



## Highlights from November 9th, 2023 Board of Directors' Regular Meeting

### Reports from Administration

Please see below for provided reports.

### Board Committee Highlights

- Highway 105: Please pay close attention in the coming months to communications from ParentSquare with any information regarding Phase 3 carline and the completion of the roundabout at Knollwood and 105. Initial projections were that we would move into Phase 3 upon returning from winter break. That is still TBD, but any carline changes or updates will be directly communicated to you through ParentSquare from the school.
- Curriculum: Mrs. Belisle provided an update on the math curriculum review process. After speaking with the publisher of our current elementary math curriculum (Saxon Math), it was established that MA can continue to use this program for another year. This provides time for new curriculum options to be thoroughly reviewed by both the committee and parents, as well as financially wait to incur the cost. The two curriculums being considered to replace Saxon Math are Reveal Math and Everyday Math.
- SAAC East: The committee has begun the process of reviewing questions for the mid-year survey. Please keep an eye out for that survey to hit ParentSquare in the coming weeks. Your responses are critical for the committee to provide recommendations to administration and the school board.
- SAAC West: The committee report included a reminder about the upcoming Parent & Community Advisory Committee meeting that will be hosted at West campus on Nov 14th. Please see below for more details.

### First Read: Policy on Gender Transition and Parental Rights

The board heard a first read from the governance/policy committee. This policy will codify the resolution ([Resolution regarding the privacy and protection of students as it relates to S.B. 08-200 and Colorado H.B. 21-1108](#)) that was passed at the Town Hall on June 27th, 2023. A second read will be conducted at the December 14th regular board meeting. The board is soliciting community feedback on this draft policy. You can review the policy here: [Draft Policy JRT](#). Please submit your feedback directly to our interim Executive Director Kim McClelland at [kmcclelland@monumentacademy.net](mailto:kmcclelland@monumentacademy.net) no later than **December 1st, 2023**.

### Civics Bee Opportunity for Middle School Students

Monument Academy 1150 Village Ridge Pt, Monument, Colorado 80132  
Main: (719) 481-1950  
[www.monumentacademy.net](http://www.monumentacademy.net)



Board President, Ryan Graham, presented on the following Civics Bee opportunity for our middle school students:

### About the Bee

The Eastern Plains Chamber is partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to host a first-of-its-kind civics competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

Participating 6th, 7th and 8th graders will flex their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes.

Finalists will be invited to Washington, DC to compete in the inaugural National Civics Bee national championship in Fall 2024.

### How to Enter

Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student residing in Colorado with an idea about using civics to improve their community may review the rules and submit an essay application on this page: <https://my.reviewr.com/site/CO/EasternPlainsChamber>.

**The application opens November 13, 2023, and closes on January 8, 2024**

### **West Campus Shade Structure Update**

Mr. Graham provided an update on the status of the West campus shade structure. A bid for construction was awarded by the school after the West campus PTO provided the raised funds. Construction will begin this week and weather permitting should see completion by the time school returns after Thanksgiving break. The final component will be the installation of the electrical which will come at a later date.

### **December Board/Community Café Chat**

Board members Emily Belisle and Lindsay Clinton invite you to join them on December 5th at 10am at Wesley Owens Coffee & Cafe

Please RSVP here: [December Cafe Chat RSVP](#)

### **Lynx Fund & Giving Tuesday**

Lynx Fund donations will be launched on November 28th for Giving Tuesday. More details are forthcoming. For more information or to donate now, please click here: [Donate \(etapestry.com\)](#) or contact Jake Dicus at [jdicus@monumentacademy.net](mailto:jdicus@monumentacademy.net).

### **School Spotlight**

This month's school spotlight was awarded to the Elementary Art Teacher, Mrs. Deborah Hulting. Her nomination read:

**Monument Academy 1150 Village Ridge Pt, Monument, Colorado 80132**  
**Main: (719) 481-1950**  
**[www.monumentacademy.net](http://www.monumentacademy.net)**



