

MONUMENT ACADEMY
“A Charter School, a Public School of Choice”
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 13th, 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:** Mrs. Strop opened the meeting at 6:04 pm, read the MA Mission Statement, led the pledge of allegiance, and took roll call.

Board Members in Attendance:

1. Mrs. Strop
2. Mrs. St. Aubyn
3. Mr. Dole
4. Mrs. McCuen
5. Mr. Graham (called in)

Others in Attendance:

1. Mrs. Herrera
2. Mr. Brocklehurst
3. Mrs. Seymour
4. Ms. Barrette

B. ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- a. Added the PTO Report as letter M on the agenda

C. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL: *Limit 3 minutes per person*

- a. *Tammy John - spoke about masks, their negative impacts on children and advocated for making masks optional*
- b. *Mrs. Hancock - spoke about masks, their negative impacts on children and advocated for making masks optional. She asked that MA follow the least restrictive orders.*
- c. *Mr. Saunders - encouraged MA to use the mask exemption form without doctor signature. Thank the MA leadership for their hard work and service.*

D. BUSINESS:

- a. Statement to the Community RE: Recent Executive Sessions: Mrs. Strop shared on Roberts Rules of Order and how that affects the way the MA board can meet. There are privacy matters that need to be kept behind doors, legal matters, etc. that the MA Board needs to hear about so that the MA Board can govern the school the best. There is a lot going on right now and she thanked MA Stakeholders for their understanding.
- b. HWY 105 Update: Mrs. St. Aubyn shared that the meeting with the county was cancelled by the County. MA is working with an attorney who specializes in this type of legal council. Meeting has been rescheduled for next Tuesday, May 18th, 2021.
- c. BOD Election Update: Mrs. St. Aubyn - Welcomed Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Buczkowski. They are at the meeting as honorary, non-voting members. They will be sworn in at the next meeting in June which will be Mrs. Strop's last meeting.
- d. COO Hiring Committee Update: Mrs. St. Aubyn introduced Mrs. Harding who gave a report on the hiring process and committee. The committee was composed of Board, teacher, staff, and parent representatives. Mrs. Harding introduced Mr. Holmes. Mr. Holmes shared a little bit on the hiring process and also shared some of his background. He is looking forward to joining the team at MA. Mrs. St. Aubyn shared the next steps: community announcement, required 14 day holding period when a community forum will be held to meet and ask questions, the board will take a vote on offering a contract to Mr. Holmes. Mr. Holmes shared that he is looking forward to meeting as many stakeholders and staff as possible and answering any questions. He is grateful for the opportunity to continue making MA its best.
- e. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Brocklehurst, CPA, highlighted the financial reports. He discussed his and Mrs. Herrera's budget meeting with the District. PPOR # was discussed. Mr. Brocklehurst will revamp the budget (evened out cash flow) and re-present it to the board at the next meeting calling out the changes.
- f. Elementary Principal Highlights: Principal Richardson (absent), report was given by Ms. Barrette, highlighting Civil War Day and Japanese Day along with the hard work of Mrs. Webber in Tech, and the results of the Battle of the Books, kudos to the 5th graders and Mrs. Collier and the Library Team.
- g. Middle & High School Principal Highlights: Principal Seymour, highlighted D38 and Superintendent Dr. Somers for their support and collaboration and treats recently delivered. Wrapping up the year with a few fun events and planning for next year and scheduling. Talks are being had with PTO for

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Fall fundraisers. Other highlights, staff were able to meet with rising freshmen to design a Letterman jacket. Also launched Naviance. Assistant Principal Skinner has been working on the curriculum. Assistant Principal Venticinque has been working hard on CMAS and NWEA and athletics.

