

Note: After the executive session at the end of the Dec. 8 meeting, the board voted unanimously to remove the impact fee from the 2016 District Fee Schedule.

Public involvement needed

Resident Derek Araje said he had met with Shirk and Chief Chris Truty to find out more about the district and its operations. Araje said he thought people would pay more for fire services if they realized how critical those services were, including medical services. He volunteered to help get the word out to people and recruit members to the citizens' advisory committee, which will provide

direction to the district regarding a possible mill or bond levy vote.

Truty said long-term funding to stabilize existing services would require an additional \$20 million over the next five years. He asked community members interested in volunteering to call him at 719-648-4148 or write to ctruty@tlmfire.org.

Chief's report

Truty's comments included:

- Residents interested in running for TLMFPD board need to turn in paperwork by Feb. 26.
- Work on Station 1's new well has started.
- The district fielded 150 calls in four hours to support the

Operation Deep Freeze blizzard emergency responder simulation on Jan. 9.

- Status of Assistance to Firefighters Grant will be known by summer. It could help pay \$375,000 to upgrade obsolete radio system.
- The saga continues with George K. Baum consultant for mill or bond levy election.
- Office Administrator Jennifer Martin is collecting data to try to recover missing ambulance revenue after the ambulance billing company system crashed in August. Some accounts might go to collections.

- "Community paramedicine" legislation is moving forward and might allow outside health care providers to do post-hospital checkups.
- Truty has been appointed to the county e911 board to help determine funding for dispatching.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Feb. 24 in the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

Would you like to help Our Community News report on the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District? Please contact Lisa Hatfield at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

DK Konstruction
 General Contractor
 Drywall Install & Repair
 Remodeling
 Electric & Plumbing
 Carpentry
 Basements
 Fence • Deck Install & Repair
 Landscaping
 Power Washing
 New Home Building
NO JOB TOO SMALL!
FREE ESTIMATES
LICENSED & INSURED
 Serving the Tri-Lakes area since 1985
719-330-7638

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Jan. 21

Board receives reports on Monument Academy, home school enrichment, and gifted education

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education received a number of reports on district activities, recognized student and staff accomplishments and had a lengthy discussion of board member conduct and treatment of staff during its Jan. 21 meeting.

Monument Academy Charter School Operations Report

Executive Director Don Griffin of Monument Academy (MA) appeared at the meeting to report on activities at the school.

MA now has 952 students, or 15 percent of the district, experiencing a 7 percent increase in the past year.

Eighty percent of the population is retained each year and the turnover rate for staff is low, Griffin said. All staff is classified as highly qualified by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the school is a John Irwin School of Excellence.

New policies passed by the MA board include a limit to class sizes and a longevity bonus for staff. The board is made up of parents.

The school began accepting special education students five years ago and is considered a model for charter schools in this area, Griffin said. There are now 60 students on Individual Education Plans. In addition, students are assessed for giftedness.

Home School Enrichment Academy update

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton reported that the Home School Enrichment Academy was founded four years ago to offer enrichment services to home-schooling families at no cost. Enrollments are accepted from families inside and outside the district.

The academy uses the gym, cafeteria and upper floor of Grace Best. Beginning with 56 students, it now has 102 enrolled in grades K through 8.

Subjects offered include music, drama, physical education, scientific exploration, and cultural studies for grades K through 5 and writing, yoga, history, murals, music, and performing arts for grades 6 through 8.

Funding is provided by the state as students are considered part-time students of the district and through grants.

Gifted education audit

Benton reported that the CDE requires a review of gifted education programs every four years.

The Lewis-Palmer program was judged as strong in language arts and math with a good website and a good leadership team. High school course offerings are a draw to those from outside the district to "choice in." The district is also willing to invest far more funding than the state provides, Benton said.

A future goal is to improve the system by which students are identified as gifted.

Twenty percent of high school students are identified as gifted. Students never leave the program once identified.

The district has policy

whereby a student entering the district having been identified as gifted in their former district will automatically be included in the program.

School readiness assessment waiver

Director of Curriculum Sheila Beving reported on the continued discussion to request a waiver from the use of TS Gold as a tool in assessing readiness for kindergarten in the district. This subject was discussed at the December meeting of the board and the January meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee.

The district desires a waiver in order to exert local control and use the district's report cards as a means of determining readiness. A public hearing was held the previous week and parents expressed confidence in the district's teachers and their knowledge of their students. Teachers said that they feel confident in the use of locally created assessments. In addition, teachers said that use of the TS Gold system required time out of the classroom.

The board passed a resolution to apply to CDE for a waiver regarding the administration of assessments to kindergarten students.

English Learner update

English Language Learner (ELL) Coordinator Stephanie Johnson reported on her program. Co-presenter was Nick Lee of Lewis-Palmer High School, who moved from China in 2012.

The participants in the program are assessed on the basis of proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Once a student is identified as eligible

for the program, parents have the



Above: Monument Academy Executive Director Don Griffin, right, congratulates school nurse Janice Latendresse, who received a National Association of School Nurses scholarship for \$2,500 to continue her education. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

IRON MAN
 SAFECO
JEFF KING
 Authorized Dealer
 Quality Safes & Vault Doors
 Vault room construction available
 Delivery & Placement
 P.O. Box 1246 • Monument, CO 80132
 719-491-4811 • Info@sharpestcut.com

HAP
 TRI-LAKES HEALTH ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP Partnering for a healthier community!
Thrift Store
 790 Suite D, Hwy 105
 (between Palmer Lake and Monument)
 Open Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM
All proceeds support Tri-Lakes HAP Senior Programs.
February Specials
20% Off All Pictures and Frames.
Bring in this ad during February and get 25% off any single item.
 Saturdays: half price sales on selected items.
 Senior Discount Wednesday: 20% off everything for seniors 62 and older.
 Call us at 719 488-3495 to donate your furniture and we'll come pick it up!
 Please note: discounts may not be combined.

Help Make Our World Cleaner and Greener

Wind Energy
Solar Energy
Hydropower

✓ Accountable
 ✓ Affordable
 ✓ Reliable

Opt-in to Green Power for as little as 10¢ a month.

75 Years of Service
 MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 Your Sustainable Energy Cooperative

Learn More: www.mvea.coop/renewable-energy
 (719) 775-2861 • www.mvea.coop • (719) 495-2283 • (800) 388-9881