



Above: On April 22, the School District 38 school board honored Robyn Hudson, Lewis-Palmer High (LPHS) postsecondary counselor, and Angela Dawson, Palmer Ridge High School (PHRS) career and college counselor, for organizing career expos at their schools. The winter events, Career Compass at LPHS and Pathway Palooza at PRHS, introduced students to various career opportunities. Hudson and Dawson also earned the Colorado Department of Education's School Counselor Corps Grant award for exceptional school counseling contributions. The expos, supported by a School Counseling Corps Grant and co-sponsorships from the HER Society and the D38 Education Foundation, connected learning with future careers. Special recognition also went to HER Society representatives Sara Colangelo and Bre Rinkema, alongside Foundation Executive Director Stephanie Palzkill. Pictured from left are Interim Superintendent Amber Whetstone, Colangelo, Rinkema, Hudson, and Board President Tiffiney Upchurch. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

A concern of Brom's is the fact that district students do not receive matriculation credit for earning college credit during high school. An additional concern is the relatively low participation in state assessments, which could threaten the district's accreditation with distinction if current legislation succeeds. We currently have an 83rd percentile participation of the 85th percentile required.

Board recognitions

The board recognized athletes from the D38 Unified Basketball Team who earned second place at the Special Olympics State Championship in March. Team coach Brandy Doan introduced team members and fellow coaches.

The board recognized staff members Robyn Hudson (postsecondary counselor at Lewis-Palmer High School and Angela Dawson (career and college counselor at Palmer Ridge High School) for planning and executing career fairs at their schools.

The events were supported by grants from the School Counseling

Corps, the HER Society, and the D38 Foundation.

Hudson and Dawson were also recognized by the Colorado Department of Education for receiving the School Counselor Corps Grant.

The board recognized recipients of Advance Grants from the D38 Education Foundation and thanked the Tri-Lakes Lions Club for their contributions.

Student representatives at the meeting were Maren Stickrath and Jonathan Lilly of Lewis-Palmer High School. Student representatives may ask questions and participate in discussions but may not vote.

The Lewis-Palmer Board of Education usually meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of the month in the district's learning center at 146 N. Jefferson St. The next meeting will be on May 19. For information, please contact vwood@lewispalmer.org.

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

D38 Parent and Community Advisory Committee, April 8 Discussion of Priority 2 academic excellence, superintendent search

By Harriet Halbig

The D38 Parent and Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) (formerly District Accountability Advisory Committee) discussed Priority 2 of the district's strategic plan involving academic excellence, the continuing search for a new superintendent, and plans to relocate programs from Grace Best Elementary School at its April meeting.

The meeting was held at Lewis-Palmer Middle School and began with a presentation by Principal Courtney Harrell and student presenters.

The school, with a student population of 755, stresses academic growth, a positive culture, and effective communication between students, staff, and families to ensure that all are informed of activities.

A recent student survey confirmed that students value a variety of elective offerings such as forensic science, photography, journalism, medical detectives, and speech and debate. Drama, band, and choir are also valued, as well as a wide variety of athletic offerings.

The school rates very high in achievement in science and meets requirements for student participation in testing although a significant number of families opt out of the testing.

Board of Education update

Board liaison Dr. Patti Shank reported on the March meeting of the board.

Among the subjects discussed were the future location of the Home School Enrichment Academy (HSEA) and the Transitions program. The HSEA occupies a large space in Grace Best and would require either the lease of an alternate structure or the construction of a new structure.

When the cost of purchasing an existing building, building a conventional stick-built structure, and building a metal structure were compared to the possibility of creating a prefabricated structure, the prefabricated option was by far the most affordable.

This structure would include 10 classrooms and a multi-purpose room and have an estimated lifespan of 40 to 50 years.

One committee member commented that the stick-built structure would last longer.

Shank also reported that the fire marshal offered the opportunity for the HSEA to occupy a portion of Grace Best for several months until the new structure was available. He would cordon off areas which are dangerous due to water leakage and other damage.

The Transitions program will be housed in the new Career and Innovation Center building along with the robotics program.

Regarding the search for a new

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