



# Monument Academy

## School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Multi-Purpose Room 1:20 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. and/or Zoom

Charlie Richardson	MA Elementary Principal
Laura Barrette	MA Elementary Assistant Principal
Jennifer Ralph	SAAC Chair
Jamie Harding	SAAC Vice Chair
Jilinda Dygert	SAAC Secretary
Chris Dole	MA Board Liaison
Britany Blair	Teacher Representative
Kim Stoltenberg	PTO President
TBA	Member at Large

### **I. Introduction and Attendance**

- a. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 1:23pm.
- b. Members present in-person: Charlie Richardson, Laura Barrette, & Britany Blair
- c. Members present via Zoom: Jennifer Ralph, Jamie Harding, Jilinda Dygert, Chris Dole, & Kim Stoltenberg

### **II. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2021**

- a. Jamie moved to approve the April minutes.
- b. Kim seconded the motion.
- c. Jennifer approved the motion.

### **III. Review and Approve Agenda**

- a. Jilinda moved to approve the agenda.
- b. Britany seconded the motion.
- c. Jennifer approved the motion.

### **IV. Business**

- a. **April DAAC Report- Britany (10 minutes)**

- a. Britany reported that the April DAAC meeting was an end-of-the-year wrap up meeting. They talked about how the schools did in light of all things COVID.

**b. School Board Report – Chris Dole (15 minutes)**

- a. Chris reported that since our last SAAC meeting the board has had 4 meetings; April 8, 16, 26, and **May 23**.
  - i. April 8 – regularly scheduled meeting.
    - 1. Big topic was the highway 105 expansion project presentation. A group from Regional came in and gave an overview of what we are looking to accomplish in terms of restructuring the entrance to and exit from MA.
      - a. Mr. Richardson reminded members present that we should take a slow approach to this project so that we keep the community involved, and do not neglect the needs of the surrounding businesses and residential entities especially when it comes to the west entrance.
      - b. A committee was formed consisting of board members Megghan St. Aubyn and Ryan Graham, Mr. Richardson, some parents of MA students, and other community members.
      - c. Will receive an update on this at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
    - 2. Board candidates for the upcoming election gave their 3 minute introductions. All candidates came prepared and presented points that highlighted how they would add to the school board.
      - a. The election has since closed. Lindsay Clinton and Joe Buczkowski were the top 2 candidates.
        - i. Overall turnout for voting was around 500 votes. It was a close race.
    - 3. Amy Zarkovacki gave a registrar report.
      - a. As of April, we are sitting at a full FTE or full-time enrollment of 938 students. Actual number is 1070 students. Thus putting us close to our goal of 1250 full-time students between both campuses for the 2021-2022 school year.

4. Marty Venticinque gave an update on athletics.
  - a. We are prepared to fully implement the cross country and track seasons for the 2021-2022 school year.
  - b. There was a survey that went out to the high school and incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders asking for interest on what other sports they would like to see. Chris had not yet seen the results of that survey. He believes there will be an update on these results at the next board meeting.
5. **Christine Herrera** gave the COO report.
  - a. Last month we went through our CDE-CSP grant visit which is an on-site visit.
    - i. Key point was that Dr. Somers present at this visit. This emphasizes the growth in relationship between the district and MA.
6. Chris Dole gave the West Campus SAAC update.
7. The 2021-2022 school budget was reviewed and approved.
8. The committee for the hiring of the new COO was officially formed. Ryan Graham and Megghan St. Aubyn will sit on that committee which is headed by **Sherry Bubble**. There will be an update from this committee at the next board meeting. Chris believes the committee has narrowed down the choices to the top 2 or 3 candidates which will be announced to the community, school, and board. There will then be a 15 day due diligence period where a community Q & A session will be held for the candidates of recommendation. From there we will proceed with making our final selection.
9. The contract for CFO, **Mark Brokelhurst**, was officially approved.
  - ii. The April 16 and 26 meetings were all special session board meetings which went into executive sessions. There were no action items taken.
  - iii. **May 23** board meeting quickly moved into a special session. Item discussed was mask mandates and the going to mask less for students at the west campus.
  - iv. Next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, May 13, 2021.
    1. Topics on agenda include:

- a. Reviewing the statement to the community regarding why there have been so many special board sessions lately.
- b. Highway 105 project committee update.
- c. Addressing the COVID guidelines as well as the learning platforms for the 2021-2022 school year. There will be a board vote on this.
- v. There will also be a board meeting held on June 10, 2021.

