



**Monument Academy
School Accountability Advisory Committee
(SAAC)**

**Minutes January 11, 2017; 1pm –Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monument Academy, Office of Lis Richard, Principal**

Name	Position
Lis Richard	Principal
Tanja Curtis	SAAC Chair; Parent
Al Brown	SAAC Vice Chair; Public Member
Nanette Walker Smith	SAAC Secretary; DAAC Rep; Parent
Scott Saunders	MA School Board Liaison; Parent
Sarah Hall	Preschool Rep
TBD	Elementary School Rep
Richard Hart	Middle School Rep
Mimi Brown	Public Member
Dana Gregory	Parent
Heather Kohlhasse	Parent; DAAC Rep
Bob Linza	Parent; Committee Member
Rick Dahlman	Middle School; DAAC Rep; Parent

1. **Welcome and Roll** Meeting called to order @ 1:05pm
 - A. Attendance: Lis Richard, Tanja Curtis, Nanette Walker Smith, Sarah Hall, Richard Hart, Heather Kohlhasse
2. **Housekeeping:**
 - A. 5 October 2016 Minutes: Revised final copy. Revised minutes motioned to accept by Tanja Curtis, seconded by Richard Hart, unanimously approved.
 - B. 2 November 2016 Minutes: Final copy. Revised minutes motioned to accept by Tanja Curtis, seconded by Richard Hart, unanimously approved.
 - C. Nanette Walker Smith will have Dr. Griffin load these minutes to the SAAC webpage.
3. **Old Business and Updates:**
 - A. **Principal Richard:** Testing results: Mrs. Richard reported that no results or reports had been received yet from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) regarding the clerical errors from Monument Academy from last year's testing.
 - B. **District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC)** – Nanette Walker Smith; Heather Kohlhasse; Rick Dahlman
 - 1) Meeting: January 10 @ Monument Academy – Library
 - 2) Lis Richard presented a short overview on Monument Academy to the DAAC after a tour of the facility.
 - 3) The DAAC subcommittee on Teacher Evaluations met over the holidays and will have a full report at the February 7 DAAC meeting.
 - 4) D38 School Board: Representative Dr. John Magerko, District Treasurer
 - Voluntary budget meeting was held prior to the DAAC meeting in the MA Teacher's Lounge
 - Last fall the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) sought feedback on the Colorado Academic Standards. We appreciate everyone that contributed to that feedback. At this time the District 38 School Board Legislative Review liaison, Dr. John Magerko is encouraging further specific online feedback at the request of the CDE. This online standards feedback is designed to obtain feedback on each expectation within the Colorado Academic Standards. The input will help the content committees formulate recommendations to the State Board of Education for each standard. Feedback must be given by Friday, February 17, 2017 at



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<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/casreview> > right side of the page "Online Standards Feedback System"

To sign up to receive communications regarding the standards review and revision process, please sign up at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/standardsupdate>

- State issues included funding – statewide districts will need to look toward local communities to fund school initiatives via MLO (mill levy funds), etc. as the state is still in a deficit with educational funds and that likely won't change any time soon.
 - ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) is replacing NCLB (No Child Left Behind) and may be a way for more local control for school funds – this is a watch
- 5) Dr. Lori Benton presented a report on the District's Testing Data regarding CMAS/PARCC performance at the state and national level. This is posted on the District 38 website. She also provided a key tool of how to read all of the details as there is a lot of information on the documentation. The 'preliminary' report posted is the actual report:
<http://www.lewispalmer.org/cms/lib010/CO01900635/Centricity/Domain/630/LPSD%202016.pdf>
- 6) Dr. Lori Benton previewed the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) flow chart as a reminder to all the BAAC/SAAC groups that this is a process to be in the works and those presentations to the District will be made in the coming months.
- 7) Dennis Coates, the new Safety and Security department head for the district was introduced and he presented a brief overview of the current status of the district, his mission and goals for the coming months and years for the district. He has decades of experience as a law enforcement officer, DARE instructor, school principal, and equally supportive of all the schools in the district.
- 8) Bob Foster presented the 2018-2019 proposed calendar for the district.
- 9) The DAAC Bylaws revisions were presented, done in subcommittee by the co-chairs. Some questions regarding wording were brought up at the SAAC meeting and the co-chairs requested that any additional comments or input be made as soon as possible. The Bylaws are currently on deck to be voted on at the February 7, 2017 meeting.

C. MA School Board Report – Scott Saunders

- 1) The Annual Report will be presented to the District 38 School Board on January 19, 2017.
- 2) SAAC administered the Mid-Year Teacher Survey in late October, results were tabulated by Dr. Griffin, and SAAC sub committee reviewed the comments for PreK, Elementary, and Middle School for trends and specifics.
- 3) SAAC will administer the End of Year Survey in February with a summary presentation to the MA Board at the MA Board May meeting.
- 4) Lis Richard will provide a Principal's report to the MA School Board at the January 18 meeting to include an overview of the Mid-Year Survey Results, End-of-Year Survey plans, and ask the Board for input on the alternate question to replace the 'free dress' question from the EOY survey as well as the decision to include the separate iPad Survey to middle school students and parents again for the second year to provide follow up input to the responses from the initial survey in 2016.