- h. COO Report: Mrs. Herrera gave her highlight report noting the below agenda items.
 - i. COVID Guidelines for 2021-2022 School year - orders are lightening up. The conversation we had with EPCH at the last MA special session was very helpful. There were necessary follow up conversations that needed and did happen. Greater clarification is being gained. MA was clearly communicated to recently that it is permissible to have a parent write a statement of the medical/mental health need in the presence of MA staff so that MA can check to ensure it continues to comply with state and local mandates. It is the hope of MA that it would be able to roll out clubs next year along with enrichment programs at both campuses for the next school year. Parents' partnership and advocacy at the local and state level is key. Ms. Barrette shared on club/extracurricular activities based on parent and student input.
 - ii. 2021-2022 Learning Plan - MA has reached out to its DL families over the past 6 weeks, 10% of the MA population utilized the DL plan this past school year. CDE released its DL expectations for next school year. It's not required that a school offer a DL platform. This allows a good amount of flexibility as to the type of program MA can utilize. CDE also requires that MA have a quarantine plan and assume this will be needed and plan for that. Numbers went from 90 down to 11 students for DL plans. Mrs. Skalla has done a tremendous amount of work in researching the curriculum and online program that most lines up with the MA program and curriculum. There are 4 options MA is looking into currently. Mrs. Skalla would be the Teacher on Record. There is an administrative burden but no work for our teachers. She reiterated the budget work being done is more firm as MA now knows the PPOR #s. She applauded Mr. Brocklehursts diligence in tracking funding changes. She thanked parents for their continued advocacy and partnership. Mr. Graham inquired as to the effective date of parents being able to sign the medical exemption mask and how much time would admin need to implement? Mrs. Herrera confirmed that MA needs the Board to vote on a new policy, the front desk admin could witness, admin would need until Monday to get ready to implement this new policy. Mr. Graham inquired re: the #4 learning options, if parents have given input on the commitment level? Mrs. Herrera affirmed that would like to see semester commitments. She also affirmed there would be some loss but would be absorbable by MA. She also thanked Mr. Graham for his excellent work advocating for MA. Mr. Graham updated that the HB-1295 has been postponed. He encouraged parents to get involved. Mrs. St.Aubyn brought up the practice of board members not reading citizens comments. Mrs. Strop asked that the Board discuss this at the time of voting.
 - iii. Extracurricular and club activity resumption plan, this was covered in the above highlight.
- i. Governance Committee Report - Mrs. Strop highlighted the policies being worked on (Noted below under action items) mainly general maintenance. Mrs. Strop communicated her desire to continue working on the governance committee next year. Mr. Dole spoke to policy 1520 noted on the form, recommending an edit to the “zoom” verbiage to make it an open ended “electronic format”.
- j. SAAC West Report: Mr. Dole highlighted the final meeting and work done on EOY survey results. He shared from the report letter provided to the board. Overwhelming support of the work teachers and staff have done this year. There is a strong demand for extracurriculars and clubs next year. Participation was lower than hoped for this time around, down to 32%, results continue to represent the whole. Vast majority related to the negative effects of COVID restrictions. There were overwhelming amounts of comments praising the lifting of school restrictions.
- k. SAAC East Report: Mrs. McCuen invited Mrs. Seymour to share during this time as well. She shared that middle school participation was at 52% and HS participation was at 75%. There continued to be high marks of praise for the teachers and staff for their hard work during COVID. Families are satisfied with the work done. There is also the strong demand for extracurricular and clubs which Admin is working hard on making happen next year. This year has required everyone to grow in its resilience and the community has done well. Mrs. Seymour shared efforts will be made to standardize IC and will be seeking parental input in June. What worked well with Canvas and what can be done better.
- l. Curriculum Report: Mrs. St. Aubyn thanked the teachers who serve on this committee, the work and detail they put in is commendable. Mrs. Herrera highlighted this group and the work they are doing to ensure students are on track for learning goals. They are doing a tremendous job making sure the curriculum is effective. MA is a high performing school. MA is already seeing that its made up at least half of the COVID learning loss and increasing, this is a huge win. The MA team is amazing in their desire to ensure that ALL students are growing.
- m. PTO Report: Mrs. Stoltenberg was not able to be on the call, no report given.

