



Highlights from April 13th, 2023 Board of Directors' Special Meeting

Highway 105 Update

The intent is to have construction underway by mid-May for Phase I at the west campus which will be the construction of the circulation road behind MA west campus.

COO Update

Interim COO, Kim McClelland provided an update on areas of focus including a new fiscal year budget, strategic planning committee, curriculum committee, a newly forming technology committee, and a formalized pay scale and extra duty pay process working with HR. Please click here for the "Latest & Greatest" update from Mrs. McClelland: [L&G April MA](#). This was emailed out to the community on Monday, April 10th as well.

Technology Survey

In a continued effort to examine the intentionality behind our student's use of technology, we will be forming a Technology Committee. As previously mentioned, we have surveyed the teachers, and would like to hear from our parent community as well. The Tech Committee will take the findings from both surveys so that we can make informed decisions moving forward in one of the most important areas of focus for our school. The deadline for the survey is **April 21st**.

Thank you for your feedback,
Mrs. McClelland
Interim COO

Elementary School Survey: <https://forms.gle/9ynnmiSTKUHqoq3i6>

Middle School Survey: <https://forms.gle/aLpWFTveyBrfrVyo7>

High School Survey will be coming soon.

Financial Update

Positive discussions were had between MA Interim CFO, Glenn Gustafson, and D38 Business Officer, Brett Ridgeway. The audit completed last month for MA revealed some additional revenues owed to MA from District 38, these have been remitted as of now. A proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal school year is anticipated to be ready for board review and approval by May. A delay in the release of the School Finance Act from the Colorado State Legislature is holding up the process.

SAAC West

Dear Monument Academy Families,

Now is the time when we ask you to participate in the end-of-year survey conducted by the School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC). This survey is extremely valuable to SAAC and Administration as they provide insights on how our parents view the school's performance in various areas from communication, to academics, to student development. In order to be effective, we must hear from you!

Following this e-mail is a link which will take you to this year's end-of-year survey. Your SAAC went to great lengths to keep it brief. There are only 12 questions which should take but a few minutes to complete, so please participate. The survey will close @ 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 23rd.

To watch a replay of previous meetings, and livestream during meetings, please click here: [MA School Board](#)

Please click on the link below to begin your survey. By doing so, you will be providing valuable, needed information to the school.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PBF6PTY>

Please note that **each parent** can take the survey.

SAAC East

The end-of-year survey from SAAC East will be emailed to the community on Friday, April 21st.

2023 Board of Directors Election Update

MA Board Vice President, Lindsay Clinton, updated the board and community on the board election. Two applications were received by the closing date of March 31, 2023 for the two board seats that have terms ending June 30, 2023. The applicants for the seats are Mr. Ryan Graham (who is running for a second term) and Mr. Matt Ross. Each board applicant read their respective statements aloud which are attached. Mrs. Clinton then motioned to approve the candidates by acclamation. The vote passed unanimously with Mr. Graham recusing himself from the vote.

East Campus Contact Hours and Snow Day Update

East Campus administration presented options to the board regarding required instructional contact hours for students and how they will proceed in the case of another school cancelation/snow day. E-learning was the option that leadership from both the middle school and high school preferred. At this time, East campus has no remaining snow days and will need to proceed with this plan in this scenario. West campus still has one remaining snow day left before they would need to consider the best option to make up contact hours.

Board Work Session: Budget Approval

The Board will hold a special work session meeting on May 25th at 10am to review and approve a budget for the 23-24 fiscal school year.

What's coming up?

- Boot, Scoot & Bid Fundraiser: April 20th from 6-10pm @ Spruce Mountain Ranch. Live and Silent auction items. Delicious food. Fabulous fun with the MA Community! Buy tickets here: [MA Boot Scoot Tickets](#). See flyer below for more information.
- Board Café Chat with Parents: April 26th from 9-10am at Serrano's Coffee. RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/3Gzai8Kiae9odruy6>
- MA Board of Directors Regular Meeting: May 11th at 6pm at the East Campus (Room TBD)
 - Public Comments are welcome related to agenda or non-agenda items. You must attend in person and sign-up on the public comment sheet prior to 6pm. Meetings are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube Channel.

