

is the new district fire marshal. Vincent was a fire captain at Station 3 and celebrated his 11th year with the district this month.

Correction

OCN erroneously reported in last month's issue that the district was considering an 8.5 mill levy increase. The correct figure is

1.5 mills. This is one possible proposal along with other actions for cost reduction should expenses exceed revenue in the coming years.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, in the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument.

For further information regarding this meeting, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911. Bernard Minetti can be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, April 19

Board approves new middle school principal

By Harriet Halbig

At the April 19 meeting of the District 38 Board of Education, Superintendent John Borman announced that Caryn Collette, principal of Lewis-Palmer Middle School, will retire at the end of the school year. He said that there were many candidates for the position, each of whom was interviewed by three separate committees of staff and community members.

Seann O'Connor, current assistant principal of Palmer Ridge High School, was selected to succeed her. He has served in

that capacity for the past three years. Previously he was athletics director at Lewis-Palmer High School (LPHS) and dean of Liberty High School in Academy School District 20.

Board Vice President Mark Pfoff said that he knew O'Connor from attending high school football games and admires his leadership abilities.

Board member John Mann said that he knew O'Connor from the time when Mann taught at Lewis-Palmer High School. He also commended Collette for combining the two middle

schools and being award the John Irwin Award for Excellence during the first year.

Board Treasurer Gail Wilson commended O'Connor for the fact that he has worked and planned to further his career in the district. She also praised Collette for her leadership.

The board unanimously passed the resolution to hire O'Connor as principal of Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

Math curriculum purchase approved

Dr. Lori Benton, director of Assessment, Gifted Education, and Technology, reported to the board that the district is in the process of aligning the district math curriculum in keeping with new state standards. This alignment involves horizontal changes so that classes are identical across campuses, and vertical alignment so that material is not repeated from one year to the next.

Benton said that present instructional materials are 8 years old. She proposed the expenditure of \$108,609 for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade Everyday Math materials. The cost includes training for teachers and three-dimensional teaching materials.

The cost will be covered by equally dividing the total among the schools and use of excess textbook funding. This does not represent an addition to the budget, but an allocation of funds.

The board passed a resolution to allocate funding for the new math program.

State education funding update for 2012-13

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported that the School Finance Act has been put on hold. This act included two primary proposals:



Above: Seann O'Connor, new Principal of Lewis-Palmer Middle School. Photo provided by D-38.

- The Homestead Exemption providing tax breaks for seniors on their property taxes would be reinstated.
- Per pupil funding would remain the same from this year to next.

BEST project funding (Build Excellent Schools Today grants for capital improvement) will be disbanded. This is the funding that has supported such projects as partial roofing of Lewis-Palmer Middle School and improvements at Palmer Lake Elementary.

Wilson commented that the BEST program was growing too fast to be sustainable and its dissolution will impact rural districts the worst.

Wangeman said that she had reported to the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) about a projected 2012-13 budget for the district (see page 23 of this issue for details). The combination of a reinstated Homestead Exemption and increased per pupil finding is expected to lead to cuts of about

\$700,000 from next year's budget instead of the projected \$1.3 million. The remaining cuts are to cover increased technology spending, increased spending on the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and increased utility costs.

DAAC had no major concerns about Wangeman's report, and noted that increased funding to support pre-K to third grade reading and hiring of additional teachers were valid priorities.

Wangeman also reported on the status of a number of reserve funds held by the district.

She said that the Nutrition Services Fund consists of revenue from payment for meals and revenue from the federal government for free and reduced-price lunch students. New federal regulations will require a change in nutritional requirements such as the use of low-fat dairy items, more whole grains and less protein, salt, and calories. There will be a projected increase in food costs of 6 percent to 10 percent. More students are anticipated to qualify for free lunches. The food service department is attempting to hold prices flat.

Priority needs and MLO Feasibility Committee

Borman reported on the results of several discussions involving priority needs for the district. He said that the primary priorities of the district are:

- A return to moderate class sizes.
- Continued high achievement by students.
- Education of the Whole Child.

He said that the district's budget has been cut to the extent that many teaching positions have been eliminated, many of them crucial to support of reading and math performance, and teachers at the high school level have had their workload significantly increased.

Borman said that to bring the district's quality of education back to 2002 levels, the priorities are:

- Strive for a superior teaching staff and provide professional development to maintain the quality.
- Provide support in reading, writing, and math.
- Improve the infrastructure for teaching by reinstating an administrative department involving curriculum (this department was combined with several others a few years ago).

Borman said that the cost of catching up to 2002 levels of education would be about \$5 million to include repairs to the



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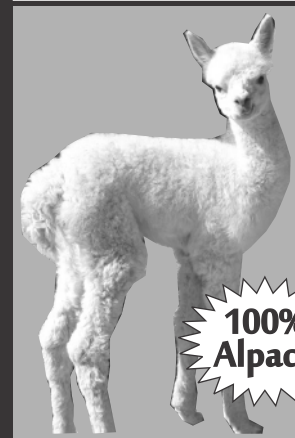
You are invited to Mountain View Electric Association's 71st Annual Meeting of Members



Thursday, June 7, 2012
Palmer Ridge High School
Monument, CO
5:30 p.m. Registration, Dinner and Entertainment
7p.m. Business Meeting, Election of Board of Directors and Door Prizes



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