



**Above:** Lions Club representative Jim Naylor presents a scholarship check to Jenna Bethany. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

to hear 10 comments not directly related to agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, and comments regarding agenda items near the end of the meeting. In any case, it is suggested that if several individuals wish to speak on the same subject they choose a spokesperson to speak for no longer than three minutes.

Comments early in the meeting included:

- Jackie Townsend, a Bear Creek Elementary resource teacher, said that her sixth-graders took an overnight field trip to the Denver Museum of Science.
- Erica Ensign, a first-grade teacher from Bear Creek, commented on the extent of community participation in such events as Math Night.
- Jackie Burhans thanked the community and the district for their support of her son, who recently received an excellent score on the ACT.
- James Howald thanked the board, the district, parents, and corporate sponsors of the Palmer Ridge High School robotics team and for the excellent music programs offered by the district.
- Del Christman commented that student success is dependent upon teachers being able to maintain order in their classrooms. Teachers feel that they are not supported by the administration in this endeavor. He also advocated higher salaries for teachers.
- Linda Wilson, a teacher and member of Lewis-Palmer Education Association, said that she has never questioned the integrity of the district.
- Derek Araje commented that the board does not keep in adequate touch with the community. He suggested that communication with parents be via email and that there should be full disclosure on details of items in the consent agenda.

D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, April 12

# Committee reviews Universal Improvement Plans, budget

*By Harriet Halbig*

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) reviewed Unified Improvement Plans (UIPs) for each school and the district at its April meeting. Also, Board of Education liaison John Magerko reported on legislative activity and other matters.

**Unified Improvement Plan overview**

A representative of each school reported on the previous year's performance and challenges. In general, trends were stable and a relatively few students required additional intervention. A few highlights:

- Lewis-Palmer High School met its target of having students with disabilities be within two standard deviations of the mean on reading and math. The school used NWEA tests to monitor progress because the state level tests had changed and made unavailable comparative scores from one year to the next. To improve reading, extensive staff development is planned. A freshman orientation of three half-day sessions to introduce students to high school life is planned.



**Above:** Kilmer Elementary School music teacher Arianne Thomas brought a group of first- and second-graders to the meeting to sing "You're a Grand Old Flag" and lead the group in the pledge of allegiance. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

- Melissa Brooks said that her husband owns a business in the district and feels that none of the business's taxes is being used in support of Monument Academy (MA). She feels that the district does not support the choice to attend MA and requested that the academy receive equal funding.
  - Cheryl Darnell, mother of three students at MA, said that while she is grateful for the quality of D-38 education, the Academy should benefit from the 1999 Mill Levy Override (MLO) equally with other schools.
  - Kristen McWilliams, mother of two MA students previously at Classical Academy, was also unhappy that the MLO did not benefit MA.
  - Mike Burris said that he was on the Board of Education in 1999 when the MLO was passed and that the MLO was primarily passed to support the construction of Creekside Elementary and as a hedge against TABOR. The Lewis-Palmer Charter Academy (as MA was then known) did not participate in writing or promoting the MLO and did not request funds until recently.
- Comments later in the meeting included:
- Derek Araje speculated on the consequences of MA suing the district for MLO funds.
  - Tammy John spoke about the TS Gold program of assessing school readiness and the fact that it included medical and developmental assessments, saying that those logging their observations are not professionally qualified to do so and that pictures and videos should not be included.
  - Lance Gorackowski, speaking for a group, commented that the 1999 MLO should benefit all students in the district and that the district has not offered a new contract to MA. He suggested that a new public

vote be taken regarding the distribution of funds.

**Consent agenda**

The board passed a list of items including routine approval of minutes, ratification of closures, personnel items, contract non-renewals, student fees, a budget summary, and a resolution approving extension of Monument Academy contract negotiations.

In response to requests for more detailed information, board President Mark Pfoff reminded the board that they may discuss any item on the consent agenda before voting.

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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 May 19.

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