

counselor Larry Clouse for being honored by the Colorado Council on High School/College Relations for his work.

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The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 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 on Dec. 18.

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### Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Nov. 11

## State representative-elect explains school funding

By Harriet Halbig

Current Chairman of the Colorado State Board of Education and State Rep.-Elect Paul Lundeen addressed the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) at its Nov. 11 meeting regarding changes in funding for education.

Lundeen said that he would work in the Legislature to maintain local control of education.

The mechanism for controlling school matters at the state level is divided between the Legislature, which determines funding levels and policy, and the state Board of Education. The state board is composed of seven members, one from each congressional district, and regulates standards, assessments, and accountability from the various school districts. There are 178 districts in the state, each having authority over curriculum and use of funds.

Lundeen said that Gov. John Hickenlooper has requested that \$380 million from the state and \$99 million from local sources comprise the budget for the 2015-16 school year. The state portion of the funding will provide an increase of per pupil funding of \$475 based on an estimated growth of 10,000 pupils statewide. Lundeen said that this is a one-time increase to partially compensate for underfunding over the past several years.

With this increase, per pupil funding in District 38 in 2015-16 will be \$7,100, which is still below 2008 levels. Lundeen also stressed that costs have increased since then.

The underfunding is described as a negative factor because it is a violation of Amendment 23, which requires that funding be increased on the basis of student count and in ation. The recent recession deprived the state of tax revenue, and therefore the required funding could not be provided. This one-time infusion of funds is an effort to compensate.

Lundeen stressed that money is not the most important factor in education, however. He said that good people and policy are critical.

Lundeen is opposed to national standards, saying that they overburden the system and cause loss of local control. He said that assessments should show how a state in doing in comparison with others, and to see how effective the teachers are.

He said that centralization of assessments could also result in loss of confidentiality.

Lundeen proposed that the Legislature re-examine all funding legislation such as the Gallagher Amendment (which determines taxation of residential and business real property), TABOR (which requires a referendum on any tax increase and limits the speed of recovery of the state economy), and Amendment 23 to arrive at a single plan for the future.

### Bear Creek Elementary Campus introduction

Principal Peggy Parsley said that Bear Creek Elementary School consists of 881 students in grades pre-kinder-

garten through sixth, including 11 percent on free or reduced-cost lunch, 5 percent English learners, 8 percent special education and 5 percent gifted students. The building opened in 2001 as Creekside Middle School and became an elementary school in 2010 after the two middle schools were consolidated into one.

Only one classroom in the building is not in use full time, she said. There are five classes at each grade level and the only accredited preschool in the district. The accrediting body is the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

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