

MONUMENT ACADEMY
"A Charter School, a Public School of Choice"
Board of Directors Regular Meeting

October 7th, 2021 at 6pm MST
Monument Academy East Campus Band Room, #1044

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/MISSION STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL/QUORUM:

Mr. Graham opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, read the mission statement, led the pledge of allegiance, took roll call, and declared a quorum.

Board Members in Attendance:
Mr. Buczkowski
Mrs. Clinton
Mr. Dole
Mrs. McCuen
Mrs. St. Aubyn
Mr. Graham

Others in Attendance:
Mr. Holmes
Mr. Brocklehurst

A. ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- a. Mr. Graham motioned to add the October 5, 2021 special work session minutes to the agenda under letter E Consent Agenda for approval. Mrs. St. Aubyn seconded and motion carried.

B. SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

- a. Mr. Vinnie DeVincenzo, Facilities Director, was honored for his work above and beyond at both campuses and especially during the last school year with extra work requirements from the pandemic.
- b. Mrs. McCuen reminded the community that anyone can submit a nomination for the School Spotlight from the staff, administration, parent, or student community. Please email the board with nominations.

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

- a. Mrs. Stoltenberg spoke about concerns related to the incoming 6th graders and where to locate them for the 2022-2023 school year.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes from September 9, 2021 regular meeting and October 5, 2021 special work session were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
- b. The next regular meeting date was approved by unanimous consent for November 11, 2021 at 6pm in the East Campus Band Room, #1044.

E. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEES:

- a. COO: Mr. Holmes
 - i. The Monument Academy Annual Report was presented at the September District 38 school board meeting.

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- ii. Mr. Kurt Walker was introduced as the new Assistant Principal at the West Campus to work alongside Assistant Principal Barrette.
 - iii. The snow closure plan and communication process has been reviewed and readied.
 - iv. Phase II Forum was held the evening of Oct. 5th to begin community discussions and feedback for the next phase of East campus construction. Potential priorities, space needs, and timelines were discussed.
- b. CFO: Mr. Brocklehurst
- i. Combined revenue for month end (September): \$843,676.
 - ii. Combined expenses for month end (September): \$841,902.
 - iii. Combined Net Income: \$1,774
 - iv. October count is in line with the budgeted enrollment of 1083.
 - v. The FY21 audit is expected to be completed in October.
 - vi. FY22 Budget Revision is underway
 - vii. Mr. Brocklehurst and Mr. Holmes met with the financial advisor to have further bond discussions. Further discussion will be had with the Finance Committee.
- c. Committees
- i. Highway 105 Committee Report: Mrs. St. Aubyn
 - 1. Please see attached Hwy 105 Committee statement.
 - ii. Curriculum: Mrs. Clinton
 - 1. Discussion at monthly meeting focused on how teacher teams and departments are utilizing their curriculum checklists.
 - iii. SAAC – West: Mrs. St. Aubyn
 - 1. Committee expectations were reviewed at first meeting. Chair: Jamie Harding. Vice Chair: Christy Musser. Secretary: Jilinda Dygert.
 - 2. A survey will go out in early December to the school community.
 - iv. SAAC – East: Mrs. McCuen
 - 1. Committee expectations were reviewed at first meeting. Chair: Emily Davis Vice Chair: Shar Sellers Secretary/Historian: Jacob Harris
 - v. Governance: Mr. Graham
 - 1. Committee focusing on a systematic review of the bylaws and development of an election policy.
 - vi. Finance: Mr. Dole
 - 1. Focusing on Phase II and the cost of the build-out, future cash flow projections, and refinance of the bonds.
 - vii. Buildings & Facilities: Mr. Buczkowski
 - 1. Reported briefly on the Phase II meeting held Oct 5th, 2021.

F. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- a. Volunteer Committee: Mrs. Clinton
- i. Mr. Graham motioned that the Monument Academy board adopt a resolution establishing a Volunteer committee as sanctioned by section 3.11 Committees under the Bylaws of Monument Academy. This committee shall be comprised of at least one member and no more than two members of the MA board. Mrs. Clinton seconded and motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Mr. Graham motioned that the Monument Academy board appoint Lindsay Clinton and Misty McCuen to the volunteer committee with Lindsay Clinton acting in the role of chair. The expectation of this

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committee is to establish, coordinate and track volunteers and their hours, in addition to meeting monthly, with PTO leadership, teacher representatives and administration. Mrs. St. Aubyn seconded and motion passed unanimously.

- b. Review of Policy 1512:
 - i. Mr. Graham motioned that we adopt the revised policy 1512 effective 10/8/2021 with a directive to the COO to have revised policy 1512 uploaded to the MA website and replace the existing policy 1512. In addition, this directive would include having a CORA electronic link placed on the MA website under the board tab. Mr. Buczkowski seconded and motion passed unanimously. Policy in effect as of Oct 8, 2021.
- c. Spring 2022 Elections Process: Mr. Graham
 - i. Policy/Governance committee would like to have election policy adopted by the board by the end of this calendar year for the upcoming Spring 2022 elections. A draft is forthcoming.
- d. Uniform Policy Update: Mrs. Clinton
 - i. Reminder to stay within the description of an athletic shoe for a daily uniform shoe.
 - ii. The Lands End crewneck sweatshirt is in final revisions and should be available towards the end of next week.
- e. MA Foundation Board: Mr. Graham
 - i. The MA Foundation Board was organized and created for the build-out of the East Campus. There is a current vacancy, and the MA Board has the authority to appoint that position to the MAF Board.
 - ii. Ryan Graham moved that Mr. Chris Dole be appointed to the vacancy on the Monument Academy Foundation Board which is to take affect immediately. Mr. Buczkowski seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- f. Letter to 5th Grade Families: Mr. Graham
 - i. Please see attached questionnaire that will go out to 5th grade parents next week. Receiving input from the parent community will aid in deciding the best path forward as well as aid in budgetary costs. The intent of this is to receive input for the upcoming 6th grade year only. Final decision will be made in December/January.
- g. EAC Community Update: Mr. Graham and Mrs. McCuen
 - i. November 3rd, 2021 EAC Information night for the parent community. This will be a special session meeting.
- h. Highway 105 Call for Special Session: Mr. Graham
 - i. Mr. Graham motioned that October 28th at 6pm we call a special board meeting to discuss the topics of Highway 105 and the five year budget forecast. Mrs. McCuen seconded, motion carried unanimously.

G. BOARD COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. PTO East and PTO West have both held successful fundraisers. Both campus organizations will work with the board to develop a plan for teacher bonus donations.

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- b. Veteran’s Day Ceremony will occur at the East Campus with attendance limited to Monument Academy parents and grandparents only. Once the campus has more space, a larger ceremony can be planned for the future.
- H. NEW BUSINESS** - None
- I. ADJOURNMENT**
- a. Mrs. St. Aubyn motioned to adjourn, Mr. Buczkowski seconded, motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.
- J. CITIZEN COMMENTS NOT PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS** - None

Dear MA Community,

The following statement was read at the Board meeting last night. Please read through this statement in its entirety as it contains important information for all of the Monument Academy community.

“Monument Academy has been cooperating with El Paso County in an effort to remove school traffic from HWY105 and recirculate cars to our property during the morning and afternoon carline. We believe this to be in the best interest of our families as well as the safety of travelers on HWY105. As part of this process, the county asked MA to sign a MOU agreeing to the project. This prompted the school to engage legal council to ensure the school's best interest was being met by the plan before signing the MOU.

Since MA West opened its doors in 2008, we have had a reciprocal parking agreement in place with the Church next door. However, the agreement expired in 2018, and after that time it was more of a “friendly neighbor” agreement. As part of our due diligence regarding the MOU with the county, the school contacted the Church to ensure we could continue to have emergency access of their driveway once our traffic was recirculated to our property.

I want to be clear that up until this point, the school had never received a complaint from the church. In fact, we had tried to find a local Bishop to meet with and could not find anyone to talk to at the local church.

