

Monument Academy

School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Minutes December 8, 2020
Hybrid meeting:
In-person location - MPR
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. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 1:56pm.
 - B. Attendance
 1. Present: Laura Barrette, Chris Doyle (virtual), Brittany Blair, Kim Stoltenberg, Jennifer Ralph (Virtual), Jamie Harding, Jilinda Dygert, and Marty Venticinque (Virtual)
 2. Absent: Charlie Richardson and Member-at-large (position has yet to be filled.)
- II. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2020
 - A. Chris asked for the date to be edited from December 8, 2020 to November 10, 2020.
 - B. Jilinda asked that the 5 areas that MA derives funding from be updated and completed.
 - C. Kim motioned to approve minutes from the last meeting with the two edits.
 - D. Jamie seconded the motion with the edits.
 - E. Jennifer approved the edited minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting.
- III. Review and Approve Agenda
 - A. Jennifer requested that there be a 4th topic of discussion added to the “survey” portion of the agenda: #4 - incentive to get more participation.
 - B. Jamie motioned to approve the agenda with the edit.
 - C. Kim seconded the motion with the edits.
 - D. Jennifer approved the edited agenda.
- IV. Business

A. DAAC Report - Brittany

1. The new mascot for Palmer Ridge was highlighted.
2. The district stated that their first focus is the emotional well-being of students as this is a cornerstone for a successful district.
3. It was stated that the budget looks promising for the next year for regrowth.
 - a) Push for a new bill to pass to cover preschool costs in the future will be pushed for.
 - b) A tax bill was passed that decreases property tax. Wonder as to how this will affect schools was stated?
 - (1) How will the district recover some of this funding?
4. There will be a revamping of Friday trainings.
5. Pathways to success:
 - a) Issues for the district will come with the perceived inability to conduct standardized testing.
 - (1) There is a push for pausing standardized testing for this year because of the logistics of necessary trainings to be able to test. From a remote standpoint it will be very hard to do.
 - (2) Did not rule out NWEA, just Colorado general testing.
6. Things around the District are going as expected.

B. School Board Report - Chris

1. Last board meeting was November 12, 2020
2. There was a special board meeting held on November 19, 2020 to approve the adjusted budget.
3. There was a decrease in enrollment of 46 students at the west campus and 5 students at the east campus for this school year.
4. There was discussion on a grant of \$360,000 that MA did not get because MA did not meet the necessary pupil count stipulated in the grant application.
 - a) MA is pushing back stating that we were not able to market as well due to COVID restrictions.
 - b) There are opportunities to get this grant when it matures in 2022.
5. The November 19th meeting approved an \$800,000 dip into reserve funds.
 - a) The board acknowledged quantities by grades.
 - b) This dip into reserve funds will make up for the lower per pupil revenue.
6. Discussion on learning options
 - a) Distance learning is going strong.
 - b) Teachers are gaining confidence with all options.
 - c) The time for families to decide to change options is coming up for parents.

7. SAAC reports from both east and west campuses state that both are acting to get surveys out prior to Christmas break.
 8. Finance committee wants to build back up the reserve funds.
 9. PTO reported that they would like a final push from the board to encourage parents to contribute to the teacher's holiday fund.
 10. The next board meeting will be held on December 10, 2020.
- C. NWEA Data Assessment and Information - Marty
1. NWEA tests help track student performance from fall to spring.
 - a) This past year we have no spring data to use due to COVID and the inability to test last spring.
 2. By looking at the individual grade levels, and using data from students from the grades before, we can use fall to fall data to measure benchmarks.
 - a) On a whole, there was a general slide across the board especially for the lower grades.
 3. Our families do not heavily participate in CMAS testing. So, we do not get as much funding as we could potentially be getting.
 - a) Schools with CMAS scores in the 85th and up percentiles get rewarded. Fifteenth percentile and below do not get rewarded.
 - b) Can we use NWEA test results for internal benchmarking to get the data needed to get this funding?
 - (1) NWEA and CMAS test results do not equal one another.
 - (2) But by the grouping of grades, we may be able to get the data needed to find the internal benchmarks necessary to get the funding from CMAS test results
 4. Anything above 50% is at or above benchmarks.
 - a) MA grades have been in the green for the last 3 years.
 - b) We would like to see growth, but that is hard for our already high-achieving school.
 5. Looking at the data from fall to fall, our current years' growth is better than it has been in the past.
 - a) There was a subtle impact from COVID in ELA percentile rankings.
 - (1) This impact was mostly seen in the younger grades' reading levels.
 - (2) We did not see a huge change in the upper grades. This is reflected in DIBLES tests.
 - (3) In general, we are pretty solid with our kids being at or above grade levels.
 - b) "Experts" thought we would have a greater academic slide back in math than in reading.
 - (1) We have one class not meeting benchmarks.
 - (2) In grades 5-8, the math accelerator program has helped them fill in the growth gaps.

(a) This program seems to be working well. We will see more of how we have benefited from this program after we test this spring.

c) In science, MA students are doing great.

(1) MA students have historically been high above the 90th percentile in science.

