

D38 (Cont. from page 1) year. Board member John Magerko commented that

a committee of community members will monitor all spending by the district.

**Safety training approved**

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman asked board approval for a contract to provide training to ensure safety in district schools. She said that the Monument Police and Fire Departments and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office all approve of this training.

A task force created after the Sandy Hook killings in December discussed options for the training. Each school will be trained separately, beginning with Palmer Ridge High School.

The training, provided by Abila Security and Investigations, was approved.

**Electronic participation in board meetings**

The board discussed a policy to allow electronic participation in school board meetings when board members can't be present. This issue was first discussed by the Colorado Association of School Boards. Board President Jeff Ferguson suggested that examples of applicable circumstances should be included in the wording of the policy. Vice President Mark Pfoff stressed that members should be encouraged to attend meetings in person whenever possible.

Under the policy, absent members may participate in discussions and vote.

Regardless of passage of the policy, a quorum of three board members must be physically present for a meeting to be held.

The board assigned Borman to explore the technology required to



Above: Eighth-graders from Lewis-Palmer Middle School have chosen a partnership to "awake the lake" in Palmer Lake as their project for the year. Their teachers are, from left, Earl Hammond, Rick Bainer, Suzanne Magerko, and Principal Seann O'Connor. The students are, from left, Ailsa Young, Rilee Britton, Jenna Lewis, Xavier Hill, and Antonio Pacitto. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

put the policy in place. The board stressed that all members must be able to hear one another, and there must be a way to record proceedings.

**Teacher departures decline**

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster gave a presentation on staffing levels and turnover as represented in Colorado Department of Education (CDE) documents. He reported that

there has been a decrease in non-renewals over the past year. The district will often give one-year contracts to teachers hired during a school year.

The number of teachers leaving District 38 for other districts has decreased, and the number of new hires from other Colorado districts has increased from 15 in the 2012-13 year to 24 for the 2013-14 school year. Many of the new hires are from the Harrison School District.

Foster explained that the statistics for turnover in CDE documents can be deceptive, because employees are considered to be turnovers if they leave their previous position, even though they may have been promoted from teacher to principal or from paraprofessional to teacher.

Borman commented that the state uses these statistics in many ways and said that turnover should be considered to be a neutral term. Often when the district decides not to renew a contract, it is because it thinks it can find a better fit for a position. People seldom leave the district because they are unhappy. Some leave for more money, some to leave the area to be close to family elsewhere, and some retire.

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