*Mrs. Deborah Hulting is well known at Monument Academy as a Kindergarten teacher. But in her 8th year at MA, she has moved into the role of Elementary Art Teacher. In just a few short months in this position, she has been delighting students and parents alike with all the fun creativity pouring from the art room. Mrs. Hulting has carried on the tradition of the art room providing patriotic art for our Veterans Day ceremony with the 3rd graders creating flag placemats. New for this year, she has added beautiful clay flag ornaments created by the talented 5th grade classes. Mrs. Hulting exudes warmth, fun and patience with artists of all ages. It is truly a pleasure for parent volunteers to be able to come in and not only help prep projects but see the artistry in development. We are honored to have Mrs. Hulting on our staff and see how she has thrived in multiple positions at MA (side note: she was a parent at MA first back in 2007 before joining as staff in 2016). Next time you're at West campus, make sure to wander all 3 levels of hallways and view the art displays. The 5th grade flag ornaments will be available next week displayed on a tree on the 3rd floor close to their classrooms. Thank you Mrs. Hulting for inspiring our children and making it very difficult for parents like myself to make enough room on our walls and refrigerators for all the fabulous art we are blessed to display.*

### **What's coming up?**

- MA West is hosting the District **PCAC (Parent & Community Advisory Committee)** meeting on November 14th at 6pm. The public is invited to attend. You can learn more about this committee here: [District Committees \(DAAC/PCAC, GELT, SEAC\) | Lewis-Palmer School District 38 \(lewispalmer.org\)](#)
- December 14th, 2023: Board Regular Meeting 6:30 pm @ MA East Campus.
  - 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 6:30pm. The doors will open around 6pm for any attendees. Meetings are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube Channel: [Monument Academy Charter School](#). For live streams click on "live." For meetings that were recorded and uploaded, click on "videos."

The past month has been extremely busy, but I am surrounded by an amazing team of leaders who help share the load. Together as a team we continue to achieve excellence.

The following are reports/updates from my direct reports.  
Executive Director updates will be in her verbal update

### **Principal Updates/Reports:**

#### ***Elementary***

- We had a great Book Fair in October with our library profiting \$9,000 to purchase new library books. Thank you to the many volunteers and Mrs. Collier for helping make this a success. This was the most successful book fair MA West has ever had.
- Conferences were well attended this year.
- The Fall Festival was a huge success! It was great to see the two PTOs come together to make this One MA Event a success.
- We joined the middle school in having our Capturing Kids Hearts Process Champions attend an all day training to give us tips, encouragement, etc., to use as we guide our staffs into making those positive connections with our students, families, and ourselves.
- MA West will be hosting the D38 PCAC (formerly known as DAAC) meeting on 11/14/23 starting at 5:30 with a school tour and followed by a presentation of our school. We are working on putting together a fun, informative presentation for this meeting. The meeting starts at 6:00 and we are first on the agenda. When we are finished, the meeting will continue until 8:00.

In Partnership,

Kurt Walker  
Principal

Laura Sadlon  
Assistant Principal

#### ***Middle School***

Middle school had a very busy October with a lot of activity that was taking place in so many different realms.

Before everyone took off for Fall Break, parent/teacher conferences were held for a two-day stretch. The middle school conducted two different formats with a sign-up approach for 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, with 7<sup>th</sup> grade hosting an open session in the gym. We had very good feedback from parents and teachers on the open session. Stating that parents were able to get all their conferences done at one time and not have to wait for their appointment that might be an hour or two away. The teachers also enjoyed the format as it gave them an opportunity to speak to more parents in the time frame they were provided.

The Student Council hosted a lot of events for our students this month. The students hosted their first quarter assembly that were grade level events. Each grade level hosted spirit competitions between the different peaks to celebrate the end of the first quarter of the school year. This led into a spirit week where students had the opportunity to have some fun before the first after-school social event, Halloween Bash. At the Bash, the students had a great time dancing, participating in a costume contest, and eating a lot of food.

The first choir concert for Ms. Katie Kenkel was held at the Palmer Ridge High School Auditorium. The choirs did a wonderful job during their performance, and it was great to see all the hard work that Ms. Kenkel and her students put into making it an amazing performance. Also, thank you to Mr. John Patterson who helped with the sound for the performance.

The National Junior Honor Society hosted one of their big events during the last week of October. The annual Harvest of Love Food Drive was conducted with the help of the students who arrived early and collected cans and money. The students also went out to local businesses to find prizes to incentivize students to bring in donations; it was quite impressive the amount they brought in for the event. The grand total collected was 500 food items and \$1,070 in cash. The donations have been picked up and delivered to Tri-Lake Cares.

