



Above: At D38's March 17 board meeting, Director of Communications Amy Matisek honored Chess Tournament organizers Steve and Cindy Waldmann with a certificate of appreciation. The tournament, now in its 18th year, took place on March 8 at Bear Creek Elementary School. Steve Waldmann highlighted its status as Colorado's second- or third-largest chess tournament, thanking his wife, district staff, and volunteers, including principals, custodians, teachers, and Key Club members. The event featured 108 students, awarding trophies to the top three in each grade level from kindergarten through high school. The following students attended the meeting: Maverick Mandril, St. Peters Elementary, kindergarten – first place; Charlie Epps, Palmer Lake Elementary School, kindergarten – third place; Simon Ostrowski, Monument Academy, second grade – second place; Luke Heiberger, Prairie Winds Elementary, third grade – first place; Preston Petty, Palmer Lake Elementary, sixth grade – third place; and Robbie Collier, Lewis-Palmer High School – first place. Waldmann noted that this was Collier's third time winning the tournament. From left, Epps, Mandril, Ostrowski, and Heiberger are in front. From left, in the back are Interim Superintendent Amber Whetstine, Petty, Waldmann, Collier, and board President Tiffney Upchurch. Photo by Jackie Burhans. See also the photo on page 1.

while determining a permanent solution. One option being considered is the construction of a new facility in the form of a steel or pod structure.

The Home School Enrichment Academy requires considerably more space. Options include the rent or purchase of an existing facility which could be remodeled. The district is seeking architectural and contractor perspectives on the project. One facility being considered is not looking promising.

A second option is a new build such as a steel or pod structure. Considering potential locations is part of the process.

The district has consulted with the fire marshal about the possibility of remaining in a portion of Grace Best until next year when a permanent location is found. If this solution is chosen, the fire marshal will cordon off areas which may not be used safely during this time. The fire marshal is concerned about water leaks in the building.

Operations and Facility Planning update, Priority 4 in Strategic Plan

Ridgway and Andrews reported on their goals for 2027 with regard to facilities.

Their primary focus was on the Capital Assessment Process, which offers a list of projects in priority order. The annual budget for capital projects has been \$3 million for the past two years, an amount determined to help the district to catch up on maintenance of facilities.

Ridgway said that, due to uncertainty about funding next year in the School Finance Act, the budget for capital projects will be \$2.5 million.

To determine needs, there is a walkthrough at each facility annually. Principals, building managers, and others are asked to help determine replacement cycles for facilities in an attempt to avoid emergency replacement of facilities such as boilers and roofs.

A second goal is to develop a document identifying needs by school and determining building capacity. Space utilization will be compared with needs projected for the coming five years in terms of the impact of new developments.

Career and Innovation Center update

Director of Innovative Programs Jessica McAllister presented an update on the Career and Innovation Center.

She said that it is now possible to forecast enrollment levels. There are currently 171 student requests. Eighty-six of these are for participation in manufacturing, primarily in welding. Seventy-five are in the area of engineering, including aerospace, architectural, design and electrical, and 10 are in the area of skilled trades, primarily homebuilding.

McAllister also reported on progress in seeking active partnerships from introduction to implementation. In answer to a question from Schwarz, she said that the timeline from introduction to implementation is generally 18 months. Schwarz expressed concern that it takes so long.

McAllister showed a list of grant applications and letters of support from various sources including industry, educational institutions, and others. Grant money will be used for the purchase of equipment.

Finally, McAllister welcomed all to attend the Well-Breaking Ceremony on March 31. Since the center is not new construction, there will not be a groundbreaking but instead the removal of some non-loadbearing walls.

Two students from Lewis-Palmer Middle School, Kayley Klosky and Cathy Stephenson, attended the meeting and were encouraged to participate in the discussions but were not able to vote on resolutions.

Stephenson asked about arrangements for transportation to and from the Career and Innovation Center.

McAllister responded that students would be at the center either all morning or all afternoon. Buses would take them in the morning and return them to school during the lunch period and take the afternoon students to the center after lunch.

Review of J policies

Director of Student Services Rick Frampton presented J policies regarding students in such areas as truancy, continuing enrollment, student absence, and equal education opportunities.

Frampton said there are a large number of policies in this category and requested the board consider a new process of reviewing them.

Currently, policies receive a first reading when no vote is taken. After a second reading, the board votes to approve the policies as presented.

Frampton said that many of these policies

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Players Pitch Baseball/ Softball: for ages 10-11, 12-14

ppymca.org/sports

Career & Innovation Center Update

Plans for renovating the building that will house D38's new Career & Innovation Center are underway! We kicked off the process with a wall-breaking ceremony on March 31 to mark the special milestone. Individuals from across the district, along with our construction and design partners, were invited to celebrate the next steps by helping take down a wall to start the renovation.

"The wall-breaking ceremony marked a pivotal moment in the transformation of the future home of the D38 Career & Innovation Center, symbolizing our commitment to expanding Career and Technical Education in our first phase of programming that includes offering courses in Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering and Skilled Trades," said Jessica McAllister, Director of Innovative Programs. "This center represents opportunity, growth, and the promise of a workforce-ready generation. The excitement is real, and the impact will be lasting."

We are also pleased to announce that Nunn Construction has come on board as an Amplifier Sponsor by committing to give \$10,000 a year for three years to help us acquire classroom tools, materials and equipment for hands-on learning opportunities. "This sponsorship helps bolster the work D38 is doing to educate and train students to enter directly into viable careers after high school or continue on to post-secondary education. This center is another step forward for D38 students, families, and directly supports local employers by building a relevant workforce," shared Andrea Slattery, Business Development Director at Nunn Construction.

Keep an eye on the D38 website and our social media platforms for photos from the wall-breaking ceremony and additional updates:

lewispalmer.org/page/career-innovation-center