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E. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- a. 2021-2022 Distance Learning Plan - Mrs. Herrera recommended the Board vote to approve the plan as provided in her report. Mrs. Strop motioned to approve, Mr. Dole 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- b. Medical Release for Mask Wearing - Mrs. Herrera asked for a few work days to transition, looking towards being ready by Monday. She asked that the Board release the admin from the current form. Form needs to state that the student needs a medical exemption. Form will have to be witnessed by MA staff as MA needs documentation that the parent/legal guardian did exercise their legal guardianship. Parents will need to provide ID as a child's parent. The Board asks that our parents have grace and patience in this complicated issue knowing that teachers and staff are doing their best. Mrs. Strop asked that stakeholders continue to follow best practices for health. Mr. Dole motioned that the MA Board of Directors relieve MA from its current process of using its current form of medical mask exemption to the new relaxed form going forward as of Monday, May 17, 2021. Mrs. Strop 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- c. MA Board Bylaws - to be voted on - Mrs. McCuen inquired if it was necessary to clarify the amount of terms a board member could serve. She also noted there aren't parameters for who can serve in which position at what time. Mrs. Strop shared that further discussion and decision could be made. Mr. Dole inquired if this was about limiting terms. Further discussion was had around this topic. Mr. Graham shared what the bylaws currently state, he interprets it to mean one term. Mr. Dole confirmed that it doesn't state anything specifically limiting. Mr. Graham proposed the board adopt the bylaws as is, understanding that the Board meets annually and can review. Mr. Graham motioned to approve the bylaws as is (on their 2nd read), Mrs. St. Aubyn 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and motion passed.
- d. 1519 Advertising in School Publications - to be voted on - Mrs. Strop motioned to approve, Mrs. St. Aubyn 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and motion passed.
- e. 1520 Public Comment to the Board - to be voted on - Mr. Dole recommended that the form be amended to a more generic "electronic/online format" in place of "zoom". Mrs. St. Aubyn inquired if the board wanted to continue to offer the online format? Mrs. Strop also made the point of only offering in person meetings moving forward and the need for an official form for sign up. Mrs. McCuen advocated for keeping the virtual option as it enabled greater stakeholder participation in the board meetings. It would be a loss for its stakeholders to no longer have the option. Mrs. St. Aubyn reminded the board of the challenges. Mrs. Strop encouraged that the new board continue to discuss this at the next board meeting. It was reiterated that board members will not read citizen comments. Mr. Graham recommended that the board table 1520 Public Comment to the Board for the June meeting. Mrs. Strop 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- f. 1521 Student Fees - to be voted on - Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to approve, Mr. Graham 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- g. 1522 Donating to Monument Academy - to be voted on - Mr. Graham motion to reinstate this policy, Mrs. McCuen 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- h. 1523 Class Size Policy - to be voted on - Mrs. St. Aubyn inquired about the verbiage of voting to change the class size and why it was taken out. Mrs. Strop clarified that it's easier for teachers to work with whole numbers which is why it went to 26. Admin would have latitude to take a class size from 24 to 26 without board approval. It was noted that the MA charter limits it to 26 class sizes. Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to approve, Mr. Dole 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- i. 1528 Homebound Instruction - to be voted on - Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to approve, Mrs. McCuen 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- j. Location of future board meetings - the board discussed utilizing the west campus for the benefit of virtual set up. The need for flexibility over the summer board meetings was discussed, and suggested that June and July meetings be held via zoom and back to in person in August. New Members swear in can take place virtually at the June Meeting. The COO Q & A will take place in person at the West Campus MPR.
- k. Annual Board Retreat - it was determined that the "passing of the torch" work session and the Annual Board Retreat are two separate events to be held on separate dates. June 10 new Board members get sworn in.

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F. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve minutes from 04.08.21 Regular Board meeting, Mrs. St. Aubyn motion to approve, Mr. Graham 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- b. Approve minutes from 04.16.21 Special Board Meeting, Mrs. St. Aubyn motion to approve, Mr. Graham 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- c. Approve minutes from 04.26.21 Special Board Meeting, Mrs. St. Aubyn motion to approve, Mr. Graham 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed.
- d. Approve Work Session: 06.02.21 - Passing the Torch, Virtual Work Session, Mrs. Strop is reaching out to Mr. Molsen and Mr. McWilliams on the date and time.
- e. Approve next meeting: 06.14.21 Regular Board Meeting, Virtual Mrs. St. Aubyn motion to approve, Mrs. McCuen 2nd the motion, roll call taken and motion passed.
- f. Approve the COO Community Q & A - Monday June 17, 2021 @ 6:00 pm

G. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS NOT PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL: *Limit 3 minutes per person - there were none.*

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b, e & f) to receive legal advice on specific legal matters, to discuss negotiating positions and to advise negotiators, and to discuss personnel matters related to facility financing, charter contract matters, and performance of school administrators. Mr. Graham 2nd the motion, roll call was taken and the motion passed. The board will not be voting on any items after the executive session and there will not be an adjournment.

I. ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Strop adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm