



**Above:** Members of the Lewis-Palmer High School Westwind yearbook staff are, from left, Lauren White, Nicholas Lewis, Jordan Arnold, Riley Bircham, Hannah Spivey, Kelsey Falvo, and teacher and advisor Carrie Hendrix. *Photo by Julie Stephen.*

crease of almost \$225.

Utility cost increases in the coming year may be offset by the decreased price of diesel fuel, but the cost of electricity is likely to rise.

Wangeman presented a list of requests for the coming year, including capital improvements, purchase of three buses and other vehicles, and the cost of the new director of Instructional and Informational Technology position. She also said that grant money is being sought for some of the capital improvements.

**Superintendent update**

Superintendent Karen Brofft reported that discussion of a waiver from assessment continues. While the state Board of Education encouraged a decrease in the amount of testing, the state attorney general said that such waivers may not be legal.

Brofft announced that Community Relations Manager Robin Adair has left the district. The position of public information officer will be posted on the district's personnel site until March 6.

Brofft reported that the district has received a secondary school health professional grant that will support drug and alcohol prevention programs, additional counselors, and full-time nurses at each school.

Referring back to state funding, Brofft said that the district has lost \$19 million in promised funding over the past several years.

**Other matters**

The board received a number of additional reports, among them:

- Former Superintendent Ted Bauman reported on the Lewis-Palmer Hall of Fame for 2015, saying that nominations are now being sought. He and former Superintendent Jeff Ferguson are co-chairs of the committee. Bauman stressed that individuals from all levels of the district, including volunteers, are eligible for nomination. The deadline for nominations is April 30. The ceremony will likely be held in the fall.
- Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton introduced the board to the new assessment dashboard, a report that will be in the board's packet each month to give up-to-date information on data derived from assessments.
- Foster offered a first reading of policies on the subjects of staff use of technology resources and accountability.
- The board approved the employee benefits package for the coming year.
- The board approved the extension of the superintendent's contract through June 30, 2016.
- The board reaffirmed its resolution from February 2014 regarding local

control with regard to curriculum, standards, and use of the PARCC assessments.

- The board approved a resolution asking the state Board of Education to certify the board as the sole chartering authority within district boundaries.

**Citizens' comments**

Six parents of students at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School addressed the board with concerns about changes in the atmosphere at that school, finding it less welcoming and positive than it had been prior to the recent change in administration. Stressing that the teachers are excellent, the parents felt that the previous atmosphere of enthusiasm and support has suffered and that students seem to be aware of the difference.

A teacher from the school said that the teachers there are happy and that parents are welcome to visit at any time to assess the situation. She said that the new leadership welcomes input from parents.

Dennise Wilson, co-chair of the Lewis-Palmer Education Association, reported that the organization had raised money for Tri-Lakes Cares to distribute to local families to help with their utility bills.

**Special recognitions**

Steve Waldmann, parent and chess team coach, introduced some of the trophy winners from the tournament held on Feb. 14 at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. This was the ninth annual tournament and was attended by 75 students. Waldmann thanked Key Club members and teachers for their help.

Carrie Hendrix, Lewis-Palmer High school computer instructor and yearbook adviser, said that the school's 2014 Westwind yearbook has been nominated for the National Scholastic Press Association's Pacemaker Award. Six members of the yearbook staff spoke briefly to thank Hendrix for her support.

Palmer Ridge High School Field hockey coach Paul Lewis was introduced as the Gazette Field Hockey Coach of the Year. Additional honors awarded to the team by the Colorado High School Activities Association included academic state champions, and the team was runner-up in the state tournament

last fall.

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The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education 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 March 19.

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

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