



Monument Academy

School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

West Campus Conference Room 1:20-2:40p.m.

Kurt Walker
Laura Barrette
Jamie Harding
Christy Musser
Jilinda Dygert
Megghan St. Aubyn
Britany Blair
Kimberly Kays
Gaye Lynn Murdoch

MA Elementary 3-5 Assistant Principal
MA Elementary K-2 Assistant Principal
SAAC Chair
SAAC Vice Chair
SAAC Secretary
MA Board Liaison
Teacher Representative
PTO President
Member at Large

I. Introduction and Attendance

- a. Jamie called the meeting to order at 1:25pm.
- b. Members present in-person: Kurt Walker, Laura Barrette, Jamie Harding, Christy Musser, Jilinda Dygert, Megghan St. Aubyn, Britany Blair, & Kim Kays.
- c. Members present via Zoom:
- d. Members absent: Gaye Lynn Murdoch

II. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes from 11-02-21

- a. Jamie motioned to approve the November 2, 2021 meeting minutes with the following edit:
 - i. Kurt Walker was present in person.
- b. Kim seconded the motion with the edit.
- c. All approve. Motion was carried.

III. Review & Approve Meeting Agenda

- a. Megghan motioned to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting agenda.
- b. Brittany seconded the motion.
- c. All approved. Motion was carried.

IV. Business

a. Teacher Report – given by Britany:

- i. Since the beginning of the school year there have been a lot of changes made at MA.

1. One positive change that was recently made for many people has been Merlin stepping down from handling the day-to-day occurrences here at the West campus.
 - a. We are very clear on whom to go to if we need to report anything or have questions/concerns.
 - ii. Overall, the West campus is like a well-oiled machine. We as teachers, parents, and staff as a whole, want to make sure it stays that way.
- b. 10-07-21 Board Report – given by Megghan:**
 - i. **Wendy Breathour** is heading up a committee of about 20 people for the all-school fundraiser.
 1. The general idea is to do a gala-like event at the Boot Barn.
 2. They will be having a meeting on January 11. There has been information communicated about it to the MA community through the Lynx news and Board updates.
 - ii. The verdict is still out on which campus the 6th grade will be on next year.
 - iii. There are 2 board members whose terms are ending, and the board is opening up 7th seat on the board which makes 3 vacancies to be filled this spring.
 1. Elections for the new board members will open up in January.
- c. 10-12-2021 DAAC Report – given by Brittany & Jamie:**
 - i. Tour of LP.
 - ii. Primary focus of the year has been the well-being of the students.
 1. The school is seeing, due to COVID, that there are more social-emotional needs in the student population.
 2. LP has been trying to redesign the structure of their school day to include daily check-ins with the students.
 3. This has made an impact on their students and seems to be helping to foster a close-knit community within the school.
 - iii. They are making sure the 4 cornerstones (budget, achievement, community involvement, & pathways to success) are being met while understanding there are different paths students will take post-matriculation. Understanding this allows them to teach that there are different means of experiencing life.
 - iv. They worked a lot on revamping Friday trainings to make sure they were effectively teaching the students. They took up the idea of backwards by design; where do we want to get to, and then what steps do we need to get there?
 - v. District-wide, there is a push to pause standardized testing this year due to the lack of feedback value.
 - vi. Budget increase for per pupil revenue does look promising.
 - vii. There is a potential for a new bill to pass that would help fund preschool cost coverage starting a few years down the road.
 - viii. K-12 funding overall was cut by about \$512,000 with the decrease in property tax through bill 116. This was a statewide cut.
 - ix. SR3 funds have been approved and MA gets \$412,831 of that money.

- x. MA East campus is the next DAAC host. That meeting will take place on January 11.

d. PTO Report - given by Kim Kays:

- i. We had a busy first half of the year.
- ii. Looking forward into the second half of the year we are going to cancel the silent auction fundraising event in which we auction off the 3 parking spots. This is mainly because we do not know what the parking lot will look like after the highway construction and traffic recirculation projects are complete.
- iii. We will be adding a chili cook off, for fun and to provide a meal for the teachers, shortly after the start of the school year.
- iv. Some people received an email about purchasing a gift for a staff member as a sort of secret Santa gift. This was not sent out by PTO. Jamie will be contacting the person to let them know this was a good idea, but to please go through the PTO next time so that we can include every MA family in on such a thoughtful gesture.

e. Mid-year Parent Survey Results – led by Laura:

- i. Review of survey results: We did not meet 50%. About 39% percent of the MA West campus families participated.
- ii. On a side note, there was a teacher survey sent out by the teacher rep, Kelly Sigfrids. The board is not opposed to this, but would like to perhaps see it sent out in a more formal fashion similar to our parent surveys at the middle and end of the year. Is this something that SAAC can add to their plate? Please do consider doing this with the end-of-the-year survey.
- iii. Middle of the year survey questions and results:
 - 1. How satisfied are you with Monument Academy’s ability to meet the academic needs of your child this year?
 - a. 73.24% of the families who responded were highly satisfied, 2.35% were not satisfied, and 24.41% were somewhat satisfied.
 - b. Positives are differentiation for students in math and reading.
 - c. There were lots of praise for our teachers.
 - d. GT program is highly praised.
 - e. The one concern that jumped out was that MA utilizes technology quite a bit, but this is not an alarming concern coming out of the COVID year where using tech was essential.
 - 2. How satisfied are you with the opportunities to develop your whole child at Monument Academy?
 - a. 54.25% of the families that responded were highly satisfied, 5.19% were not satisfied, and 40.57% were somewhat satisfied.
 - b. This question did not give a description of what the “whole child”.
 - c. Comments concerning our character development program was fairly evenly divided.
 - d. The desire for more clubs still exists