6. MAP skills seem to be working for the teachers who have been able to handle the extra time commitment. By using the results from the MAP skills, teachers are able to formulate lessons according to individual students' skills. If used correctly, we should be able to see more growth in students' test results.

7. Chris inquired about increasing participation in CMAS testing: How can we do this? Do we need to? Will we be able to get funding that other schools get based on NWEA testing only?

a) Marty responded that when we do transfer the data from NWEA to CMAS test results, we do see exponential growth in our rankings. We do want to know how we stand up against other schools in the district - CMAS test results make this easier. But, only time will tell if we need increased CMAS test participation to get the funding. Even if we cannot get the rewards, at least our numbers show the growth MA deems necessary.

D. Survey - Open discussion on questions to include

1. Jennifer felt #8 from last year is irrelevant. Consider taking it out.

2. Jamie suggested adding a question about students' emotional well-being. There was general agreement that this type of question is much needed.

3. Jennifer suggested adding a question that focuses on how MA has done with helping students transfer from in-person to online learning.

a) Brittany suggested - Are teachers supporting these transitions well enough?

4. It was suggested that we combine questions 1 & 2 from last year and reword it towards confidence in MA with meeting your child's academic needs.

5. Chris - Thinking about the next steps, is the school looking at what hurdles we might not be anticipating? Is there a question we can put out there about what we as parents can do to help our circumstances?

6. Kim motioned to table the discussion, due to students being released from school, to a special meeting tomorrow (December 9, 2020) at 2 pm.

7. Jamie seconded the motion.

8. Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 3:07 pm.

Monument Academy

School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Minutes December 9, 2020
Special Meeting Continuation from December 8, 2020 meeting
Hybrid meeting:
In-person location - MPR
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

V. Introduction and Attendance

A. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

B. Attendance

1. Present: Laura Barrette, Chris Doyle (virtual), Brittany Blair, Kim Stoltenberg, Jennifer Ralph (Virtual), Jamie Harding, and Jilinda Dygert
2. Absent: Charlie Richardson and Member-at-large (position has yet to be filled.)

VI. The point of this meeting was to finish our discussion on and solidify our survey questions.

- A. Chris - My concern is with how the COVID situation will unfold. We want the path forward to be an equal 2-way street. How can parents do a better job coming alongside the school as we try to overcome hurdles?
- B. Kim - Could this be a "check all that apply" type of question? For example, as a parent, what would you be willing to do to support MA in their efforts to keep improving? Some answer options may
- C. After more discussion on potential answers for this type of question, Laura reminded us that the point of this survey is to find out how we are doing as a school?
- D. Chris wondered if asking a pointed question like that would help the board preplan for what may be to come as far as government mandates will be concerned. If specific numbers will be what determines restrictions placed on the school, wouldn't that be helpful to have an idea of what we can expect?

- E. Jamie - It is a huge success that MA has stayed in-person for as long as they have. Concerns with this type of question could be that it implies that parents are not doing enough as it is...it could infer that this will change how in-person learning is determined...parents may read in between the lines and assume that these types of things are going to be expected next year and could potentially deter them from re-enrolling for next year.
- F. Final survey questions are as follows:
1. How satisfied are you with Monument Academy's ability to meet the academic needs of your child this year?
 - a) Not satisfied
 - b) Satisfied
 - c) Highly Satisfied
 2. How satisfied are you with opportunities to develop your whole child at MA?
 - a) Not satisfied
 - b) Satisfied
 - c) Highly Satisfied
 3. How satisfied are you with Monument Academy's ability to meet the social and emotional needs of your child this year?
 - a) Not satisfied
 - b) Satisfied
 - c) Highly Satisfied
 4. Does the school provide effective means of communication?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 5. Does the school provide opportunities for your voice to be heard?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 6. Please rank Monument Academy's atmosphere:
 - a) Needs Improvement
 - b) Improving
 - c) Excelling
 7. Do you feel like your student is connected to the MA community?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 8. Which do you feel is the most pressing issue for MA to address? Click all that apply.
 - a) Security
 - b) Communication
 - c) Health/Nutrition
 - d) Academics
 - e) Clubs/Extracurricular Activities
 - f) Student Support Services
 - g) Fine Arts

h) COVID-19 Response

9. How likely are you to recommend our school to others?

- a) Very likely
- b) Likely
- c) Unlikely
- d) Very Unlikely

10. How satisfied are you with your child's ability to navigate the technological component of their education this year?

- a) Not satisfied
- b) Satisfied
- c) Highly satisfied
- d) Not applicable

G. Discussion on timeline of the rollout of the survey.

- 1. Jennifer will email Mr. Richardson the questions today for him to approve.
- 2. Kim will come in to type up the survey on Friday.
- 3. Survey will go live and the email will be sent out shortly after.
- 4. Survey will be open for 1 week.

H. Discussion on incentives to optimize survey participation.

- 1. If 50% of the families participate, the incentive will be earned.
- 2. Incentive will be a school-wide pajama party.

VII. Next Meeting will be held in hybrid fashion again on January 12, 2020. Jilinda will set up and email out the Zoom meeting link.

- A. Brittany motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- B. Jilinda seconded the motion.
- C. This special meeting was adjourned at 2:49pm