

district's infrastructure, purchasing several buses, purchase of computers and other technology, increasing professional development, increasing the number of teachers, and tending to the needs of Monument Academy. Even this amount would not provide for pay increases for district staff.

The year 2002 was chosen as a benchmark because it was before the decline in school funding.

Wilson commented that with increased numbers of English Language Learners and Special Education students, the cost of education is greater than it was in 2002.

Mann suggested that the district ask for a \$5 million mill levy override (MLO).

Pfaff said that the board must first consider the cost per household of such an issue. Borman said that he had held a meeting of an MLO Feasibility Committee earlier in the week.

He offered to go back to the group to determine whether the community is ready to take on an MLO.

Wangeman provided a first reading of prospective fee increases for the coming school year. Most were minimal due to the institution of bus fees in the fall.

**Superintendent's update**  
Borman reported on activities in the district. Among these is a program in which Kiwanis members read to elementary schoolchildren, LPTV (a video-making class) students raising \$1,000 to sponsor their trip to Seattle to show their film on cyber bullying, and the fact that a student from Prairie Winds Elementary has won a prize in an international space art contest. Seventeen students from the middle school qualified for the state level science olympiad. The district's robotics team won the rookie award at a Denver competition.

He also said that the Lewis-Palmer Elementary School Spring Social on May 1 will offer a good opportunity for intergenerational fellowship as students will perform for and serve refreshments to seniors.

LPHS senior Josh Scott was named Mr. Colorado, the top male basketball player in the state, and Russ McKinstry, LPHS basketball coach, was named 4A coach of the year.

**School presentations**  
Lewis-Palmer Middle School teacher Virginia Monroe spoke of her school's participation in forensics competitions throughout the state and introduced Jack Icke, who performed a piece by Bill Cosby.

Bear Creek Elementary Principal Peggy Parsley said that her school has benefited greatly from its relationship with Kiwanis Kids—Young Leaders Helping Others. This group of fourth- to sixth-graders has replaced the Student Council at the

school and has had a number of projects over the past year:

- Held fundraisers for the school
- Created a school newspaper
- Delivered welcome kits to new students
- Got a \$500 grant for a Book Nook, where donated used books are available to students

The Tri-Lakes Women's Club also provided grants for improvement of the school's playground and a poetry contest. A Colorado Springs company donated technology to be used in the Daily 5 program: word work, read to self, listening, writing, and use of smart board and iPads in class. A local carpet dealer provided carpeting for the Book Nook.

Several students read their original poems.

Phyllis Robinette introduced math teacher Teresa Brown of Lewis-Palmer Middle School as this year's candidate to become a

National Board certified teacher. Brown will provide a portfolio and videos for consideration. She is working on the project with her students.

Wilson said that this is the fourth year of Lewis-Palmer School District participation in this program and thanked Robinette for her mentoring of candidates.

The board passed a list of routine items including minutes of previous meetings, requests for leave of absence, lists of teachers and support staff, contracts, insurance, and other items requiring board signature.

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The Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on May 21.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

*District Accountability Advisory Committee, April 10*

# Overall academic achievement exceeds requirements

By Harriet Halbig

School District 38 Director of Assessment, Gifted Education and Technology Lori Benton presented a summary of the district's Unified Improvement Plan to the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) on April 10. The district is required to prepare such a plan each year, as is each individual school. The plan was submitted in January to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

The district's overall academic achievement exceeds requirements, as does Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading at the elementary and high school levels. District graduation rates and dropout rates are also rated as exceeding requirements. AYP in math was not met at any level, nor was reading at the middle school level. There will be focus on improving math at all levels and reading at the middle school level.

Benton said that reading intervention had not been available for the past few years and was recently reinstated at the middle school. New reading standards require more depth of thinking than in the past due to the use of historical documents and other original materials.

Benton said the district is doing well in the area of growth and growth gaps. She explained that, beginning with the upcoming academic year, AYP will no longer be an element in evaluating districts.

The district will investigate new materials for use in math at all levels and strive to correct lack of horizontal and vertical alignment in curriculum before the end of 2012.

The district is accredited with distinction because it exceeds state expectations in academic achievements, high graduation rates, low dropout rates, superior ACT scores, and preparation for postsecondary and workforce activities on the part of graduates. The district is among the top three in the state in those areas.

Individuals wishing to compare Lewis-Palmer's plan with those of other districts may view all state districts on [schoolview.org](http://schoolview.org).

**Gifted Education Leadership Team**

Benton reported that the Gifted Education Leadership Team

(GELT) has a new facilitator and has developed a list of goals for the year:

- Improve communication with parents of gifted students by providing a list of resources and enrichment opportunities via the program website.
- Prepare the end-of-year report to be submitted to the CDE.
- Prepare for the audit by state authorities who will come to the district.
- Review and refine the gifted student identification process.
- Refine Advanced Learning Plans (ALP) in Alpine soft-

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