3. How satisfied are you with Monument Academy's ability to meet the mental health needs of your child this year?
 - a. 58.29% of the families that responded were highly satisfied, 5.21% were not satisfied, and 36.49% were somewhat satisfied.
 - b. MA was given praise for our COVID response; thank you for being in-person & mask-free, having the option for normal learning has been huge, and for helping to create a steady routine.
 - c. We were also criticized for our COVID response saying we did not follow the proper guidelines.
 - d. Class size was brought up as being potentially too large.
 - i. First grade was brought up specifically. It is our biggest class at 25 students.
 - ii. Class sizes are capped at 25. Once a classroom reaches 24 people the board must approve the addition of any students.
 - e. Another negative point that was brought up was that parents feel there is too much homework.
 - i. Typically students should expect to do 10 minutes of homework per grade level. Teachers try to keep it around this and give students the free time to work on homework items in class.
 - ii. A lot of complaints come from 5th grade. This topic is variable depending on how self-driven a student is. Self-driven students tend to have less because they finish it in school.
 1. Parents can always go to teachers if their student's workload is consistently excessive, and the teachers are willing to work out a plan for the student.
 2. Planners could be utilized better by the students to help them time manage better.
 3. Also, the home/school relationship could be reinforced by the parents better.
4. How do you prefer to receive communication from the school?
 - a. 68.4% receive prefer to receive communication from the school via the Lynx News. 34.43% via a text message, 11.32% via a physical flyer, 83.02% prefer to receive an email from the teacher, and 28.30% prefer to receive an email from the Board.
5. Does the school provide opportunities for your voice to be heard?
 - a. 95.69% responded that yes, the school does provide opportunities for voices to be heard, and 4.31% said no MA does not.
 - b. One main comment is that parents want the Board meetings to be streamed online again.
 - c. Some feel that there are issues to report, but no way to report them.

- d. Some feel the opportunity to be heard is there, but that they are ignored; only the squeaky wheel gets heard.
 - i. Can the Board acknowledge the parent concerns during the Board meeting?
 - 1. The Board does do email follow-ups with individuals who speak out at the Board meetings.
6. Please rank Monument Academy's atmosphere...
- a. 60.09% feel the atmosphere at MA is excelling, 29.11% feel it is improving, and 10.8% feel that MA needs improvement.
 - i. Comments were that teacher morale is noticeably down.
 - ii. Carline is always a recurring negative issue.
 - iii. There is also a concern with mean kids, and there is concern with the overall decline of student behavior.
 - 1. This is another home/school relationship. Behaviors are reinforced by family at home.
 - 2. There is an established system, "Capturing Kids' Heart" for discipline, and teachers are trained on it during their on-boarding process.
 - a. Most issues are able to be handled within the classroom, and teachers do feel supported in this area.
 - b. MA's philosophy on discipline is rooted in "Love & Logic".
7. Do you feel that your family is connected to the Monument Academy community?
- a. 78.77% of the families who responded positively, and 21.23% do not feel that their family is connected to the MA community.
 - i. The most frequently mentioned contributing factor was carline in that it currently does not allow us to get out of our cars, mingle with other families and/or teachers.
8. Which do you feel is the most pressing issue(s) for Monument Academy to address? Check all that apply.
- a. Responses are as follows:
 - i. Security – 12.7%
 - ii. Communication – 18.60%
 - iii. Health/Nutrition – 21.51%
 - iv. Academics – 18.6%
 - v. Clubs/Extracurricular Activities – 54.07%
 - vi. Student Support Services – 18.02%
 - vii. Fine Arts – 10.47%
 - viii. Character Education – 37.21%
 - b. The most pressing issue was not on the list...carline.

- i. One potential solution would be for some families to drop off students earlier. Drop off starts at 7:30, and families do not tend to start until 10 minutes later.
 - ii. Parents need to have patience and remember above all to be considerate and safe by obeying all traffic signs/laws.
 - 9. How do you prefer to volunteer?
 - a. Responses are as follows:
 - i. Classroom - 61.65%
 - ii. Lunchroom/Recess – 7.28%
 - iii. At Home – 50%
 - iv. Specials – 8.25%
 - v. Events – 45.63%
 - vi. Activities/Clubs – 12.62%
 - b. How is the new volunteer sign-up/in system coming?
 - i. We are waiting for some questions from the Raptor company to be answered.
 - ii. People are appreciating the PTO sending out the “Ways to Volunteer” sign up too.
 - 10. How likely are you to recommend our school to others?
 - a. 68.25% of families that responded said they would be very likely to recommend MA, 25.12 % were likely, 3.32% were unlikely, and 3.32% were very unlikely to recommend MA to others.
 - i. Some reasons why they would not recommend it were because of carline, class size, and staff & admin turnover rates.
 - 1. Carline is temporary, it will fix itself.
 - 2. By statute, once a class size reaches 33 students, an additional teacher must be hired to teach/assist in that class. Our class cap is 25 students per room.
 - 3. As far as teacher turnover rates are concerned, compared to other charter schools, MA is right in line with them. HR said that the average turnover rate for teachers at our campus is right in line with the average. Average turnover rate for admin is 2-3 years.
 - f. Jamie moved that we table the remaining agenda items until our next meeting in January, at which we will also go over the NWEA test results.
 - i. Christy seconded the motion.
 - ii. All approve. Motion carried.
 - g. **NWEA Results – led by Brittany Blair**

V. Other topics for discussion from parent feedback:

VI. Meeting Adjournment:

- a. Jilinda motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Britany seconded the motion.
- c. Jamie adjourned the meeting at 2:51pm.
- d. Next meeting will be on January 11, 2022 at 1:40pm in the West Campus Conference Room.