

said that this should include club sports. Benton said that the requirement was developed to promote wellness.

- Should the district have a competency requirement in technology? Benton said that technology is now embedded in the curriculum in grades k through 12.
- Should online credits be offered?
- Humanities and the arts should be included among the requirements.

Benton said that this same discussion will be had with several focus groups in the district.

Safety and security update

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reviewed district activity in the area of safety and security.

She explained that there are several groups focusing on this concern. These include school crisis teams, the district safety committee, the district core team (representatives from schools, maintenance, school resource officer) and the citizen's safety and security council (community volunteers with expertise in law enforcement and other specialties).

Among their achievements in the past year are the addition of a gate at the stadium, the development of standard announcements for use in the case of emergency, and addition of barriers on some properties.

All physical facilities have been reviewed with regard to cameras, door monitors, availability of radios for communication within and between facilities, and staff training in the use of all devices.

Community relationships in the area of safety and security include the use of Grace Best, Lewis-Palmer High School, and Palmer Ridge High school as Red Cross Shelters, partnerships with the Monument and Palmer Lake Police and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and the Tri-Lakes Fire Department. Lewis-Palmer Schools are also certified as inoculation sites in the event of the need for widespread immunization due to a new pathogen.

Goals for this year include review of crisis plans, improvement of cell service, acquisition of radios, and plans for evacuation and reunification.

Community Family Partnership update

Special Education Parent Liaison Michelle Nay reported on the Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) family-school-community partnership program, which stresses the collaboration of families, schools, and communities in collaboration to improve classroom, school, district, and state outcomes.

Woodmoor Improvement Association Annual Meeting, Jan. 25

Board conducts election, sets 2016 goals

By Jackie Burhans

Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) Vice President Erik Stensland chaired the annual meeting Jan. 25 where the board election was held, and the 2015 recap and 2016 goals were discussed.

Election

Three residents put in their names to be candidates for the WIA board: Robert Benjamin, Brian Bush, and Per Suhr. There were no nominations from the floor. Ballots were mailed out to residents on Dec. 30 and could be returned by mail or at the annual meeting. Ballots were received by representatives from the League of Women Voters who counted and provided results on Jan. 26. All candidates were elected to the board.

Guest speaker from Sheriff's Office

Commander Jeff Kramer, a 19-year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, was the guest speaker at the annual event. He spoke of the services offered throughout the county, including providing the only jail and staffing patrols throughout the districts. Kramer noted that the Sheriff's Office must be structured and have the assets to provide an active helping role for events like the active shooter situation at Planned Parenthood. He affirmed that Sheriff Elder is committed to making sure they establish good relationships with local communities

The program encourages families to become involved by supporting students in their efforts, in communicating effectively with teachers and other professionals and in maintaining a two-way communication at all times. The program is implemented in a multi-tiered fashion, understanding that education is a shared responsibility and student success is always the focus of the activity.

Initial steps are to create a welcome climate in the school, including volunteer opportunities and a family friendly atmosphere and the development of a respectful, inclusive community by removing economic obstacles to participation and instilling a respect for all families. Families are encouraged to understand how the school system works and are empowered to advocate for students, and families should share in decision making regarding their children. Interaction with the community is also encouraged.

District data update

Benton reported on data regarding student performance in last spring's PARCC tests.

She compared the district's performance with those of districts having at least 100 students participating per grade level.

As in the past, at each level, a majority of participants were rated as meeting or exceeding expectations in the areas of elementary math, middle school math, and high school math, and elementary, middle and high school English language arts. In addition, there is a significant percentage (20 to 32 percent) who are rated as approaching expectations. This group could reach the level of meeting expectations with additional special attention.

Viewing the group of schools selected for comparison, Lewis-Palmer students rated anywhere from first to ninth place in the state depending on the grade and subject. The weakest area was in ninth-grade English. The strongest were in algebra, geometry and algebra 2.

Additional data can be found at www.schoolview.org/dish/dashboard.asp.

Board of Education update

Board of Education Liaison John Magerko reported that the state, which has used the ACT as the standard test for high school juniors since 2001, has decided to change to the SAT beginning in 2017. The decision is reviewed every five years. Sophomores will take the PSAT this year and juniors the ACT. Beginning next spring, juniors will take the SAT.

Superintendents from throughout the state rallied re-

cently in Denver to protest cutting school funding.

Magerko also mentioned the creation of the Path-2Empathy anti-bullying program at the middle school.

Magerko said that board coffees held at the administration building and at schools have been useful as a communication tool, but stressed that the board is not in a position to task anyone in response to a request as the superintendent is the only employee of the board.

Negotiations continue on the five-year contract with Monument Academy.

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Locations vary. The Feb. 9 meeting will take place at Lewis-Palmer Middle School, 1776 Woodmoor Drive, Monument.

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



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