D. Committee Selection

- 1) Elementary teacher representative – no one appointed yet.
- 2) Additional Parents – SAAC would like to have a couple more lower elementary grade parents and/or Kindergarten or even PreK parents on the Committee – please contact a MA School Board Member as soon as possible.
 - Lynx News 'ad' has posted several times for Elementary parents, no responses.
 - Tanja Curtis will review/revise the 'ad' and send to Principal Richard to go out to Elementary newsletters and Sarah Hall will put it in PreK newsletters.

4. New Business:

A. Mid-Year Survey – Presentation review preparation for Monument Academy School Board

- 1) Lis Richard covered Al and Mimi Brown's summary of the Middle School Mid-Year Survey:
 - 19% of middle school parents responded, comments were generally positive with no dominant themes
 - Canvas information published is appreciated; however, there was some disappointment that there is not consistent weekly communications.



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- Teachers are good at responding to communication, but do not generally initiate it.
 - Some concern about disruptive behavior derailing learning for the entire class; entire class should not be penalized for poor behavior of a few
 - Science classes need more hands-on, experiential teaching
 - Specifics on teachers will be addressed by Mrs. Richard at teacher reviews, but several teachers were called out for exceptional teaching, communicating, and interacting with pre-teens
 - iPad comments were 50/50 positive/negative. Better training this year, but new students/parents need more training. Still some classes where the iPad has not replaced text books and keyboards are requested for classes requiring a lot of typing (i.e. English).
 - Paras/Aids/Specials received specific comments, mostly positive and will be addressed by Mrs. Richard at review.
- 2) Tanja Curtis covered the summary of the Elementary Mid-Year Survey:
- No negative PK comments
 - Elementary had a lower than previous years response rate, less than 20% of student body parents; however, the results were 97% positive
 - No negative comments about discipline
 - 1 negative academic comment on the entire survey
 - Several positive comments on Spanish program
 - Overall there was a common thread from parents who were unsure about keyboarding/technology implementation and how much is needed by the children or how much they need to be prepared for
 - The new “Reading Counts (scholastic reading)” resulted in some confusion, but this is a new program and it is hoped that as the instructions continue this trend will be reversed by the EOY launch
 - Homework comments were varied all over the place (too much to too little) – this is consistently seen year to year
- B. Principal Richard – Presentation of High School information –
- 1) Presentation night was held in December and was covered in Lynx News with FAQs as well as is also live on the MA website for information.
 - 2) The MA School Board will vote January 18 to decide whether to start in fall 2017.
 - The current goal set forth by the Board was that 50 current MA 8th graders were needed (letters of intent signed) to start the high school in the fall of 2017. Mrs. Richard stated that number has not yet been met, but is climbing and that the current 7th grade interest is high.
 - 3) Property location is still TBD but within 5 miles of MA and will be based partially upon which district MA charters with for the HS. Several properties are under investigation.
- C. Biannual review of SAAC Bylaws - January
- 1) After discussion of the DAAC Bylaws revisions, it was decided to table review to a later date of our SAAC bylaws to ensure that those changes do not affect how our SAAC bylaws are written. Request to table made by Nanette Walker Smith and Heather Kohlhase, DAAC Reps; agreed by Tanja Curtis and Lis Richard.
 - 2) ERROR: Article IV Section D references Article V, Section E (which does not exist) – need to go back to original draft and see why that got cut out. May be a formatting problem. Will be fixed when the committee addresses the bylaws.
 - 3) Substitutes – are not considered employees therefore do not ‘count’ in calculation of the percentages of committee membership (reported by Principal Richard, per Human Resources for Monument Academy).
- D. Tanja Curtis will ask Dr. Griffin to send the SAAC the EOY survey for everyone to review one more time before we finalize at February’s meeting. Goal to determine another ‘controversial’ question – or parent voice need. Suggestion for technology question?

5. Next Meeting Date and Topics:

- A. Wednesday, February 1, 2016; 1pm in Lis Richards’ office



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- 1) Annual Report to District 38 Re-cap
 - 2) Mid-Year Survey presentation to the Monument Academy School Board Re-cap
 - 3) Release of End-of-Year Survey
 - Alternate question
 - 4) Release of iPad Survey determination
 - 5) DAAC Bylaws results
- 7. SAAC Meeting Schedule for 2016-2017; 1pm Lis Richard's office**
- Mar 1
Apr 5
May 3

Meeting adjourned: 2:00pm