



Monument Academy

School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Tuesday, January 11, 2022
West Campus Science Room 1:40-2:40p.m.

Kurt Walker
Laura Barrette
Jamie Harding
Christy Musser
Jilinda Dygert
Megghan St. Aubyn
Britany Blair
Kimberly Kays
Unfilled

MA Elementary 3-5 Assistant Principal
MA Elementary K-2 Assistant Principal
SAAC Chair
SAAC Vice Chair
SAAC Secretary
MA Board Liaison
Teacher Representative
PTO President
Member at Large

I. Introduction and Attendance

- a. Jamie called the meeting to order at 1:51pm.
- b. Members present in-person: Kurt Walker, Laura Barrette, Jamie Harding, Jilinda Dygert, Christy Musser & Britany Blair.
- c. Members absent: Megghan St. Aubyn, Kim Kays & unfilled member-at-large.

II. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes from 12-14-21

- a. Brittany motioned to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes.
- b. Jamie seconded the motion.
- c. All approve. Motion was carried.

III. Review & Approve Meeting Agenda

- a. Jilinda motioned to approve the January 11, 2022 meeting agenda with the following edits:
 - i. The DAAC meeting date should be January 11, 2022.
- b. Brittany seconded the motion with the edits.
- c. All approved. Motion was carried.

IV. Business

- a. **Teacher Report – given by Britany:**
 - i. The teachers are “hanging in there” with an interesting start to the year with a lot of teachers out absent.

1. We are having trouble finding subs.
 2. We encourage serious parties to inquire with administration about hiring on as MA substitutes.
- b. Board Report –**
- i. Board meeting is this Thursday, January 13, 2021.
 - ii. Kurt said to look for the decision, on the matter of the 2022-2023 location of 6th grade, to be announced by the Board this month.
- c. 1-11-2022 DAAC Report –**
- i. The next DAAC meeting will be hosted at the D38 Administration building, aka Big Red, from 7-8:30pm this evening.
- d. PTO Report - given by Jamie:**
- i. Kim relayed to Jamie that MA West PTO will be updating their bylaws tomorrow at 8:30am at Serrano's.
- e. NWEA Results – led by Brittany:**
- i. Jamie motioned to move this NWEA discussion to our February meeting.
 - ii. Jilinda seconded the motion.
 - iii. All approve. Motion passed.
- f. Mid-Year Parent Survey Results – led by Laura & Kurt:**
- i. Review current year vs. previous year.
 - ii. Action items:
 1. Character traits called “8 Keys of Excellence” at MA:
 - a. Are we putting enough focus on these?
 - i. Teachers try to keep it a day-to-day focus by bringing the “Keys” up in conversations with students both during disciplinary moments and outside of them as general reminders.
 - ii. This program is more about helping to foster growth in mindset and being more mindful of their choices rather than just covering a lesson.
 - iii. But, there is a curriculum that goes with the “8 Keys” that we could look into purchasing and implementing on a greater level next year.
 1. This could help us to communicate to the parents what we do in school and how they can support the “8 Keys of Excellence” at home.
 - b. Can we implement them, or the teaching and better understanding of them, in a current or new club?
 - i. We'd like to stay away from that because character development is a point of our advertising; we want to keep the main focus of the “Keys” in the school, during school

hours as a school-wide teaching opportunity rather than a club-focus.

- c. We could paint the walls in the bathrooms with positive phrases.
 - i. Some of the girls' bathrooms had this done a few years back. For those bathrooms we could refresh the paint, and then put fresh paintings in every other bathroom.
 1. Suggest this project to the Acts of Kindness and Art clubs.
2. Clubs; are you satisfied with the number of new clubs popping up?
 - a. We are. We anticipate more to come in the near future.
 - b. Are we still struggling to find teacher sponsors?
 - i. We are looking into potentially adding a small fee to help give the teacher a stipend for their time.
3. Student support services; when the survey was filled out, was that in regards to social-emotional support?
 - a. Social-emotional support services might include: counselors, reading specialists, extra support from the teachers and administrators.
 - i. Teachers make a point to help walk students through social-emotional problems that arise on a daily basis.
 - b. What do the counselors do?
 - i. Mental health check-ins with individual students.
 - ii. Students can schedule a time to meet with the counselor.
 - iii. Lunch bunch group meets.
 - iv. Teachers can reach out to the counselors if there is concern for a student.
 - v. Counselors go into classrooms to present a lesson on social-emotional health.
4. On developing the whole child, are we doing field trips this year?
 - a. Typically there are 2-3 field trips per year per class.
 - b. This year we have had a difficult time finding transportation due to the bus driver shortage.
 - i. Even when we do get a bus we are restricted to a small window to get to the destination and back and still have time to enjoy the time at the field trip.
 - c. We've tried to do in-house field trips this year so that we can "go on field trips" without actually going.
 - d. This year the 5th graders will likely go to Ameritown. In order to get there they will likely need to rent out a charter bus which will

increase the cost of the field trip significantly. This is not something we can do for every desired field trip.

5. Carline has been better since the survey went out. Parents seem to have settled into the routine of it.
 - a. If we were to suggest any changes to be made for the better, it would be to the families and for more parents to drop off their children earlier rather than later to ensure that as close to all students as possible arrive in their classrooms on time.
 - b. We would suggest that the Board polls parents to figure out how to best utilize the bus next year.
6. Concerns about teacher & staff retention:
 - a. What is the average turnover rate and how does MA compare?
 - b. Is there an anonymous teacher comment/complaint drop box?
 - i. No, but we have various known avenues for teachers to file complaints or try to get solutions to issues they face.
 - ii. Our teachers do feel very supported by our efforts to support them.
 - c. SAAC will do an anonymous teacher survey at the end of the year this year. Hopefully it will continue in future years too at mid and end of the year times.
- iii. Finance Note; we would like to invite the CFO to a future SAAC meeting to hear a report on beginning of the year student fees. The questions we would like to have answered is, do we clearly state to the families that there is a fee, what it is used for, and if they have paid it or not?
 1. FYI, families can check if they have paid their dues by looking in Infinite Campus, or calling the finance office at the school.
- iv. To address the concerns about health & nutrition, based off the survey results, we would suggest families talk to DAAC about lunch standards, as lunches come from the District. And even then, the funding and plans may come from an even higher level.
- v. Suggestions to the Board:
 - a. We would like to request the board share any results from the teacher survey that might pertain to what we, as SAAC, do.
 - b. We would suggest looking into training opportunities for teachers on the 8 Key Character traits.
 - c. We would like to suggest the Board poll parents to figure out how to best utilize the bus in future years.

V. Other topics for discussion from parent feedback:

- a. None at this time.

VI. Meeting Adjournment:

- a. Jilinda motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Christy seconded the motion.
- c. Jamie adjourned the meeting at 3:04pm.
- d. Next meeting will be on February 1, 2022 at 1:40pm in the West Campus Conference Room.