

**MONUMENT ACADEMY**  
**“A Charter School, a Public School of Choice”**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**

September 9th, 2021 at 6pm MST  
Monument Academy East Campus Band Room, #1044

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of Monument Academy is to provide a challenging, content – rich, academic program offered within an engaging, caring, and positive learning environment. Established on a solid foundation of knowledge, Monument Academy emphasizes academic excellence, respect, responsibility, character and exemplary citizenship.

**A. CALL TO ORDER/MISSION STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL/QUORUM:**

Mr. Graham opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, read the mission statement, led the pledge of allegiance, took roll call, and declared a quorum.

Board Members in Attendance:  
Mr. Buczkowski  
Mrs. Clinton  
Mr. Dole  
Mrs. McCuen  
Mrs. St. Aubyn  
Mr. Graham

Others in Attendance:  
Mr. Holmes  
Mr. Brocklehurst

**B. ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mrs. McCuen motioned to postpone the School Spotlight honoring Mr. Vinnie DeVincenzo until the October meeting. Mrs. St. Aubyn seconded and the motion carried.

**C. SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT**

- a. Mrs. Amy Torrence was honored with a certificate of achievement for her hard work on our marketing strategy.

**D. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS** *Limit 3 minutes per person - None*

**E. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes from August 19th, 2021 regular meeting were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
- b. Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to approve the next meeting date of October 7th, 2021 in the MA East Campus Board Room, #1044. Motion carried with unanimous consent.

**F. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEES:**

- a. COO: Mr. Holmes
  - i. Introduced the new East Campus Assistant Principal, Mrs. Tamiko Thomas and the new Athletic Director, Mr. Chris Hale.
  - ii. A meeting to discuss Phase II with the school community will take place on Tuesday, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the East Campus. Phase II meeting with the community in the works.
  - iii. The Building & Facilities Committee will consider adding parents to the committee.
  - iv. Interviews for Interim Assistant Principal at West Campus are in works.

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- v. COVID cases amongst students have remained low.
- b. CFO: Mr. Brocklehurst
  - i. Will be working on revised budgets with Mr. Holmes and provide the board a preliminary look at the October board meeting.
  - ii. Combined Revenue for month end: \$1,850,882.
  - iii. Combined Expenses for month end: \$993,331.
  - iv. Combined Net Income: \$857,551.
  - v. FY21 anticipated net loss is less than budgeted.
  - vi. FY21 audit is expected to be completed by end of Sept/Oct.
- c. Committees
  - i. Highway 105 Committee Report: Mrs. St. Aubyn
    - 1. Mrs. St. Aubyn reported that collaboration continues with the county on the Hwy 105 project. The school is still trying to work through issues with the church and use of their driveway. She thanked staff for agreeing to arrive 10 minutes earlier to aid in the carline process.
  - ii. Curriculum: Mrs. Clinton
    - 1. First committee meeting was held Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. An overview of the committee purpose and goals for this year was provided.
  - iii. SAAC – West: No Report
  - iv. SAAC – East: No Report
  - v. Governance : Mr. Graham – currently working out monthly meeting dates.
  - vi. Finance: Mr. Dole
    - 1. Monthly meeting was held on August 31, 2021. The audit was discussed and having an audit representative come speak to the board on the process and findings.
    - 2. Final deficit number better than expected at \$320,000.
  - vii. Buildings & Facilities: No Report

**G. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

- a. Board Composition: Mr. Dole
  - i. Mr. Dole motioned to change the bylaws of Monument Academy specific to section 3.2.B title number with the first sentence to read the number of voting directors of the corporation shall be seven. Motion was seconded by Mrs. McCuen. Motion passed unanimously.
  - ii. No action needed at this time to fill the position.
  - iii. A clean version was signed by Mrs. Clinton, Secretary. Signature notated.
- b. MA Community Statement on COVID
  - i. See attached. Two changes were requested to the working document. Rephrase: Currently MA is not mandated to require COVID vaccinations. Add Footnote: current as of 9/9/2021.
  - ii. Brad Miller will review the letter and then send it on to Mr. Holmes for final review and distribution to the MA Community on Sept 10, 2021.
- c. Uniform Policy: Hoodies
  - i. Mrs. Clinton motioned that we modify the uniform policy 1501.ES and 1501.MS to include a vendor approved crewneck sweatshirt with Monument Academy Emblem in black, royal blue or gray. Mrs. McCuen seconded the motion. Mr. Buczkowki, Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. McCuen and Mr. Graham voted aye. Mr. Dole and Mrs. St. Aubyn voted nay. The motion carries.

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- d. Board Presentation from MA Auditors
  - i. Mr. Graham suggested having an auditor representative come speak at a future board meeting to discuss the process and results with the board.

**H. BOARD COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. New Teacher Representatives
  - i. Mrs. Sigfrieds from East Campus. Lindsay Lokowich from West Campus.
  - ii. PTO announcements: East Campus Warrior Days and West Campus Ninja Fun Run are both doing well on fundraising. Events are coming up soon.
  - iii. Mrs. Clinton encouraged staff and admin to provide feedback on the uniform changes by end of the year.

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. None

**J. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b, e & f) to receive legal advice on specific legal matters, to discuss negotiating positions and to advise negotiators, and to discuss personnel matters related to facility financing, charter contract matters, and performance of school administrators. Mr. Buczkowski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Open session was resumed at 8:48pm. Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to adjourn and Mr. Buczkowski seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

**L. CITIZEN COMMENTS PERTAINING TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Mrs. Bedingfield commented in regards to a CORA request complaint.
- b. Mrs. Burhans provided the board information on Tri Lakes Cares need for drivers to deliver snack packs to area schools.