The East and West PTOs came together to host a wonderful fall festival event for our families at the East Campus. The PTO provided the opportunity to our student groups to host booths to raise money for their groups. It was fun to see kids running stations and having a wonderful time in the MA community.

I wanted to give a shout out to our Middle School Cross Country teams. After both teams went on to the league championship, they took their aim at the Colorado Middle School State Championships. Our boys' team took their winning ways to the big school division and won the state championship! We celebrated their accomplishments with an all-school assembly with coaches and parents there to celebrate our student athletes.

As always, I am so impressed with our teachers and the efforts they are putting in to grow our students academically and in character. They have created positive connections with our students that have pushed them to want to improve in their academic levels.

Respectfully,

Collin Vinchattle

***High School***

November 9, 2023

As I write this report to our esteemed Board, it is just after 3:30 pm, and over 500 of our most precious possessions are pouring out the doors of Monument Academy and into the brilliant sunshine of a Colorado fall afternoon.

The energy and excitement of that assemblage of adolescents is powerful and *palpable*. If you have not yet had the experience this year of standing on our front patio at release time, I would invite you to do so. It is akin to plugging into a high voltage wire. One cannot avoid coming away electrified.

That is because these students have just spent the day under the close care and instruction of our team of dedicated teachers, they have undoubtedly felt the warmth of our compassionate staff, and they have *clearly* been empowered by one of the best educational experiences American education has to offer.

Monument Academy is truly a special place. Those reading this report know that well.

Below I will briefly detail how my team and I are seeking to promote the type of climate I just described, and in doing so fashion a lasting *culture* at the high school which will perpetuate for years to come.

### **The Monument Academy Difference**

When asked to describe what makes Monument Academy High School different or to explain our school culture, I often say that we are a small, high-performing, classical charter school, that pursues excellence in all that we do.

I also emphasize that we are united around the pursuit of teaching and *living* a virtuous, character-driven life.

But ultimately, what I emphasize – because I hear it over and over - is that MA is a close-knit *community*. That is what sets MA apart, and that may be the essence of our difference.

At MA, students feel they are known. And cared for. I saw this in the student climate survey we gave last year, where one of the most common responses from our students was that “teachers truly care about us.”

The word culture comes from the Latin *cultus*, which means to care. And *caring* is the essence and the beating heart of any great school culture.

I am extremely pleased to hear students and families speak about MA in those terms, because creating that type of culture comes with a tremendous amount of effort.

This year, I asked the Department Chairs to study with me Daniel Coyle’s *Culture Code*. The book is a well-known guide for helping organizations go from groups of disconnected individuals who happen to be working in the same vicinity, to a community of flourishing people working toward a shared goal.

Additionally, this year I asked the students and staff to focus on a critical component to our school culture, which was a renewed emphasis on citizenship. *Civitas* is the Latin word we are using to give voice to our pursuit of this.

We routinely emphasize how as citizens we have rights, but we also have responsibilities; and we are responsible, every day, for helping grow a school culture that – as our mission states – builds “exemplary citizenship”.

I will close by saying that this is a truly momentous year for us. Our shared goal is to fulfill the promise of completing a four-year institution of learning, and in doing so have the opportunity to celebrate our first graduating class.

Yet perhaps the most important accomplishment we will achieve is to carve into the high school a lasting culture, a community that relentlessly pursues excellence and seeks to help each person flourish inside a caring and positive academy of learning.

Rest assured that I am vigilant about protecting and promoting this very essence of who we are and the solemn mission and vision which has been bestowed upon us to fulfill.

Warm regards,

David Kennigton

### **Operations/Business/Academic Department Reports:**

#### ***Registrars***

I've included the West campus enrollment update [here](#) under the "231103" tab. East campus can be found [here](#). Additionally, here are our registrar highlights for this past month:

- Laura and I worked diligently to finalize all reports/attendance records for the October Count Window, which ended 10/9/23.
- We presented our hefty October Count binder to District 38 via Leslie Boyce on 10/19/23, and it went swimmingly! Everything was accounted for!
- We developed our updated "Intent to Return (ITR)" form via ParentSquare for current families. We've tested it several times and are excited that (1) it will be housed in one place, (2) provides instant confirmation to parents, and (3) only allows the form to be completed by one parent--not both--one time. Our plan is to send it to all MA families on Thursday, 11/30, with a due date of Thursday, 12/14. There is an "undecided" option this year to aid in our planning, but these families will need to give us a finalized decision by the end of the Choice Window (2/9/24).
- We have begun meeting with Tech (Chase) to update our Letter of Interest responses, as well as our Enrollment Workflow sheet. These changes should be solidified by the end of November, which will streamline our enrollment process.

