



# Monument Academy

## School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

**Tuesday December 6, 2022**  
**West Campus Conference Room 1:30pm**  
**-Minutes-**

Kurt Walker  
Laura Barrette  
Jilinda Dygert  
Roxanne Branch  
Jamie Harding  
Michael Geers  
Britany Blair  
Samantha Ver Steegt  
Teresa Nicholas

MA Elementary Principal  
MA Elementary Assistant Principal  
SAAC Chair  
SAAC Vice Chair  
SAAC Secretary  
MA Board Liaison  
Teacher Representative  
PTO Representative  
Member at Large

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

- a. Jilinda called the meeting to order at 1:31pm.
- b. Members Present: Kurt Walker, Laura Barrette, Jilinda Dygert, Roxanne Branch, Jamie Harding, Michael Geers, Britany Blair, & Samantha Ver Steegt, Teresa Nicholas; Guests: Kristy Davis

### **II. Review & Approve Meeting Agenda**

- a. Jamie motioned to approve, Britany seconded the motion.
- b. All approved. Motion carried.

### **III. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes from 11/07/2022**

- a. Jamie motioned to approve the minutes and Roxanne seconded the motion.
- b. All approved. Motion carried.

### **IV. Business**

#### **a. DAAC Report-Jilinda-**

- i. MA East was the presenter with a great student-led tour (done by student council)

ii. B.O.E. report by Upchurch and Somers on MLO not passing, overall morale is good but the desire to find sustainable money is still there. Ideas brainstormed: a lobbyist to help us with the state, donations are one-time option , or changing benefits to lower healthcare costs, education appreciation day (support local business=supporting schools); no sub-committee updates, next DAAC meeting is at Ray Kilmer Jan 12th

**b. Board Report- Michael-**

- i. Town Hall was held in response to the MLO not passing with request for community giving
- ii. Interim COO has been selected

**c. Principal's Report- Kurt**

- i. First meeting with Interim COO included strategic planning, next year's school calendar, D38 schools sent a survey to parents with options to school calendar with options such as 4 day school week, extending Fall break to compensate teachers non-monetarily so MA's calendar may not match D38s
- ii. Thank you to Michael and the rest of the Board for finding a great leader
  - 1. Britany asked if she found us or we found her. A little of both.
- iii. Jamie asks if increasing Student Fees has been considered since it must be done prior to January; fees have to be accounted for with consumable items

**d. Teacher Report- Britany**

- i. Busy time of year; 3rd grade has Rome Day; teachers getting grades in

**e. PTO Report-Samantha**

- i. Craft Fair complete with 113 applications with accommodating all; 2 per table
- ii. Teacher Luncheon this Friday
- iii. Currently no Board members for next year; required to have President & Treasury
  - 1. Jilinda asked if PTO is publicizing the openings. Yes, Lynx News, mtgs
- iv. Walker asks how closely West & East PTOs work together; East has a fancy party planned (with money from the MA Board). One parent comes to both meetings. Moving forward they hope to.
- v. Roxanne asked if the after school program is going to create a problem with the PTOs room (storage). Maybe, the school does not have to provide a space because they are their own entity, organization, but they are. The after school company has not responded to starting the program.

1. Jilinda asks if people are coming to the meetings. Yes, they come and are happy to be a chair for an event, but not the year commitment to be on the Board

