

Above: On Mar. 10 in Boulder, jubilation moments after LPHS defeated Sierra 44-43 to win the Colorado 4A Boys championship basketball division title. Photo by Dana Hollenbach.

fix, whereas a mill levy override (MLO) would provide funding for the longer term.

The board passed a resolution to withdraw \$350,000 from the cash in lieu of land fund.

Changes in budget targets

Superintendent John Borman said that per pupil funding is now \$6,142, \$5 more than anticipated. He stressed, however, that the state no longer funds growth within a district, so if the student population grows, the price per pupil in the state declines.

One concern for school funding is the possibility that the homestead exemption for senior citizens' property taxes may be reinstated. This exemption is not based on need, but on age and length of residency. If restored, the exemption would remove \$800,000 per year from the state

The district has set aside \$200,000 for unexpected fluctuations in enrollment. The February update from the governor anticipates that the cut in per pupil funding next year may be \$52 rather than the estimated \$110.

Borman said that he anticipates cutting spending by \$1.35 million for next year.

Borman projected a growth of 110 to 115 students in next year's enrollment. He estimated a need of 7.2 new teachers, primarily at the elementary level. The district gained 129 students during this year's open enrollment period, compared to 39 last year. This was attributed to the district's communication campaign.

To be conservative, next year's budget will be based on an increase of 60 students.

Educational needs, financial implications and solutions

Borman said that he has spoken with principals of all schools. He said that the class of 2011 benefited from the MLO passed in 2001. Present class sizes are a major concern, and students needing extra help and support are often not receiving it.

Before the beginning of major cuts a few years ago, each location had reading and math interventionists, a librarian, and a full-time counselor. This is no longer the case.

Borman said the district

should address grades k-3 first to

reduce class sizes. Middle school

classes are also large and all in-

terventionists are gone. Schools also had instructional coaches to aid in teacher development. Other funding for teacher development has also been eliminated.

Wilson commented that if D-38 wants to be a world class district, it needs to replace the interventionists at all levels.

Board Secretary Robb Pike said that an MLO would slow the decline of the district, but the state will continue to cut funding in the future. He said that the district is holding the line but needs to determine what is involved in running an MLO campaign. He suggested getting a community group to gauge community sentiment on the subject and the likelihood of success. He also suggested paying down some of the district's debt to free up funds.

National Volunteer Month

The board passed a resolution designating March to be National Volunteer Month and expressed its gratitude for the contributions of all of its volunteers.

Suspension/expulsion policy updates

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster reported that the district's policy on suspension and expulsion had recently been reviewed. The policy requires very few expulsions, although state statute requires them under some circumstances.

The district now has a deferred expulsion program in

which students receive counseling and have to agree to undergo corrective measures before rejoining the student body.

Borman said that each case is considered individually and that he and Foster meet with each student.

Recognitions

The board recognized winners of the recent district chess tournament and heard a presentation of the Preamble of the Constitution by a fourth-grade class from Kilmer Elementary School. Boy Scout Troop 6, attending the meeting as a requirement for the Community Merit Badge, led the pledge of allegiance before the meeting.

George Douthit, vocal music teacher from Lewis-Palmer High School, was recognized for winning the Educator of the Year Award from the Colorado Springs Choral Society. Douthit was nominated for the honor by former Superintendent Ted Bauman, who introduced him.

The state champion Lewis-Palmer High School Rangers basketball team was celebrated for its recent success in the 4A division. Superintendent Borman, a former coach, said a few words about the achievements of each team member.



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The board approved a list of routine items such as minutes and agendas of previous meetings, appointments and resignations, lists of support and substitute staff, and contracts.

***** 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 April 19.

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