

building and personnel continued their duties virtually uninterrupted.

When the Red Cross requested a shelter in the district, Lewis-Palmer High School was offered. Borman praised district staff for volunteering their time and effort to maintain the shelter. Local restaurants aided in providing food. Home Depot offered kennels for dogs and RVs were permitted to park in the high school parking lot during the emergency.

Borman reported that the district's insurance has reimbursed all but the \$1,000 deductible. The Red Cross was billed for janitorial services.

He said that he will share this experience with representatives of other school districts.

A lesson learned from the emergency is that there is a need for redundancy in some aspects of the administration. The computer servers are located in the

administration building and there are plans to duplicate some records at Palmer Ridge.

Borman said that he was very proud of the community and its response to the emergency.

Assessment update

Dr. Lori Benton, director of the Assessment, Gifted Education and Technology Department, reported on test results for the district's students.

She said that all results are not yet in, but that the district has generally remained stable in reading, writing, math and science, with students who rated proficient or advanced numbering about 18 percent more than the state average.

Benton said she has begun dialog with principals regarding their target areas of concern.

Members of the board requested

further information on what additional resources might be needed in the future.

They also asked for comparative figures regarding scores from other area school districts such as District 12, District 20 and Douglas County.

Benton said that the district and each school will have a Unified Improvement Plan by December, well in advance of the April due date.

Bus fee update

Borman reported that the institution of bus fees has gone smoothly, with the expected loss of ridership. It is anticipated that some of the riders will return a month or so into the school year.

Communication plan update

Community Relations Manager Robin Adair reported that her staff has begun work on the plan to engage the community in advance of seeking a mill levy override in 2014. This work takes several forms:

- A survey has been distributed to each school seeking the names of influential members of each community.
- A committee is determining which local groups to approach to develop a closer relationship and local support.
- There is a preliminary draft of the 500 word statement regarding the need and justification for an override.
- The superintendent is discussing district values with all staff.
- The district's list of key communica-

tors is being updated with a goal of 200 to 400 names of individuals.

- Borman said that this will be a standing agenda item for future board meetings.

Adair said that her staff has also produced videos for each school website and one for the district website. It is updating various promotional materials for distribution by realtors and the chamber of commerce. Departing students are being contacted to learn why they are leaving the district.

Bus advertising update

Adair reported that the five buses are used outside of the district. Each bears an advertisement for the district. In addition, nine ads have been sold to appear on the remaining buses. Local businesses are responding well to the program and will be contacted again soon after school starts. The board approved various routine matters including minutes of meetings, resignation and appointment of staff, list of substitute teachers, and other matters.

The Board of Education of the Lewis-Palmer School District 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 Sept. 20.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Monument Board of Trustees, Aug. 6

Expansion plans approved for two businesses

By Jim Kendrick

On Aug. 6, the Monument Board of Trustees approved two commercial planned development site plan amendments for facility expansions at the Electric Propulsion Laboratories in the Synthes industrial park and Foster's Storage at the south town boundary on Old Denver Highway. The board also approved special event permits for the "Strength Through Unity" parade and Monument Celebration Festival to be held on Labor Day.

Trustees Jeff Bornstein and Rick Squires were absent.

Electric Propulsion addition approved

Randy Stewart of Wells and West General Contractors Inc. sought approval of Major Amendment 1 to the preliminary/final

planned development site plan for Electric Propulsion Laboratories on behalf of owners Graeme and Martha Aston. They plan to add a new 5,000-square-foot building for testing and assembly on the east side of their existing facility at 1040 Synthes Ave., in the Synthes industrial park, a Monument planned industrial development zoning district.

The application also sought approval for a second 5,000-square-foot addition to this new structure to also be constructed in the rear of the existing facility—a 7,350-square-foot testing and assembly building and 2,362-square-foot office. The second addition will be built in the future. The approval period for the second addition is three years. The Astons can reapply for an approval extension at that time

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