**c. Review End-of-Year Survey- Jenn (25 minutes)**

1. Recap of results/comments

- a. About 130 responses were submitted from the end-of- year survey.
  - i. Most people commented that teachers, admin, and staff did the best they could with the restrictions they faced.
  - ii. Lots of positive feedback for the mask mandate being lifted.
  - iii. There was a general sense of positivity for communication from the school.
  - iv. Areas of focus are:
    - 1. COVID restrictions gone
    - 2. More clubs, extracurricular activities, field trips, etc. desired.
  - v. Concerns were stated for students who may have fallen behind due to COVID. What will we do to catch them up?
  - vi. Some online learners felt like they were placed on the back burner and may have fallen behind because of being online.
  - vii. The lack of character development information was a concern too.

2. Recommendations

- a. Jennifer suggested we write a letter to parents on why we have to comply with governmental COVID restrictions still. This is so that we can reach so many parents who may not be attending board meetings.
  - i. Chris suggested that instead of a letter, we suggest parents go back and watch the video from the board meeting that is posted on the MA website. By watching the video he thinks many of their questions will be answered about what the current mandates are, they will understand that terms are interchangeable between guidelines and mandates at the state level with respect

to El Paso County. El Paso County was present at the board meeting and did a very good job of explaining all such issues. Our parents need to understand that energy needs to be focused at the state level as our hands are tied at the school level.

- ii. Mr. Richardson agrees that the information needs to come from the board. The communication does need to get out, but genuinely needs to come from the board.
  - iii. A link to the board meeting will be shared in next week's Lynx news.
- b. Jennifer suggested that we put in the Lynx news that in order for clubs and extracurricular activities to take place next year we will need parent volunteers.
- i. Mr. Richardson stated that that is a good idea, but we first need teacher sponsors. We cannot have a club or after-school activity without teacher sponsors.
  - ii. Some potential clubs might be a robotics club, media club, math club, chess club, etc.
  - iii. Parents will be notified as clubs become approved and get teacher sponsors.
- c. Jennifer suggested we add a resource list of tutors in the Lynx news for the parents who might be concerned about their student's academic performance or "COVID gap".
- i. This exists in the e-backpack express that comes out weekly.
  - ii. Another thing to consider is the summer workbooks to help students catch up or keep up the brain work over the summer.
- d. Mr. Richardson stated that we have not done as well with the character development program this year due to all the learning platforms and extra responsibilities placed on the teachers due to COVID-related responsibilities. We will pick it back up full-speed in the 2021-2022 school year.

### **3. Other topics from parent feedback**

- 1. Specials were lacking this year due to COVID.
  - a. That will be different next year.
- 2. Brain breaks were discussed.
  - a. Britany said it is up to the individual teachers as to whether they do them or not.
- 3. Parent teacher conferences – can we have 2?
  - a. We do have 2. The first takes place in the fall for all parents. The other takes place in the spring but is by parent request

only. Parents are welcome to schedule a visit with their child's teacher any time they deem necessary.

4. Parents are eager to return to in-person volunteering.
5. Will there be any sort of transportation between campuses next year?
  - a. This is something various members of the school staffs are working on. It is a goal to have some sort of shuttle between schools in the future.
6. Will there be before & after school care at the school?
  - a. Not anytime soon.
7. Will there ever be a carpool sign up?
  - a. That would be a PTO thing, and we would probably need to be in the clear with all things COVID related.
8. Jennifer will compose a letter to the board regarding feedback to the comments on the end-of-the-year survey.
  - a. Chris will present it to the board at the meeting tomorrow night.

## **V. Adjourn for the year**

- a. Britany motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Jilinda seconded the motion.
- c. Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.
- d. Next meeting will be held in September 14, 2021.