To watch a replay of previous meetings, and livestream during meetings, please click here: [MA School Board](#)



**MA BOARD
CAFE CHAT**

**APRIL 26TH
9:00-10:00AM**
SERRANO'S COFFEE COMPANY
625 W HIGHWAY 105
MONUMENT, CO 80132

With Board Members Emily Belisle
and Ryan Graham

RSVP:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/JF5CRGCMBKM9F4MC7](https://forms.gle/JF5CRGCMBKM9F4MC7)

The Monument Academy Board of Directors holds monthly cafe chats with our community. This is an opportunity to ask questions, give feedback, and meet your board members.



**BOOT, SCOOT
& Bid!**

Our Largest Fundraiser of the Year
Supporting Monument Academy

APRIL 20TH, 2023
SPRUCE MOUNTAIN RANCH
6-10PM

- ★ DINNER BUFFET
- ★ DANCING
- NEW LIVE AUCTION ITEMS
- ★ WIN A TRIP TO HAWAII
- ★ A BEVERAGE BURRO
- ★ PHOTO BOOTH & MORE!

Put on your western wear and mosey on over to the watering hole!
 Let loose, eat bbq, have fun with friends and bid high for amazing auction items!
 Come be a part of a great community while supporting a wonderful cause!

\$100 per person

Get your tickets while they last! Scan Here
 or go to www.MABootScoot.givesmart.com



Reminders

Missed a previous month’s board highlights?

You can review previous meeting board highlights, minutes, and upcoming meeting agendas here: [School Board – Monument Academy.](#)

2023 Board of Directors Applicants Elected by Acclamation



Mr. Matt Ross



Mr. Ryan Graham

To watch a replay of previous meetings, and livestream during meetings, please click here: [MA School Board](#)

Essay for Monument Academy School Board

Matt Ross

My name is Matt Ross, and I currently have three children enrolled in Monument Academy. They are in fifth, second, and first grades, and we also have a little one at home. We love MA, and we're very committed not only to our children's education but the community that they live in as well. I believe in classical education, and I support the mission and vision of the school. We live in beautiful Palmer Lake where we love the community and run multiple small businesses. This is our home and we are deeply invested in the long-term health of everyone involved. . . especially the next generation!

I am the Executive Pastor at Pikes Peak Christian Church in Colorado Springs where I lead the staff, manage the budget, set policies and report to the Board of Elders. I have been in full-time ministry for twenty-one years now. This experience is very applicable to the roles and responsibilities of a school board member. I hold conservative-Christian values, and I'm always looking for the opportunity to love on people! I believe in the leadership principles of recruiting the right people who serve in their area of giftedness and then doing everything in our power to set them up to be successful. Removing barriers, funding needs, and advocating for teachers who have such a profound impact on our children would be my top priorities.

I would love for Monument Academy to be known around the nation as a school that effectively prepares young people for a life of significance! A school that sends them out as citizens who take responsibility for their role in the world by making an impact! I'd love for MA to be the model for other schools in our country to learn from, and I'd love nothing more than to be a part of it! Thank you for the opportunity and for your consideration.

I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity to seek re-election as a director on the Monument Academy School Board. For the last 3 years, I have faithfully served this MA family and MA community.

My why is that we are one of the last beacons of hope in the public education arena, an arena at the forefront of radical left ideologies designed to circumvent the familial and parental units from having a say in the education of their children. If we are not willing to stand in the fray and protect the innocence of our children, then we will continually watch the rapid decline of this generation and generations to come.

