



# Monument Academy

## School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Minutes for Tuesday, January 12, 2021

In-person location: Multi-Purpose Room

1:20 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. and/or Zoom

Charlie Richardson	MA Elementary Principal
Laura Barrette	MA Elementary Assistant Principal
Jennifer Ralph	SAAC Chair
Jamie Harding	SAAC Vice Chair
Jilinda Dygert	SAAC Secretary
Chris Dole	MA Board Liaison
Britany Blair	Teacher Representative
Kim Stoltenberg	PTO President
TBA	Member at Large

### **I. Introduction and Attendance**

- a. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 1:26pm.
- b. Members present: Charlie Richardson, Laura Barrette (virtual), Jennifer Ralph (virtual), Jamie Harding, Jilinda Dygert (Virtual), Chris Doyle (virtual), Brittany Blair, and Kim Stoltenberg.

### **II. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2020**

- a. Kim made the motion to approve the minutes of both the regular meeting on February 8 and special second meeting on February 9.
- b. Brittany seconded the motion.
- c. Jennifer approved the minutes from both meetings.

### **III. Review and Approve Agenda**

- a. Jilinda made the motion to approve the agenda.
- b. Brittany seconded the motion.

c. Jennifer approved the agenda.

#### **IV. Business**

##### **1. DAAC Report**

a. Brittany reported that there was no DAAC report to give because the DAAC meeting is scheduled to take place in the evening.

##### **2. School Board Report**

a. Chris reported that the school board had had 2 meetings since the last SAAC meeting.

i. December 10, 2020 was a regular board meeting with members attending virtually. All board members were present as were the executive leadership team members.

1. Standard reports were given.

2. Board-specific agenda items were discussed.

ii. A special board meeting was held on January 6, 2021.

1. The main focus of this special meeting was to set goals for 2021-2022.\

##### **3. Survey Results**

a. Review and discuss: Laura sent a review of the survey results. In that review, she put the most commonly occurring comments.

i. How satisfied are you with Monument Academy's ability to meet the academic needs of your child this year?

1. The number #1 area of concern is the online specials. Parents want in-person specials and in-person Fridays.

2. The general perception is that our academic standards have been lowered due to needing to go online.

3. Parents feel that teachers are being spread too thin with all the learning options.

a. But, most parents feel that having the 4 learning options is a positive point.

ii. How satisfied are you with opportunities to develop your whole child at MA?

1. Parents like that we are doing in-person learning.

2. They like our GT program.

3. They like our character program.
  - a. Parents would like to see more focus on the character program.
4. Parents would like to see more clubs, activities, electives, core knowledge days, etc.
- iii. How satisfied are you with Monument Academy's ability to meet the social and emotional needs of your child this year?
  1. The comments pertaining to this question came mostly from the online families. Mostly they were understanding of the situation recognizing that it is largely due to COVID restrictions.
    - a. Families want more time for kids to socialize.
- iv. Does the school provide effective means of communication?
  1. Comments stated there was either too much communication and emails need to be shorter, or communication is lacking.
  2. Overall parents are happy with communication.
- v. Does the school provide opportunities for your voice to be heard?
  1. Overall people are pleased. Communication is open and sufficient.
- vi. Please rank Monument Academy's atmosphere.
  1. Parents seemed to have a hard time answering this one because they have not been on campus this year due to COVID restrictions and thus seemed to rate lower on this question.
  2. Most are very proud to be a part of the community.
  3. Again, families want more opportunities for socialization.
- vii. Do you feel like your student is connected to the MA community?

1. Families that said no also state that this because of COVID and/or being an at-home learner.
  2. Parents recognize that MA is trying to keep life as normal as possible.
- viii. Which do you feel is the most pressing issue for MA to address? Check all that apply.
1. #1 answer = clubs and extracurricular activities.
    - a. Further comments were that clubs just don't seem to exist this year.
  2. #2 answer = COVID response.
    - a. There were no helpful suggestions to clarify what the real complaint is here.
  3. #3 answer = academics.
    - a. Feelings are that online learning has lowered the standards across the board.
  4. Other insightful comments on question 8 were:
    - a. Safety with highway traffic was a frequently brought up concern.
    - b. Safety during pickup is a concern - window signs are homemade and unofficial.
    - c. Teacher retention and pay is also a concern that was brought up in this section.
- ix. How satisfied are you with your child's ability to navigate the technological component of their education this year?
1. Parents comment that they like Google Classroom because everything is all in one place.
  2. Several comments say their children are too young to navigate all things technological; there is a need for a lot of parent guidance.
  3. Parents feel that students are not learning as well online as they do in-person.
    - a. Some parents feel that this is due to having too many different platforms to navigate.
- x. How likely are you to recommend our school to others?

1. Only positive comments were given.
  2. No explanations were given for unlikely or very unlikely votes.
  3. One comment says lets find a way to pay our overworked teachers more.
- b. Brief general analysis of the results:
- i. 217 responses out of 412 families.
  - ii. Met our 50% goal, which earns the PJ day.
    1. We need to pick a day for that.
- c. SAAC will give recommendations to the board as follows:
- i. Increase/create after school activities and clubs.
    1. We need parental involvement and teacher-sponsors for clubs/extracurricular activities.
      - a. Get the word out that if there is interest in starting something up, interested parties should contact Mr. Richardson for details on how to make the ideas come to fruition.
  - ii. Raise teacher pay or give them recognition.
  - iii. Send character education program sheets home.
  - iv. Have teachers communicate homework/load balance expectations to families and invite families to speak with the teachers if they are seeing the amount of homework coming home seem too large.
4. Follow up:
- a. SAAC to send a thank you email to parents for participating in the survey, and summary of survey to the board.

**V. Establish timeline for UIP review/approval.**

- a. UIP must be done by January 22.
- b. SAAC will review it at the February meeting.
- c. Laura will email UIP to SAAC members to review as soon as it is ready.
- d. UIP must be finalized and submitted to the board at their April meeting.

**VI. Next meeting is February 9, 2020.**

- a. Kim motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Chris seconded the motion.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.