

Monument Academy Board of Directors
Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Joe Buczkowski

Why are you running for the MA Board of Directors?

I love MA! I have been thoroughly impressed with the education that my three kids have received so far, and I have enjoyed volunteering in my kids' education for the last six years. I want to become more involved in the leadership of the school, and I believe my law and business background would be an asset to the board. I believe in serving the community in which you live.

What is your educational preparation?

I have volunteered on field trips and in the classroom for six years. This year I have served on the governance committee, where I have helped review and edit school policies and the bylaws. I am familiar with the east and west charter contracts, as well as the east and west handbooks. I believe in the mission of the school and the important role of charter schools. I coach sports, and I have experience teaching college business classes. I am a licensed attorney, and I have a JD/MBA degree from CU Boulder.

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

Additional funding can come from multiple sources. Ticketed performances and concession sales work well for large music or drama performances. Business sponsorships work well for high-visibility or recurring activities. Specific fundraising events work well for equipment purchases or building improvements. Activity fees can be used to place the cost on those who participate. Grants might be available for certain activities.

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.

In making difficult decisions, I would try to keep three points in mind:

1. the greatest good to the most people,
2. the school's mission, and
3. the school's character values. I believe the leadership and direction of the school should model the character values the school teaches our children.

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

I understand Core Knowledge to be that knowledge builds upon knowledge, and that reading comprehension and broad education are particularly emphasized. I believe the purpose of this is to build well-rounded, literate, critically-thinking individuals. I believe in the Core Knowledge philosophy because I have seen the positive results in MA's current students, including my own children, and alumni.

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

As MA adds high school grades, I foresee that the parental expectations of the curriculum and activities will increase greatly. We need to be ready to expand our offerings. As MA grows to fill its existing capacity, we will have a need for more teachers and staff. We need a plan to increase teacher and staff compensation to market in order to continue to attract great people and reduce turnover.

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

I would like to see our high school offer some business classes or activities. I think there is a niche for that. Otherwise, we should continue to offer a classical education to produce well-rounded, literate, critically- thinking individuals.