

MONUMENT ACADEMY
“A Charter School, a Public School of Choice”
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ SPECIAL MEETING

VIRTUAL
Monday, May 3rd, 2021 at 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom
Livestreamed on the MA YouTube Page

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/ROLL CALL/QUORUM/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Roll Call, meeting called at: Mrs. Strop opened the meeting at 6:03 pm, led the pledge of allegiance, read the mission statement, took roll call and declared a quorum.

Board Members in Attendance:

1. Mrs. Strop
2. Mrs. St. Aubyn
3. Mr. Dole
4. Mr. Graham
5. Mrs. McCuen

Others in Attendance:

1. Mrs. Herrera
2. Mr. Brocklehurst
3. Mr. Richardson
4. Mrs. Seymour
5. Ms. Barrette
6. Mr. Venticinque
7. Ms. Skinner
8. Mrs. Buzzell
9. Mrs. Pierce
10. Susan Wheelan
11. Deann Ryberg
12. Dr. Robin Johnson
13. Haley Zachary
14. Jenny Best
15. Diana May

- B. ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mrs. Strop shared the purpose of the meeting was in response to the questions and concerns of its stakeholders around the issue of masks and current COVID mandates. She reiterated that MA continues to work with the State and County on the COVID guidelines. Mrs. McCuen motioned to add El Paso County Health to the business items of the agenda. Mr. Graham 2nd the motion, which was approved. Mrs. Strop welcomed the El Paso County Health Members in attendance.
- C. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL:** *Limit 3 minutes per person.* Mrs. Strop reviewed the public comment instructions with all in attendance. There were 15 stakeholders signed up for agenda comments. There were 45 minutes of citizen comments. Please review the youtube recording for these details.
- D. BUSINESS: Address Current Mask & Quarantine Response (Guidance vs. Mandates)** Mrs. Strop encouraged the MA stakeholders to continue their advocacy efforts at the state level as well for a more effective partnership with the MA Admin. Mrs. Herrera thanked all of the parents who came out to speak. She empathized with the MA community and assured its stakeholders the MA leadership has done and will continue to do all they can to maintain in person learning and abide by the law. She urged the families to share their stories with the governor's office in order to help state leaders better understand and roll out a more healthy response to quarantines for

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next year. Mr. Graham invited the EPCH representatives to introduce themselves. He also provided clarity for the meeting, starting the conversation with what MA is legally required to follow. Further discussion and questions ensued for the following hour and 45 minutes with EPCH. Please reference the recording on the MA youtube page for detail. Gratitude was expressed for them joining and hearing our community and clarifying. It was affirmed that this is a whole health issue and not just a COVID issue. The need for reaching out to state reps and the governor's office was also reiterated. The open and honest conversation at tonight's meeting was applauded as necessary for the health and well being of our children. Feedback was provided by Mrs. Herrera regarding the logistics of unmasking at the west campus. MA West initially implemented masking only in communal areas: entering, exiting and hallway passing. Agreed that MA could move forward with unmasking based on tonight's direction by EPCH. Mrs. Herrera urged parents to speak out against HB 1295 and reach out to state reps, governor and EAC. EAC information is on the MA Home Page. Mrs. McCuen asked a question of Mr. Miller regarding unmasking 5th grade also. Mr. Miller agreed to meet with the MA Board to make this determination. Mr. Graham proposed a resolution to direct MA West Leadership to no longer require masks of 4th grade and in accordance with the recent executive order update, Mr. Dole 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed. Mr. Graham reiterated that effective immediately tomorrow morning 4th grade and under will be without masks. Mr. Dole proposed that the Board work with Mr. Miller to make a determination in 5th grade before their return to school on Monday May 10th 2021. Mr. Miller clarified that he will reach out to Mrs. Herrera and directed board reps to work out the details for 5th grade. Mr. Graham asked Mr. Miller to also look into medically intolerant exemptions. Mrs. St. Aubyn asked that the school send out the communication so that it comes from the school, nurse and administration rather than the board. The board validates parents' choice and right to decide whether to utilize a face mask or not with their children.

E. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION: None

F. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS NOT PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL: *Limit 3 minutes per person*

- a. *Mrs. Oliva* - two comments, there have been multiple special sessions this past month. She inquired as to what they were about and when parents would be informed on these meeting contents. Secondly, she is concerned about the recent curriculum push across America regarding the Critical Race Theory instruction and wants to make the board aware of this and look into this.
- b. *Mrs. Patterson* - related to masking for 4th graders and under. She was concerned b/c she heard that if there's a positive case then anyone within 12 feet will have to quarantine. Mrs. St. Aubyn and Mrs. McCuen clarified that those students have only been wearing masks in the hallways. There is no change except they will no longer be wearing masks at drop off, pick up and hallway.
- c. *Mrs. Rogers* - stated that for 5th grade and under at Prairie Winds, they do not have to wear masks at all. She asked why MA had to hold to something stricter than another school in the same district. Mrs. St. Aubyn shared that as a charter school part of our mission is that we would be exemplary citizens and the law states that kids 11 and older need to wear masks and MA chooses to follow the law. Mrs. Rogers reiterated that our families and schools should know that MA has been going above what's mandated and she would like to see that changed by unmasking the 5th grade at MA.

G. ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Strop reiterated the need for parents to reach out and advocate at the state level. She reminded stakeholders to speak out as well regarding HB-1295. She then adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.