



Monument Academy

School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

West Campus Conference Room 1:20-2:40p.m.

Minutes

Kurt Walker	MA Elementary 3-5 Assistant Principal
Laura Barrette	MA Elementary K-2 Assistant Principal
Jamie Harding	SAAC Chair
Christy Musser	SAAC Vice Chair
Jilinda Dygert	SAAC Secretary
Megghan St. Aubyn	MA Board Liaison
Britany Blair	Teacher Representative
Kimberly Kays	PTO President
Unfilled	Member at Large

I. Introduction and Attendance

- a. Jamie called the meeting to order at 1:34pm.
- b. Members present in-person: Kurt Walker, Laura Barrette, Jamie Harding, Christy Musser, Jilinda Dygert, Megghan St. Aubyn, & Britany Blair.
- c. Members absent: Kim Kays, & unfilled member-at-large.

II. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes from 04-05-22

- a. Jamie motioned to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting minutes.
- b. Megghan seconded the motion.
- c. All approved. Motion carried.

III. Review & Approve Meeting Agenda

- a. Christy motioned to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting agenda.
- b. Jilinda seconded the motion.
- c. All approved. Motion carried.

IV. Business

a. Teacher Report – given by Britany:

- i. It is the end of the year and teachers are finishing up end-of-the-year awards for their students.
- ii. NEWA testing is finishing up this week.
- iii. Things seem to be busy but quiet for us.

- iv. Field days, headed up by Mrs. Vroom, take place next week.
- b. Board Report – given by Megghan St. Aubyn**
 - i. The fundraiser raised \$154,000.
 - 1. We were able to give teachers a bonus of \$1,200 each.
 - 2. That did not include paras, but we are currently working on something for them.
 - ii. Requests for construction bids on the road going in behind the school are out. We should have some come back to us at end of May.
 - 1. Waiting on permit too.
 - 2. Construction should start end of July.
 - a. Still hoping for construction to be complete by the start of school.
 - 3. We will also be meeting with neighboring church again to see if they will concede to us potentially continuing to use their entrance/exit again just in case our construction is not complete.
- c. DAAC Report**
 - i. None to give as no one was able to attend.
- d. PTO Report – Kim was not present, but Kurt filled us in on a few goings on:**
 - i. There is a luncheon scheduled for teachers and staff next Friday (May 13) to celebrate retiring teachers & teachers moving.
 - 1. Retiring teachers are: Mrs. Hall, Carol Thomas, & Lori Smith.
 - 2. Otherwise, teacher retention is still being determined as signed contracts are turned in to Mr. Walker.
 - ii. PTO is working on putting up the playground shade structure prior to the start of this summer's construction.
 - 1. Looking for a contractor.
 - iii. Family movie night this Friday. *Encanto* will be shown in the gym starting at 6pm. Food trucks will be available starting at 5:30pm. There will be a concession stand throughout the evening.
- e. SAAC Next Year – given by Jamie:**
 - i. We would like to advertise for new members for next year.
 - 1. Anyone interested should contact Laura Barrette for the West Campus and Angela Duca for East Campus.
 - ii. Megghan will announce availabilities at Board meeting.
 - iii. Inquiry about the format and content of our meetings was brought up, but no suggestions were made; it seems we do things as well as we know.
- f. End-of-Year Parent Survey:**
 - i. Survey results were handed out to the members present.
 - 1. We had about 35% participation on this survey.
 - 2. We wonder if we can do more to promote participation, but cannot think of what platforms to add.

- a. Maybe we could encourage the kids to tell parents as well next year.
 3. Earned Rewards: we did not meet the participation needed to give rewards.
- ii. Recommendation conversation:
1. Perhaps we can assume that because we have such “low” participation we have content families.
 2. A lot of things parents are looking for, we do offer in one way or another it seems.
 3. Is there a way for parents to give teachers/staff a shout out for going above and beyond?
 - a. Board does do teacher/staff spotlight.
 - b. School admin recognizes things like this at staff meetings.
 - i. If a parent would like to give a shout out to a teacher or staff member, they are more than welcome to write in to school admin and the Board to do so.
 - ii. Also, personal thank you notes directly to the teachers are always appreciated.
 4. Question 10: Which do you feel is the most pressing issue for MA Elementary to address?
 - a. Over 30% of survey participants said, “Teacher/Staff Morale”.
 - i. This feedback seems to acknowledge that parents are aware that our teachers need extra support/recognition.
 - ii. In order to help boost teacher pay, the Board will be holding more fundraisers namely a recurring monthly donation. Most charter schools do this.
 1. Ideally, we would like to see \$750 per student per year come in. All donations through this would be tax deductible.
 - iii. Could the school materials fee increase? Not for this next year.
 - iv. A potential job of fundraiser/grant writer would be a big help too. Meghan will be proposing this job position to the finance council.
 5. Consistency with teacher emails was a concern. Some families get them weekly from their teachers; others receive little correspondence from their teachers.
 - a. In general, communication from teachers to parents is good. But, we wonder if making weekly updates from teachers mandatory would help resolve this concern?

- c. We do have new parent orientations at the beginning of the year to explain how carline works, what our dress code policy is, how communications happen, what our curriculum is, etc.
 - d. Perhaps an exclusive “curriculum fair” night might bring in families especially since this seems to be a popular conversation topic for most parents lately.
 - i. Sixth grade hosted a “Get the Scoop on 6th Grade” night that was a success.
 - e. We would suggest that PTO continue to offer community-building events for families to attend like the movie night coming up.
8. Another concern we gleaned from comments was about volunteer opportunities for working parents.
- a. We were unsure if this meant there was a lack of opportunities for them to volunteer in, or if they just could not because they are working.
 - i. Some teachers have “work” they could send home for parents to do to fulfill volunteer hours.
 - ii. Parents are also able to, instead of volunteering, pay a fee if they are unable to volunteer.
 - 1. For any financially burdened families, if they are unable to pay the fee, there is an option to check for that too.
 - b. Volunteer opportunities are being organized in the new volunteer tracker and we hope that this will help alleviate any concerns in this area.
9. One of the biggest concerns is character education & discipline.
- a. Comments suggest that parents want more discipline.
 - i. Teachers do contact parents when issues are ongoing. However, isolated altercations are handled at school.
 - ii. This seems to be a communication issue again. Emails do not convey emotion at all. A good relationship between parents and teachers is vital.
 - b. Our character education program is being revamped for next year. We do not have details to share at this point as no final decision has been made yet.
 - i. It will conform better to our triduum: grammar, rhetoric, & logic.
 - ii. The elementary program will be different from the middle school/high school program, as it will focus more on the grammar aspects. Think elementary learns it, middle

school applies it, and high school lives it. It will be more grade-level appropriate.

iii. Recommendations (Christy will write this letter and we will approve it at the net meeting):

1. We must take everything with a grain of salt; for every negative, there seems to be a positive to counter it.
2. Overall, most of our survey questions received responses of “satisfied” or “highly satisfied”. So many of our families seem to be happy, but a small portion do seem to have concerns. Anything we do must keep the greater good in mind rather than individuals.
3. Make sure we reiterate to teachers at the beginning of the year that emails updating parents must go out each week on Friday.
4. Ponder how to make back-to-school night more of a community-building event where parents get to know one another and teachers better.

V. Other topics for discussion from parent feedback:

- a. None at this time.

VI. Meeting Adjournment:

- a. Jilinda motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Brittany seconded the motion.
- c. Jamie adjourned the meeting at 2:57pm.
- d. Next meeting will be on May 10, 2022 at 1:20pm in the West Campus Conference Room.