September 9, 2021

Dear Monument Academy Community,

Before each board meeting, we always read the school Mission Statement. Equally important to our mission of service to the community is the promise to uphold the vision of the school as well. The Monument Academy vision statement reads: Monument Academy exists to educate all students in the journey of becoming well-rounded, flourishing individuals. Passion and engagement permeate our school community and instill a joy for life and learning. We value security, character, connections, growth, and excellence.

It is with this in mind that we would like to clearly describe our plan for how to provide the opportunity for our children to recapture the joy for life and love of learning that they often missed over the course of the last 17 months. We also want to reaffirm our commitment to being a school of parent-partnership by honoring the rights of parents to best determine the health, security, and well-being of their children. We stated on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, in a board resolution that we would only implement the least restrictive restrictions with COVID mandates. We seek to accomplish this by following the below outline:

**Masks:**

Per guidance from El Paso County Public Health (ECPH), universal masking is not required inside the school building. We support parental choice and their decision to have their child masked or not masked. We also support staff choice to determine if they want to wear a mask or not. We will continue to encourage an environment that is supportive of health choice within our school buildings.

Federal law does currently require masks for those age 2 and above on all public transportation regardless of vaccination status. This includes drivers and passengers on school buses used for field trips, sports, and other extra-curricular activities.

**Physical Distancing, Cohorting:**

Monument Academy is not enforcing any physical distancing or grade level cohorting. General practices of good hygiene and valuing personal space will continue to be encouraged and implemented. Physical distancing and cohorting is not required per local and state health departments.

**Testing for COVID:**

When students or staff are showing symptoms of illness, Monument Academy is expecting those individuals to stay home until symptom free. Monument Academy will leave the decision to test for any pathogen up to the individual, their household, and their medical provider. As with any medical test, it is an individual or family choice whether to get the COVID test. Also, it is an individual or family choice whether or not to report those test results to Monument Academy. There is no expectation from the school that employees or families provide medical details or testing results of any health condition.

**Reporting a positive COVID individual:**

Medical professionals are required to report positive cases to their local health department. In addition, when a positive COVID case is reported to Monument Academy, we are required by law to report that

single case to EPCPH. Positive cases will follow the quarantine/isolation process described in the next section.

Upon notification of a positive case, the school will notify the necessary exposed individuals so that they may self-monitor for the development of symptoms and make appropriate medical decisions for their household.

Again, if a COVID test is reported, protocols will automatically take place per EPCPH and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requirements.

#### **Quarantines and Isolation:**

If a student or staff member is presenting symptoms of any illness, we expect that those individuals will stay home until symptoms subside.

Per CDPHE public health orders, any individual testing positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and be fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication. EPCPH will allow Monument Academy to conduct its own internal contact tracing and notify any staff/students that need to quarantine. In the event of a quarantine, Monument Academy will provide the required quarantine measures to those individuals before they can return in person.

We trust and expect our community to be vigilant in monitoring themselves and their children for any kind of illness understanding that they are following the health protocol they acknowledge and sign each year when they review the school handbook. If a staff member or child is sick, we expect them to stay home until they are symptom free. If a staff member or child is symptom free, we expect they will be at school or work. Personal health information will not be required to be divulged. Standard parent notification procedures will be followed if a child feels unwell at school and goes to the school nurse. We will not presume that anyone at our school is sick simply due to virus exposure without further symptom development.

#### **Vaccinations:**

Currently Monument Academy is not mandated to require COVID vaccinations. Vaccination status will not be asked or required to be disclosed. We consider this private health information.

#### **Virus Mitigation Measures within the School:**

Monument Academy is required to follow the rules and regulations governing the health and sanitation of our school. Included in these measures are purchases we made from the CARES Act funding and processes we still maintain currently:

##### **List of items purchased with CARES dollars in FY21:**

- UV Lights installed in HVAC system
- Clorox misting units
- Floor scrubbers
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout schools
- Repaired West Campus HVAC fans to operate at optimum level

- Touchless soap dispensers added
- Cleaners/Cleaning supplies/Sanitizer

**Processes to ensure cleanliness:**

- Daily cleaning & sanitizing
- Water fountains are set to only fill water bottles (hands free) at West Campus.

Monument Academy is a public school of choice, and we are grateful for the choice you made to either work here or send your children here. Just as you had a choice in employment and school, we also hold sacred the freedom of choice we have as an essential right in this country. It is in this spirit, that we ask you to work alongside us as we seek to implement a normal school experience free from cumbersome restrictions that ultimately only deplete mental health, academic achievement, and the pursuit of happiness we are all granted.

Lastly, to reiterate, Monument Academy will follow the least restrictive restrictions that CDPHE and EPCPH mandate. Please understand that those mandates are subject to change which may create a new updated COVID outline for Monument Academy.

If you have question or concerns regarding this policy or the implementation of it at either campus please reach out to the school board ([board@monumentacademy.net](mailto:board@monumentacademy.net)), COO ([mholmes@monumentacademy.net](mailto:mholmes@monumentacademy.net)), East campus principal ([jseymour@monumentacademy.net](mailto:jseymour@monumentacademy.net)) or West campus Assistant Principal ([lbarrette@monumentacademy.net](mailto:lbarrette@monumentacademy.net)).

In service,  
Monument Academy Board of Directors  
Chief Operating Officer- Merlin Holmes