

Monument Academy Board of Directors Candidate Questionnaire

Lindsay Clinton

Why are you running for the MA Board of Directors?

There is nothing more important to us as parents than our children and their futures. We chose this school because it has a philosophy we support, a tradition of academic excellence, and provides something different than the traditional public schools. This is something worth standing up for and defending, and that is exactly what I want to do as a board member. I have the passion, drive, creativity, and teamwork capabilities to be a true contributor on this board. Within the scope of the board's abilities, I will work to support what this school stands for, the staff that pour their hearts and abilities into it, and the families that entrust their children to it every day.

What is your educational preparation?

1. Bachelor's degree in Business Management
2. Graduate degree in International Studies with Middle East and Arabic focus
3. Work Experience: three years as an Associate at a Homeland Security consulting firm. Duties included research for speaking events, daily monitoring of current affairs, office organization, and managing schedules for four Partners.
4. Mom of three: skills developed include expert driving abilities, excellent ability to multi-task, and finder of all the lost things.
5. Volunteer Work:
 - a. Current Room Mom at Monument Academy
 - b. Held board positions for Spouse organizations at two Air Force Bases.
 - c. Key Spouse for two Air Force Squadrons. Duties included being the communication liaison between squadron leadership and spouses as well as managing events and care for families during deployments.
 - d. Leadership team at Tri Lakes MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers) & MOMSNext in Monument, CO from 2018-Current. I spent the last two years in a co-leadership position in which we managed the annual schedule, fundraising, budget, and events for more than forty local moms.

What ideas do you have for "finding" additional funding to better support our enrichment programs? i.e. music, drama, debate, sports, etc.

Per the mid-year SAAC survey feedback, we are all aware of the desire to see more extracurricular and enrichment opportunities at the school. Ideas for funding include continuing to pursue grants from local and national sources. For example, we live in an area with many STEM-focused corporations and many of them (such as Lockheed Martin) have grant opportunities. I would highly encourage the development of a booster committee now that we have the East campus. This committee could focus on more than just

fundraising for sports by including financing enrichment activities as well. While our school emphasizes parent involvement and needs that component, we are surrounded by a potential wealth of knowledge and skills by the retirees that live around us. The development of a mentorship program that partners interested students with retirees could be an amazing way to save money on enrichment activities and achieve amazing community partnership. For example, retirees in fields like engineering, law, music, writing, or hobbies like gardening could produce amazing extra-curricular options. Other ideas include developing an Adopt-A-Club program at both campuses. Parents, community members, and businesses can adopt-a-club to help offset the costs of supplies and item requests related to the start-up and maintaining of an extra-curricular club. Additionally, we can organize family gathering events that give back to the school, such as monthly food truck nights, a silent auction and dinner, and a student art gallery night in conjunction with Downtown Monument Art Walks.

How would you balance your decisions as a member of the board with the input of parents and teachers? Specifically, in relation to difficult decisions that others may not agree with.

Parent and teacher input is vital to the function of this school. The board should continue to welcome and encourage feedback, suggestions, and research coming from the stakeholders. When communication is brought forth from these places that is outside the scope of the board, I would respond to the parent or teacher to let them know their message has been received and help connect them to the correct source for a proper response. Depending on the issue, I would follow up with the correct recipient. If it is an issue that will cause some divisiveness, I believe the most important thing is to listen, discuss and research both sides of the issue. As a board, we should take a hard look at which course of action is in the best interest of the school and the philosophy we stand for. If an issue or request is outside of the school's mission or charter, a solid decision must be made to stay within the school's focus of what is best for our children.

What is your view of charter (or Classical or Core Knowledge) education's purpose?

We live in a time that seems laser focused on reimagining history and attacking the very foundation this country was built upon. A classical education at a charter schools shows respect to those that came before us and the lessons we can learn from them. Tradition triumphs here, whether that is in cursive, learning about ancient cultures, Saxon math, or Latin. We are not afraid to dig in and seek knowledge from our past that we can use to guide us on the path to the future. We also are not afraid to be different from the schools around us. Parents choose this school because we determine our curriculum and our approach to education. I am proud of the focus we put on tradition, especially when it comes to the amazing history of the country that we live in. No past is ever perfect, but it would truly be a shame to choose not to examine it, seek to understand it in its context, and then honor the aspects of it that we can find relevant for current and future generations.

What long-range plan would you look to implement for the academy? (May include growth, curriculum, staffing, and/or parental involvement.)

My long-range vision for the school focuses on seeing the High School grow to full enrollment capacity while protecting the foundation and academic integrity of the school. I would like to see our graduating classes competitive amongst their peers in terms of scholarships and continuing education admittance. I want to ensure our school continues to hire and retain amazing educators and see them paid at or above

their peers in the district. I envision the work we do to develop more enrichment activities as well as a booster committee will help retain more of our talented minds and athletes as they reach Middle School/High School level, versus them leaving for programs available at other area schools. And finally, I want to see the school revered among the top in our state as a role model for other charter schools. We can do this by continuing to show bravery in our decision making, the focus we have on doing whatever it takes to provide an excellent education for our students, and through unity as a school family.

Do you have any specific changes you want to make in the academy's policies, programs, or the school curricula being offered? If so, what changes do you want to make and why?

I would like to see a program in place that better logs parent volunteer work per school policy so that everyone is invested in the achievements and future of our school. A charter requires an active partnership with its families. There is much for us to gain as parent volunteers, such as aiding the teachers and seeing our children in their classes, helping save the school money on support staff, and simply finding ourselves in a better position to provide the school input. Programs such as "track it forward" help show parents if they are following the school commitment they made, flexibility in what counts for hours, and ability to switch shifts and see what events are available for sign-up. Those families that are unable to commit the in-person hours have a monetary payment option to the school that is tax deductible. If we desire to see the addition of extra-curricular activities, enrichment programs, safety measures and more at our campuses, we need to be willing to step in and invest time and money.