

were six non-renewed contracts and renewal of 11 of 15 one-year contracts. During that year, five teachers left the district to teach elsewhere and 21 came into the district from elsewhere.

Foster said that interviews were held with each departing employee.

There was a brief discussion of the desire to bring in teachers with fewer years of experience so that the Lewis-Palmer traditions could be passed along. Borman said that many great, new teachers were cut during the 2009-10 school year when the budget was cut drastically.

Foster commented that the Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) statistics reporting that the district had 42 percent turnover among teachers is misleading, because many of these individuals stayed in the district but began work in a different category. The statistics are a concern because they are often consulted by those moving into the area.

Board President Jeff Ferguson asked why teachers move to other districts. Foster said that D-38's salaries are 3 percent to 7 percent lower than neighboring districts. Many of these districts have now

instituted salary freezes, which may level the pay scales.

Jobs have been created in before- and after-school programs and the homeschool academy.

District Accountability Advisory Committee charge

Director of Assessment, Gifted Education and Technology Lori Benton introduced Chris Amenson, new chair of the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC), to the board. Amenson presented the charge of the committee to the board in a first reading. The board will vote on the charge during its October meeting.

Primary responsibilities of the committee are the review of each school's School Improvement Plan and monitoring of the special education and gifted education programs.

The primary change in the charge is the deletion of a subcommittee on early childhood education. The Committee for Political Achievement will continue its activities during this election year.

Amenson asked in what way the committee could serve the board in monitoring district budget matters, a charge required by state law. Ferguson commented that the board will discuss the issue and perhaps the committee could help inform the community regarding the possible mill levy override (MLO) ballot measure. See DAAC article on page 16.

Communication plan update

Communications Manager Robin Adair said that the district is assigning ambassadors to go into the community and acquaint citizens with achievement, activities, and needs of the district. There is currently a list of 450 individuals who could serve in this capacity.

Borman commented that the goal is to connect with the community in such a way that, if an MLO is proposed, the voters can make an informed decision. He has already received feedback from local organizations and individuals.

Adair said that she will provide a Frequently Asked Questions sheet to all individuals who serve as ambassadors.

Work continues on the 500-word statement of values and goals for the district.

There will be a breakfast for realtors on Oct. 5. Lewis-Palmer will be one of five districts making presentations to that group.

Middle School presentation

Lewis-Palmer Middle School Principal Seann O'Connor introduced the board to the school's Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) program.

Teacher Theresa Brown explained that the program combines orientation and transition for those coming into the middle school environment from several elementary campuses.

Incoming seventh-graders are often apprehensive about their new environment, finding their lockers and moving throughout the building during the day.

Training for the WEB participants begins in the spring for the following school year. Ninety eighth-graders serve as WEB leaders, mentoring the incoming class, guiding tours, and answering questions and concerns.

Several students demonstrated WEB activities with the board and said that they valued the experience as an exercise in leadership and a way to make them more confident as they make their own transition into high school.



Above: Members of the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) team from Lewis-Palmer Middle School demonstrate one of the activities they use to help incoming seventh-graders feel welcome in middle school. From left are board member John Magerko, WEB member Abby DeNardis, board member Mark Pfoff, WEB member Ashley Grob, Superintendent John Borman, and board member Robb Pike. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

Consent agenda

The board approved a list of such routine items as agendas and minutes of past meetings, appointments and resignations of staff, list of substitute staff for 2012-13, contracts, monthly budget summary, and other items.

The Board of Education of the Lewis-Palmer School District meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be held on Oct. 18.

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District Accountability Advisory Committee, Sept. 11

New chair and liaison welcomed; priorities set

By Harriet Halbig

The District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) for Lewis-Palmer School District began its new school year by welcoming a new chair and a new Board of Education liaison.

Chris Amenson will serve as the chair and John Magerko will replace Gail Wilson as the board liaison for the group. Wilson left the area earlier this year.

Superintendent's report

Superintendent John Borman reported that he felt that the 2011-12 school year

was a challenge and a success for him personally as well as for the district at large. He needed to transition from being a high school principal to being a representative for the entire district. He visited all schools several times to become familiar with all age groups.

Borman said that last year offered a welcome sense of stability after many years of frequent turnover in the position of superintendent. In addition, the re-election of all incumbents in last year's board election indicated public support for the

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