

Monument Academy

School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Minutes December 8, 2020

Hybrid meeting:

In-person location Mr. Richardson's office

Virtual via a Zoom meeting link

Charlie Richardson	Elementary School Principal
Laura Barrette	Elementary School Assistant Principal
Chris Dole	MA School Board Liaison-West Campus
Brittany Blair	Elementary School Teacher Representative
Kim Stoltenberg	Parent; MA Elementary PTO President
Jennifer Ralph	Parent
Jamie Harding	Parent
Jilinda Dygert	Parent
--Unfilled--	Member-at-large

- I. Introduction and Attendance
 - A. Jamie called the meeting to order at 1:57pm
 - B. Attendance
 1. Present: Charlie Richardson, Laura Barrete, Chris Doyle, Brittany Blair, Kim Stoltenberg (virtual), Jamie Harding, and Jilinda Dygert
 2. Absent: Jennifer Ralph and Member-at-large (position has yet to be filled.)
 - a) Jennifer joined the meeting (virtually) and took command at approximately 2:10pm.
- II. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2020
 - A. Kim motioned to approve minutes from the last meeting.
 - B. Chris seconded the motion.
- III. Review and Approve Agenda
 - A. Laura requested that Charlie present the current UIP.
 - B. Charlie agreed to present the current UIP
 - C. Jilinda motioned to approve the agenda.
 - D. Jamie seconded the motion.
- IV. Business
 - A. DAAC Report - Brittany
 1. The focus of the meeting was overall encompassing. Topics of discussion included:
 - a) Budget cuts
 - b) Incentivising teachers

- c) Alternate funding
- d) Gallagher bill retraction - looks like it will happen.
- e) Things around the District are going as expected.

B. School Board Report - Chris

1. Last board meeting was October 8, 2020
2. Policy committee presented - Melanie Strop & Ryan Graham
3. A letter from Stevenson was presented by Cristin Patterson
 - a) Voices advocating for the children are being heard, but there is continued concern from the staff that, because they are in the minority, advocations for the teachers are not being heard as loudly as they could be.
4. There will be a special board meeting in November specifically for financial training specifically on the 5 ways in which the school receives funding and the 5 areas to where the money goes:
 - a) Per pupil revenue
 - b) State funding
 - c) Local funding
 - d) Fundraising efforts
 - e) ??
5. Budget cuts will be discussed at the December meeting.
 - a) Assurance was given that Monument Academy does not have a spending problem; the special meeting will be held to ensure that funding is being filtered to the proper places.
 - b) There will be an impact to the incoming finances due to the budget cuts.
 - (1) The magnitude of that impact is to be determined.
6. Ryan Graham talked about holding a fundraiser to give a bonus to teachers. The fundraiser will be put on by the PTO in December.
7. There was a review of all 4 learning platforms.
 - a) Option #3 may violate the code of conduct.
 - b) This will be looked into further and worked on.
8. The East campus will host the next board meeting on November 12, 2020.
 - a) Kim asked if the previous technical issues with the board meeting being streamed live for families has been resolved.
 - b) Charlie and Chris thought they had been.

C. Survey - Laura

1. Review survey format - SurveyMonkey was used to dispense the survey last year.
 - a) The areas of focus were:
 - (1) Academics
 - (2) Whole child
 - (3) Communication
 - (a) Staff to parents and parents to staff

(4) Atmosphere

(5) Activeness in the school from the survey takers

2. Provide previous years' questions for review/suggestions

a) It was brought to our attention that a few years ago the survey was between 60 & 70 questions long. Last year there was a great attempt to streamline the questionnaire with significantly less questions. This resulted in a better response and less bashing of specific staff members.

b) There was a discussion at length about the best method of questioning for the current year due to the school's 4 learning options.

(1) Can responders choose multiple answers?

(a) Possibly a "Pick your top 3" or "Select all that apply".

(2) Should there be 2 surveys; one for in-person learners and one for virtual learners?

(a) This may cause confusion.

(b) Then, maybe send out 2 different surveys but on different release dates.

(3) Are most teachers surveying virtual learners as they go so as to reach a more ideal learning environment without delay?

(4) Should we change out the question about the responders involvement for one specifically for our virtual learners?

(5) Can we filter responses to categorize responses between in-person and virtual learners using the first question? I.E. "If you are an option #1 learner answer questions ABC, and if you are options #2-4 answer questions XYZ."

c) Jilinda volunteered to look into what options for questioning are available through Survey Monkey prior to our next meeting.

d) Jilinda motioned to finalize the survey at the December meeting, sending edits/suggestions to Jennifer via email, and distributing the survey prior to the start of Christmas break.

e) Jamie seconded the motion.

3. Provide copy of current UIP

a) Charlie distributed the prepared UIP from last year.

b) The UIP will differ this year because we have 2 campuses.

c) Charlie walked us through UIP definitions, giving examples when necessary.

(1) He explained that our low participation rates in the CMAS testing "haunts" us in many different areas.

(2) He talked about when tests are given and what they measure.

(3) He talked about the desire for more participation in the CMAS testing.

D. Other Topics from Parent Feedback

1. Open Discussion

a) Jamie stated that she speaks with lots of parents, and most are happy with how MA has kept students learning in-person.

(1) She relayed the question that if D38 goes remote, will MA have to follow suit?

(a) Charlie stated no, but everything changes daily and we have to follow guidelines given by differing governmental bodies. Reassuring that the state is encouraging schools to maintain in-person as much as possible.

b) Jamie also relayed that parents are happy to hear about the holiday bonus fund opportunity that PTO will be putting on.

V. Next Meeting will be held in hybrid fashion again. With the in-person meeting space as Mr. Richardson's office again, and Jilinda setting up the Zoom meeting again.

A. Kim motioned to adjourn the meeting.

B. Jamie seconded the motion.

C. This meeting was adjourned at 3:04pm