The school was finally able to get ahold of someone at the church in May 2021. Mr. Richardson had a meeting with two of their attorneys from Salt Lake City who at that time didn't have much knowledge of the situation, but informed him that they didn't want to continue the shared parking agreement that had been in place since MA opened its doors.

In August, right before school started, the church informed MA that not only did they want to discontinue the shared parking agreement, but that they no longer wanted MA parents to use the west access driveway. Since that time, the school has gone to great lengths to try to offer solutions and work with the church to mitigate the traffic in a manner acceptable to them. We were asking not for a permanent solution, but a solution to allow parents to use this driveway until the HWY105 recirculation plan was built out this summer.

Unfortunately, the Church has refused all of our offers and solutions and has remained firm that as of November 8, 2021, the church will put up a gate so that Monument Academy is no longer accessible from the driveway on HWY105, which is on church property.

To say the least, we are disappointed in the church's position and unwillingness to work with the school. But in this situation, we are at their mercy because the school does not have an easement for the driveway. I hope you will trust that the school gave every effort possible to work together with the church.

The school also looked into the option to build a driveway on our property next to the church's drive. However, we have decided that because of the extensive traffic study needed, permitting process, timing and cost for this temporary solution, that it will not be feasible to go this route. I apologize for not coming to you with better news this evening regarding this issue.

The county traffic engineers, along with representatives for the school have a meeting scheduled for Monday where we will discuss options to possibly sync traffic lights and help traffic flow as smoothly as possible. While we do not know the full extent of the problem the closure of the church access will have on the surrounding roads, we do appreciate the corporation we have received from El Paso County thus far in remedying the problem.

I know we will be able to rally together as a community and make the best of the situation until the recirculation plan is complete. Tonight, I would like to advise the Board that we should add a sub-committee to the HWY105 committee made up of parents, facilities, and administration which will be tasked with coming up with the best solution possible for our morning and afternoon carline beginning in November through the end of the school year. This committee will present a plan to the Board in a Special Board session before November 8, 2021.”

If you are a parent who prides themselves on efficiency and would like to be considered for this sub-committee, please contact the Board at board@monumentacademy.net. We need to bring the best minds together to come up with a reasonable solution.

The Board scheduled a special session on Thursday, October 28th at 6pm at the East campus to hear the recommendation made from the sub-committee on new carline procedures. Board meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend.

Thank you for your support and interest in this matter. As always, we welcome all comments and questions via e-mail at board@monumentacademy.net

Sincerely,

MA Board of Directors

Dear 5th Grade Parents,

We deeply value your partnership in the education of your student. I wanted to let you know what might be considered for next year and get your input. Our East campus is almost full this academic year and will be very full next year. Maybe too full. It is likely that Phase II of the East campus build-out will not be complete until at least August of 2023.

One possibility is having 6th grade at the West campus for the 22-23 school year. As stated before, your input and involvement in this decision is essential to any plan we consider.

Please let us know your opinion on the following ideas.

What are your thoughts on 6th grade at West campus?

_____ I love the idea; I think of 6th grade as being an elementary grade.

_____ I'm intrigued by the idea, and I'd like to know more.

_____ I'm not excited by the idea, but I'm willing to consider it if the space needs drive that decision.

_____ I dislike the idea to the extent I might look for another school if West campus is the only option.

It is also possible that 6th grade parents would be given the option to choose their campus. This aligns with long-standing Monument Academy desire to partner with parents in their students' education. Parents also might like this idea if there are only older or younger siblings in a family, thereby eliminating the daily trip to the other campus. (Participation in Middle School athletics would be possible from either campus.)

Your thoughts, again, on this idea.

_____ I would want my student to stay at West for 6th grade.

_____ I might go either way. I'm not sure which is best for our family at this time.

_____ I would want my student to go to East for 6th grade.

Thanks so much for your input on these ideas. This survey will aid in our consideration as we move forward with planning for next year.

Sincerely,

Merlin Holmes
Chief Operating Officer
Monument Academy