as salaries. However, it could potentially

be used as a bonus.

At another point in the meeting, Ridgway discussed the pay schedule for the upcoming year. The amount of income from the state has not yet been finalized, but should be available in the next week or so. At that time, Ridgway anticipates that the increase may exceed the 8% previously noted.

Because the figures are not yet final, the board did not vote to ratify the new pay schedule.

For further details on the pay schedule, please see the discussion in the April issue at www.ocn.me/v23n4.htm#d38.

Health benefits update

Human Resources Director Alicia Welch outlined the options for health benefits in the upcoming year, including the addition of Health Savings Accounts. To view the PowerPoint on this subject, please see boarddocs, on the district website lewispalmer.org, board of education, boarddocs and select the meeting date.

Stars of Tomorrow

Richard Strom, Monument Hill Kiwanis program manager for the Stars of Tomorrow talent show, spoke about the success of the program. The aim of the program was to recognize students who excelled in the performing arts.

Fifty-three participants auditioned and 20 of them performed at Palmer Ridge High School before an audience and judges.

Winners at the elementary level were Rose Helgoth of St. Peter Catholic School and Eric Lambrecht of Lewis-Palmer Elementary. Secondary school winners were Raleigh Eversole of Palmer Ridge High School and Wyatt Hayden of Lewis-Palmer High School. Hayden won the grand prize.

Strom also mentioned other ways in which Kiwanis partners with the district.

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the district's learning center, 146 Jefferson St. in Monument. The next meeting will be on May 15.

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

PalmerLakeArtGroup.com
 2023
Color Splash Art Show
 featuring 2023 Art Scholarship Awards
Jun 1 - 28
 Jun 2 • 6-8
 Opening Reception
 Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake, CO
 hrs: 12-4 Tue-Fri, 10-2 Sat | 719-481-0475 | trilakesarts.org

CONCERTS in the Park
 Wednesday Evenings
 Limbach Park
 May 31-August 9
 6:30pm-8:30pm
 Food Trucks!
 5/31 Hand Turkey Band
 6/7 The Drones Band
 6/14 Mimic Rocks
 6/21 Ashlee & The Longshot Revival
 6/28 The Jeremy Facknitz Band
 7/12 Hot Boots Band
 7/19 Narrow Gauge
 7/26 Missy & the Dirty Secrets
 8/2 Skin&Bones
 8/9 WireWood Station
 For more information and updates, visit TownofMonument.org.
 No alcohol/liquor permitted.
 CHALLENGER HOMES
 CLUB PILATES MONUMENT
 SPONSORS NEEDED!
 Please email events@tomgov.org.

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, April 10

Trail agreement with school district approved

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Lewis-Palmer School District 38 allowing the school district to use a maintenance road adjacent to Woodmoor Lake as part of its Safe Routes to School (SRTS) trail system. District Manager Jessie Shaffer updated the board on the status of WWSD's water meter replacement project. The board also heard operational reports. The meeting ended with an ex-

ecutive session.

SRTS takes a step forward

Board President Brian Bush asked the board to approve an IGA with the school district that would authorize the district to include a portion of a maintenance road that runs along the south and west edge of Lake Woodmoor in the SRTS trail system, which the school district has been planning for several years. The proposed trail system will connect Lewis-Palmer Elementary School,

Lewis-Palmer Middle School, and Palmer Ridge High School, allowing students to walk to those schools with the minimum exposure to traffic.

The text of the IGA specifies that bikes can't be ridden on the maintenance road. The IGA also says WWSD will not do additional maintenance for the road to accommodate its use as part of SRTS.

The school district will be responsible for building a bridge over the spillway in the

WWSD (Cont. on 20)