supporting information. She also requested a change in policy regarding the consent agenda so that contracts and other items could be more specifically stated.

#### **Student recognition**

Lewis-Palmer High School Principal Sandi Brandl and

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Palmer Ridge High School Principal Gary Gabel introduced National Merit commended students and semi-finalists from their schools. Standings are based on PSAT scores from last year. Commended students scored in the top 3 percent nationally and semi-finalists scored in the top 1 percent.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be held on Dec.17.

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

District Accountability Advisory Committee, Nov. 10

# **Committee hears communications** update, approves request for readiness assessment waiver

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee received a number of updates, approved a request for a waiver on readiness assessments, and discussed unified improvement plans at its November meeting.

Public Information Officer Julie Stephen summarized recent activities in the area of communications. The largest project underway is the overhaul of the district's website. The goal is for individuals to be able to customize the information they seek so that they may monitor activities at the specific school or schools with which they are involved. Calendars may be customized in this way, and the district will seek to inform parents of closures and school emergencies in a timely fashion.

Stephen said that a communications audit carried out last year said that individuals prefer face-to-face contact with the district and for this reason any information will have a name and face attached to it.

Stephen also explained some of the district's partnerships, such as the underwriting of the district's app by Centura Health and ongoing partnerships with local newspapers and broadcast media.

In response to a question, Stephen said that Monument Academy will not be directly involved with the new website but can be reached through it.

#### **School Readiness Assessment waiver**

Director of Curriculum Sheila Beving spoke about a request for a waiver from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) regarding use of TS Gold as a tool for determining preschoolers' readiness for reading in kindergarten.

Teachers now use TS Gold and district report cards to communicate individual students' capabilities and progress. There has been concern regarding data privacy in the use of TS Gold, as in some cases students were videotaped or otherwise recorded in a way that would make them individually recognizable.

Beving said that she has spoken with kindergarten teachers and principals and both groups have voted to support the request for the waiver on the grounds that the district's report cards are sufficiently detailed to assess readiness and that the teachers should not be required to assess readiness in two separate formats.

Beving said that she has written a draft rationale and a draft replacement plan for submission to CDE. She said that there will be a public hearing on the subject and that

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