

D38 (Cont. from page 7)

30 minutes is added. (A second comment period began last month.) He wondered whether an individual should be allowed to speak twice and whether the same subject should be addressed twice during a single meeting.

Sampayo commented that some people don't realize that they need to arrive early to sign up since there is a limit to the number of individuals who are allowed to speak. She suggested that individuals should be able to speak immediately before a vote on subjects of greater public interest.

Pfoff recommended greater use of board coffees as the preferred way for the public to interact with the board. Or perhaps the board could choose specific topics of conversation and invite the public to come to interact with the board separate from their regular meetings.

Board Treasurer John Magerko, attending by phone, suggested that the public should bring any concerns to the superintendent or a board coffee before addressing the board formally. In this way, some concerns can be addressed and solved without involving the board at a meeting, he said.

Budget process review

Wangeman gave a presentation on the process for developing and approving the budget for the 2016-17 school year. She said that the district will operate with \$50,000 less in Title I funding than this year because the district's population of students qualifying for free/reduced lunch is not growing at the same rate as that of other districts. District 38 has sufficient reserves to satisfy TABOR requirements. Goals addressed in developing the bud-

get include the maintenance of present class sizes, maintenance of insurance, the PERA payments, and provision of salary increases.

Pfoff said that the board must also consider the fact that, as the economy improves and more houses are built in the district, there may be a need to build new schools.

Wangeman said that the budget stands at \$85 million. The per pupil funding for the coming year is estimated at \$7,051. Monument Academy per pupil funding is passed directly to them. The hiring pool for teachers needed to be hired to maintain class size is three teachers. Technology purchases will be from the general fund.

Wangeman is asking for a 2.5 percent salary increase for all employees, which would equal one step on the salary scale for each. Employees whose compensation is lower than that of similar employees in neighboring districts may receive a larger increase.

The board approved the salary schedule.

Public comments

Pfoff explained that board policy dictates that 10 individuals may speak for three minutes each during the early part of the meeting. He suggested that as many people as wish to speak should be allowed to do so at this single meeting.

Sampayo said that it would be inconsistent to have a different limit for one time only. Pfoff then reversed his suggestion and used the original policy.

Citizen comments can be heard on <http://www.ustrstream.tv/channel/lpsd-live> on the recording of the May 19 meeting.

Subjects included support of the dis-

trict and its staff, a Lewis-Palmer graduate thanking the district for the quality of its education, a challenge of Pfoff to relinquish his position due to violation of public right to expression, a request that the board not approve further policies involving use of technology, and failure of the district to adequately support Monument Academy.

The board approved a consent agenda of routine matters and went into executive session "to discuss negotiations" at 11 p.m.

The Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at its Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on June 16.

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

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Family Honors LPES Staff

Lisa and Andy Glen greatly appreciate the positive experiences that Lewis-Palmer Elementary School (LPES) provides for their son Michael, a third grader with Down syndrome. In an effort to make their gratitude tangible, they applied for two awards. Early in May during Teacher Appreciation Week, the Glens recognized Michael's teachers Sue Hilton and Beth Kenny at an LPES staff meeting. Sue Hilton received the Colorado Springs Down Syndrome Association Teacher Appreciation Award with a \$500 check to provide resources for her classroom. This award recognizes teachers who go above and beyond in including a child with Down syndrome in the classroom. Lisa relates that Mrs. Hilton "highlights ways all children are alike." Beth Kenny received a PEAK Parent Center Above and Beyond Award. Mrs. Kenny coordinates Michael's classes and additional resources. "Our staff and our students have worked hard to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for Michael. It is terrific that our awesome classroom and special education teachers were acknowledged for their work," shares Principal Jenny Day. Beth and Sue claim that watching Michael develop bonds with his classmates has been priceless. The teachers note that Michael and his classmates have shown growth in areas of empathy, compassion, and an overall willingness to accept each other. Michael especially enjoys his involvement in the Landsharks Running Club. The Glens' efforts showcase that LPES truly takes meeting the specific needs of each student seriously and excels at it.



LPSD Upcoming Events

- June 1 School Readiness Assessment Waiver Hearing, 5:00 p.m., Admin Building Learning Center
- June 4 Tri-Lakes Lions Club Kids Fishing Derby, 8:00 a.m. - noon, Palmer Lake
- June 8 LPSD's Home School Enrichment Academy Open House, 1:00-3:00 p.m., 66 N. Jefferson St.
- June 16 Monthly School Board Meeting, (2016-2017 Budget), 6:00 p.m., Admin Building Learning Center
- July 4 District Closed
- August 17 First Day of Classes

Teacher Spotlight: Leah Phillips

Who really knows what advanced quantitative reasoning is anyway? Leah Phillips, Palmer Ridge High School (PRHS), math department chairperson, does and so do her students. Phillips, in her sixth year at PRHS, teaches pre-calculus in addition to advanced quantitative reasoning and is the school sponsor for FCA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The FCA group started with ten kids and now boasts nearly 100 students. In addition to classroom assistance, Mrs. Phillips supports all of her students by attending their sporting events, band concerts, and National Honor Society functions.

Leah and her family moved to Monument from Oregon in 2000. Leah briefly homeschooled her kids and when her youngest child was in middle school, started substitute teaching. She taught math at Monument Academy and owned a cleaning business before teaching full time at the high school level. She proudly wears a split LP/PR sweatshirt as her boys graduated from Lewis-Palmer High School and her girls from Palmer Ridge High School.

This summer Leah will attend a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) training at the Air Force Academy, mountain bike in Breckenridge, and enjoy her first grandchild.