Additionally, I have been a part of the needed course correction at MA, and I have the utmost confidence that MA is on the cusp of great achievement where the fruits of all our collective labor are coming to harvest. To those that have continually shown us patience and grace while we navigated difficult times, I applaud and thank each of you. For we glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character, and character, hope. Next year, we will witness the inaugural senior class from Monument Academy East Campus, a remarkable milestone. As a father of young children at MA, I have watched tremendous growth in their character, in their joy, and in their aptitude for learning due to the incredibly gifted teaching staff that defines the MA family. I continue to believe in this school, what we stand for, and ensuring our children are taught the necessary tools to be critical thinkers, courageous leaders, and men and women of solid moral character. As parents, we understand how quickly time goes by when viewing it through the lens of our children. With that precious time, our most sacred duty is to protect, foster and speak into their lives as we aim to raise up these incredible treasured gifts from God. I can think of no better school family to serve and partner with in giving my time, my talent, and my treasure.

During my tenure on this board, I have remained steadfast and unwavering in my duty, my capacity, and my ability to stand and protect the students we have been entrusted to serve. I have focused on making certain that parental rights remained at the forefront of my positions which have included taking a stand against Covid restrictions, testifying at the Capitol against anti-charter legislation, authoring and carrying a proclamation for the privacy and protection of students as it relates to HB 21-1108 and SB 08-200, authoring and carrying a resolution opposing CRT, and other race-based curricula and methodology, authoring and carrying a resolution for armed staff and facilitating negotiations for an SRO agreement between MA and MPD, authoring and carrying a joint resolution between MA and D-38 addressing the disparity of our proportionate share as it relates to any future MLO monies, and most importantly giving voice to our parents by listening and partnering with them when it comes to the education of their children.

My vision over the next 3 years will remain focused on:

1. Continually standing firm and unwavering in our protection of students against the cultural wars and progressive education agenda that is being promulgated at the state and federal levels in the education arena. This will be a perpetual battle and should be at the forefront of every parent's decision when choosing where to send their children to school.
2. Continue addressing the financial issues that we inherited as a board by making certain we can refinance and restructure our bonds at East Campus prior to the \$29M balloon payment due in May of 2026. This is critical for the future and sustainment of our K-12

program.

3. Continue working to address teacher and staff compensation through MA community donations, fundraising, growing student count for increased pupil revenue, and finding additional ways to further monetarily incentivize and reward those that selflessly and graciously serve and educate our kids.
4. Continue working with our construction management firm and El Paso County towards the completion of the West Campus recirculation project and Highway 105 expansion which will impact our West Campus carline for years to come.
5. Ensuring that we break ground and complete phase II at East Campus which would preliminarily include a new academic high school wing, regulation size gymnasium, and an athletic field. These conversations will remain transparent and open to ensure we are receiving needed input and feedback from all MA stakeholders.
6. Continued development, drafting, and implementation of policies that protect students and parental rights in making sure that curriculum, courses, textbooks, and library books align with our values and vision of academic excellence, respect, responsibility, character, and exemplary citizenship.
7. Continuing to make sure our parent's voices are heard and that parents always have a seat at the table when it comes to the education of their children.
8. Continue fostering and developing relationships with District 38 as our charter authorizer. District 38 will have multiple board seats up for election this November and one seat currently for an appointed position. The lines of communication between our two entities must remain strong, open, and clear.
9. Continue following and advocating against anti-charter legislation through the Education Alliance of Colorado and Colorado League of Charter Schools.
10. Continue developing partnerships with other charter schools through collaborative efforts that identify existential threats and that focus on protecting educational freedom and parental rights.
11. Secure a permanent and full-time Chief Operating Officer for the 24/25 fiscal school year by helping with the development of a succession plan for our current interim Chief Operating Officer whom the board has approved for the 23/24 fiscal school year.
12. Help bring consistency to the MA school board by running a second term understanding that no other MA board member in recent years has run for a second term. I am certain the greatest threats to MA are complacency and lack of consistency.

Lastly, I understand what this role entails, I understand the extraordinary time commitment and challenges that will continually present in the education arena. I do not shy away from those commitments, and I do not run away from those challenges; I will always choose to face them head-on and continually serve Monument Academy.

I respectfully ask for your continued trust and support for the next 3years.

In service,

Ryan Graham
President – Monument Academy School Board
719.351.4014