**f. Mid-Year Parent Survey Results-Jilinda**

- i. Confirmed Member-at-Large email and PTO representative will be Samantha (email confirmed)
- ii. 144 responses; last year it was 213; 217 the year before
- iii. Q1: How satisfied are you with MA's ability to meet the academic needs of your child this year? 69% highly, 28%, 3% not; Comments summary: 4th grade is tough; academic goals and math uncertainty, high-achieving children not being challenged; class sizes. Side note: Curriculum committee is focusing on this.
- iv. Q2: How satisfied are you with the opportunities to develop your whole child at MA? 61% highly, 35%, 4% not; Comments summary: Not enough after school activities; There is appreciation about the Character First program coming back, Side note: PTO is in charge of after school clubs at some other schools. Teachers have to volunteer their time and we need parents to volunteer to conduct them. Fees can be charged.
- v. Q3: How satisfied are you with MA's ability to meet the mental health needs of your child this year? 61% highly, 35%, 4% not; Comments summary: is it the school's job?, there is bullying (kids and parents)
- vi. Q4: Is the school communication timely and effective? 92% yes, 8% no; Comments summary: duplicate info is sent
- vii. Q5: Did you know that the state of Colorado no longer recognizes the state assessment results other than CMAS to serve as baseline data for school improvement plan purposes? 24% yes, 42% no, 34% not familiar with what this is; Comments summary: Most don't know, SAAC recommends Admin/Board communicate with parents the importance
- viii. Q6: Please rank MA's atmosphere. 55% excelling, 39% improving, 6% needs improvement. Comments summary: Growing class sizes and teacher turnover (district's max class size is 33, MA's is 25; kindergarten and preschool is less). Is the space of the room making it feel crowded? Do teachers feel loved and supported by parents? Some parents are rude.
- ix. Q7: Do you feel that your family is connected to the MA community? If not, why? 83% yes, 17% no; Comments summary: More options for parents to come in- more community events, some parents can't volunteer, an increase in lack of parents partnering with teachers

x: Q8: Which do you feel is the most pressing issue(s) for MA to address? Check all that apply. Teacher Retention (74%), Finances (38%), Clubs/Extra Curr (33%), Academics (25%), Security (23%), Character Education (17%), Communication (14%), Health/Nutrition (13%), Student Support (12%), Fine Arts (2%).

Comments Summary: Carline, teacher pay, parking

xi: Q9: Has your family signed up for MA's volunteer app (Track It Forward) to fulfill your family's 16 hours per semester commitment? 46% yes, familiar, 5% yes, not familiar, 23% no, but plan to, 27% I wasn't aware of this at all;

Comments Summary: Track it Forward is different than Lobby Guard, page 12 of the Parent handbook states the requirement, lots of flyers and communication has been put out, there is a volunteer committee that could reach out to unaware parents

xii. Q10: How likely are you to recommend our school to others? 66% very, 30% likely, 3% unlikely, 1% very unlikely; Comments Summary: 6 respondents for unlikely and very unlikely and 1 of them said they don't want large class sizes; Similar responses to last year

xiii. Jilinda will write the recommendations letter for SAAC to vote to approve on; Board rep Michael will bring to the next MA Board meeting

**g. Ideas to increase CMAS participation** - Committee recommends the Board and COO to communicate this out.

**h. Official SAAC East and West emails** - East campus has a SAAC email for the school; is this something West campus should look into?

## **V. Other Topics for Discussion**

### **a. MA West programs, SAAC Bylaws Section C 1 & 5-Roxanne**

i. This is a follow up to the CSI (Common Sense Initiative) mentioned at the last meeting. A list of 13 inquiry items for SAAC West. (Various SAAC comments)

1. SAAC is an advisory committee and not able to answer these questions
2. There is parent concern regarding what parts of what programs are being brought into the schools
3. The inquiries might be more of a CORA request
4. MA's website and the teachers are transparent with the programs, books, curriculum used
5. MA doesn't use the teacher Capturing Kids Hearts curriculum; MA used the relationship training through the Capturing Kids program; Character First is the curriculum (lesson plans for teachers), a one time purchase for 8 of the traits

6. Does MA advertise as a Capturing Kids Heart school?
7. There are parents willing to create the CSI program and spend the time to save the school money not purchasing character programs, and so MA is safeguarded
8. The character quality of students a year ago was down and now since MA brought back Character First, the behaviors of students have improvement. For a program to be successful, 3-4 years of implementation is necessary
9. Is the character program a determining factor for new hires? Most people know Capturing Kids Hearts but not a determining factor.
10. Parent Handbook outlines the discipline policy; implementation needs to be adjusted for the varying ages of students in the school
11. SAAC can vote on CSI's recommendations being presented to the MA Board
12. MA is a classical education school which speaks to our values

#### **VI. Meeting Adjournment**

- a. Britany motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Roxanne seconded the motion.
- c. Jilinda adjourned the meeting at 3:06pm

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 10, 2023, at 1:30pm in the West Campus Conference Room.