

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, April 21

Board approves new curriculum and contracts, receives preliminary 2016-2017 budget

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education reviewed and approved new curriculum materials, approved contracts, received the preliminary budget for 2016-17, and discussed various other matters at its April 21 meeting.

Curriculum adoption

Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Sheila Beving and teachers from Palmer Lake Elementary and Palmer Ridge and Lewis-Palmer High Schools introduced proposed new materials to the board.

The process for selection included meetings with teachers who agreed on "look-fors" as they reviewed materials. An evaluation tool was developed and materials were reviewed. The public was able to review the materials from March 16 to April 8 and make comments. Once materials are adopted, professional development will be created.

Beving said that the proposed science materials for grades 4 through 8 were well received and reminded the board that science is not involved with Common Core.

Teachers alone are driving these recommendations. All proposed materials meet state standards.

Director Sarah Sampayo objected to the fact that the eighth-grade book stressed such controversial concepts as global warming and that the publisher of that text seems to be losing standing as a business.

Beving reiterated that the look-fors were created by the teachers and that other sources were also considered.

The board approved the use of the proposed science curriculum for grades 4 through 6. Further discussion resulted in the conclusion that even if the state standards changed, it would not happen quickly.

Teachers Mark Ewig from Palmer Ridge High School and Carrie Coates from Lewis-Palmer High School addressed a new civics curriculum. They said that the new selection was partially prompted by a shortage of the current text. The proposed materials could be purchased as a bundle including the book copyrighted 2011 and a new set copyrighted 2017.

Sampayo expressed concern at not being able to review the 2017 version before

purchase.

Ewig responded that he teaches AP Government in addition to Civics and is satisfied with the current text copyrighted 2009 and that it is comprehensive and fair. He said it discusses such issues as democracy versus a republic and cultural issues. Personal financial literacy and economics are also included.

Superintendent Karen Brofft commented that a new edition of a text cannot materially change from previous editions or it would be an entirely new book.

The board approved the new curriculum.

Adjustments to 2015-16 budget

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wageman reported that she initially thought that the district would face funding cuts during the year but instead saw a small increase. She proposed spending on Chrome books for use in testing in the elementary schools and the replacement of old computers used by staff and students. Also requested was the purchase of a new transportation service truck.

There have been increased revenues in the parent-raised activity fund and increased revenues in the cash in lieu of land, which will remain in the reserves.

The board approved the adjustments to the budget.

Preliminary 2016-17 budget

Please see the District Accountability Advisory Committee article on page 19 of this issue.

Open enrollment update

Superintendent Brofft reported that there

will be an additional 178 new students from outside the district.

Contracts approved

The board approved a contract with the Tri-Lakes YMCA to provide before and after school care. YMCA staff will provide onsite care at each elementary school.

The board also approved a contract to continue to provide food serve to Monument Academy.

Staff recognitions

Public Information Officer Julie Stephen recognized members of several committees who were instrumental in creating the district's new website.

Volunteer recognition

Palmer Ridge High School Band Director Butch Eversole recognized Drew Peterson, who has recorded band and choral concerts and musicals for the district, wishing for the students to have them as a memento of their high school experience.

Student recognition

All students from Lewis-Palmer Middle School and Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Ridge High Schools who participated in the History Day competition at Colorado College qualified to go to the state level competition. Principals of each school introduced the participants.

Website introduction

Stephen demonstrated the district's new website and invited feedback from students and the community.

Citizens' comments

There were a great number of citizen comments. A new procedure to receive these is

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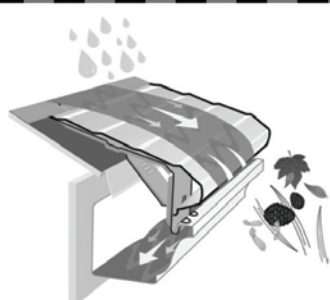
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*Members must attend the MVEA Business Meeting and be present at the time of the cash drawings to win. A playroom will be available for children during the MVEA Business Meeting.

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