

residents who live in the WUI, it is very important to start the formation of "community" groups pre-loss rather than awaiting a disaster to start this process. These

groups should have a social component as well as a disaster preparation component. As Coloradans face the "new reality" of an increased wildfire risk, it is impor-

tant to make proactive changes in our lives that will pay great dividends should a natural disaster strike any one of us. *John Putnam can be contacted at*

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**Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 19**

# Board approves new curricula, budget

*By Harriet Halbig*

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 approved a number of new curricula at its June 19 meeting. Two of these are pilot projects involving the use of eBooks and technology as well as physical textbooks. In each case, 15 computers will be provided to each classroom for student use.

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton explained the anatomy/physiology curriculum by demonstrating the use of video to show CT scans and X-rays that would be viewed and analyzed by students. She also demonstrated how the terminology is presented and explained that students would have access to the materials from home and from media centers in the schools. Practice tests with feedback are also included.

Participation in the curriculum requires a six-year license that includes updates to the materials. The license will make it possible to use a book on 45 devices. A conventional textbook in this subject would cost \$135, while the virtual materials would cost \$175 and include the additional materials.

### Astronomy pilot program approved

Astronomy teacher Mary Gregory of Lewis-Palmer High School explained the astronomy curriculum. She said that students can receive credit at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) upon completion of the curriculum by paying a portion of the usual tuition cost.

She stressed that it is useful to encourage students to participate in many aspects of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Gregory explained that the e-curriculum is particularly appropriate in the field of astronomy because of the rate of discovery in the field. Today's students are of the generation that will explore deep space and perhaps visit Mars and other planets. For this reason, Gregory said, it is imperative to encourage interest in the field. She

demonstrated that video included in the software would show real-time images and explain various aspects of the solar system and universe.

She said that the Ranger Legacy Fund has donated funds for the purchase of several Dell tablets for use in the class. Other grants are being sought.

Gregory said that her goal is to create a model for this curriculum that would invite corporate sponsorship from such sources as Lockheed-Martin.

In answering questions from the board, Benton said that the use of video in these programs is intended to engage rather than entertain students. She said that the district will offer to demonstrate these new curricula to parents before they are implemented.

The board approved the pilot program pending the parent review period.

### Board approves biomedical program

Teacher Michelle Baxter explained a new Project Lead the Way program in biomedical science. She said that a goal of this curriculum is to allow students to use specialized tools and methods to solve problems in this field and determine whether they wish to pursue a career in this area.

Classes are offered online and accompanied by hands-on activities and open-ended problem solving. The approach in the first level class is to discover a dead body and determine the cause of death through a number of tests and processes of elimination. She said that the course offers several alternate problems so that each class will work with a different set of circumstances.

Baxter said that the level 1 class, Principles of Biomedical Sciences, would be offered in grades 9 through 12.

The end-of-course assessment is administered nationally. The school's university link is with UCCS. Following the level 1 class are three more, for which she will be trained in future years. Some universities offer preferred admittance to

those who complete the series.

The board approved participation in this program.

### 2014-15 budget approved

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wageman reported that one change was made to the proposed budget since its first presentation at the May meeting.

After speaking with many local developers, she and interim Superintendent Ted Bauman decided to reduce the projected growth in the student population from 100 new students to 50. This would reduce state revenues by \$335,000. Wageman said that the budget is conservative and reminded the board that state spending on education continues to be lower than expected.

She said that discussions with the developers included such factors as the number and size of new homes and their price range. Her office receives weekly reports on enrollment. She said that the slowdown in growth in the area may be partly due to changes in the military community.

Goals under the budget are to improve the district's technology infrastructure, address class size, and provide compensation increases for staff.

Wageman said that as a result of the lowering of expectations, the rate of reserves will fall from 18 percent to 17 percent going into the 2014-15 year. She cautioned that there are many unknowns in future expenditures, including potential changes in utility rates due to unrest in the Middle East.

Board Treasurer John Mann stressed that the budget process is fluid and is revisited a number of times in the course of a school year. He said that the situation will be better known following the official student count in October.

The board approved the budget as presented.

The board voted to retire all of its long-term debt through defeasance of its 2010 Certificates of Participation, which were refinancing debt on its properties. By

paying these off, the district will no longer be paying any obligations that involve interest.

Pfaff pointed out that at the time the certificates were issued, the board planned to retire them either this year or in 2015. In doing so, the board will save \$300,000.

Wageman said that the process will be set in motion the following week, with settlement to occur in early August.

The board approved the defeasance of the 2010 certificates of participation.

### Superintendent's update

Superintendent Karen Brofft reported briefly on a recent retreat of members of the board, principals, and administrators. She said that the goal was to discuss the vision and mission of the district.

Planned actions were to go from policy governance to a policy review method of governance, to create goals for political engagement, develop a long-term facilities plan, and develop a professional development plan.

### Thanks from Black Forest

Two building administrators from Edith Wolford Elementary School in Black Forest thanked the board for the efforts of a fifth-grade class from Prairie Winds Elementary School, which planned and planted a garden in an area that had been destroyed by the fire.

The garden was planted in May. They especially thanked Barb Sailer, McCord Garden Center, and R Rock Yard for their contributions.

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The Lewis-Palmer School District board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. There will not be a meeting in July. The next meeting will be on Aug. 21.

*Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.*

**Board of County Commissioners, June 17, 19**

# Embattled sheriff disputes accusations

*By Lisa Hatfield*

On June 17, Sheriff Terry Maketa addressed the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on recent accusations about his command structure and the functioning of the Sheriff's Office during the current investigation. Some of Maketa's prepared comments included:

- "Nothing has changed" in how front-line deputies get command information to set priorities and get needed resources for patrol, investigations, or disaster response. There are trained personnel to step in and fill the void when others go on vacation or on leave for any reason.
- "The staff is doing a phenomenal job."
- The command structure in an emergency would be the same as it has been, and it is better staffed than

before due to the passage of tax ballot measure 1A in 2012, which allowed more specially trained emergency personnel to be hired.

- Vacant positions of the undersheriff and three commanders on leave have been filled by employees in lower positions.
- In response to Commissioner Peggy Littleton's question, he said that "no one is getting paid double salaries" for filling voids in the command staff.
- "The (professional) training I have received over the years has been built on and continued. I have performed and risen to the level and beyond what the community has expected."
- He has tried to maintain "open communications" with the county staff. However, Commissioner Darryl

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