Warmly,

Lena and Laura

#### ***Operations Manager***

- Over \$12k in facility rental revenue since July
- \$7600 in donations for the gala
- I received my Games Manager Certificate for the raffle account - the next step is filling out the Raffle License Application.
- Lynx Fund donations will be launched on November 28 for Giving Tuesday

- Facilities and technology contract reviews, communication, and adjustments for budget savings.
- Working on seeking grant opportunities for additional revenue
- Support with a strategy for communication and seeking additional sponsorships from businesses and collaboration with Kendra and Kim with future capital campaign efforts.
- Strategic Planning support and collaboration with the leadership team

### ***Marketing and Communications Coordinator***

#### ***Facilities Manager***

Currently no contracted snow removal for each campus, Have reached out to four companies to see if they can fit us in. Have heard back from one and should have pricing early next week.

Data Wrangler has been installed at both campuses, they are monitoring power usage and hope they can help us not have so much use during Peak times which should help reduce power bills at each campus. First call to discuss and make changes is November 30th.

Janitorial supplies are a bit higher than I would like, and I have reached out to our local vendor to see what we can do. Have also looked at using Home depot for soap, they would replace dispensers at both campuses and we would get soap from HD, looking at about a 300-400 savings at each campus per month.

HVAC remains in an ongoing battle with these old units RTU-4 had a gas leak that has been repaired. RTU 3 had a pulley misalignment which has been taken care of. RTU 1 had a belt issue which has been resolved.

Each week is an adventure, we just smile and take it all on here in Facilities.

### ***Human Resources Board Report***

- Working with the Executive Director on G Policies to present to the Governance Committee for future board approval.
- SDS Update: All employees have access to their SDS accounts
- Leave amounts in SDS are currently up-to-date with the correct amounts allocated to the right leave category
- December 1st: ONE MA Information Meeting for Proposed Employee Leave @ The West Campus 1:30 PM
- Held multiple meetings with staff to clarify pay and leave questions
- The CDE Staff Report was uploaded successfully



### ***Athletic Director Athletic Highlights***

Our MS Boys and Girls cross country teams attended the MS State Meet on Oct 21st. Our Boys teams had an unbelievable season, taking 1st place in all of their XC meets, including the State Meet. What makes this even more impressive is they competed in the Blue bracket which includes 4A and 5A schools. Our girls team finished in the top ten for team scoring and also had 5 1st place finishes this season. Addi Michalak placed 2nd place in the State Meet for girls. The best highlight, however, comes from the comments from other schools, coaches, and student athletes. MA XC received compliments from all of their meets about their sportsmanship towards other schools, positive school spirit, and cheering on every athlete down to the last one to cross the finish line. Thank you Coaches and student athletes for representing MA in the best way possible.

MS Boys Basketball is underway and our boys team record is 3-3 after a big win vs RMCA on Nov 1st. We are currently tied for 4th place as we are halfway through our season. Home games for our MS boys' team are Wednesdays starting at 4:30pm. Come on out and see what our boys can do.

Fall HS sports have wrapped up with our HS Girls Volleyball team earning their first win in school history and following that up with 2 more big wins before season's end. The most impressive win came in their last game of the season vs ECA. We also got to spotlight our first ever senior class of Volleyball players: Jackie Whirl, Kori Breathauer, Emily Kappel, and Aleigha Barnard. Special thanks to our Coaches, Summer Lavine and Deb Kappel, for all of their hard work getting our girls ready for each game and making this such a memorable season for MA! Our HS XC team also had a tremendous season! We had our first ever Boys team and they took 1st place in the Thunder Across the Divide meet at Elizabeth High School. With the coaching of Tom Eller, all of our XC athletes found success in improving their times in almost every meet. Eva Lascina, freshman, had an impressive season as she broke multiple school records and continued to break her own personal bests throughout the season. Thanks to Coach Eller and our XC student athletes for all your hard work this year and setting the bar high for years to come at MA.

Finally, Monument Academy Athletics has a big day coming up, regarding our CHSAA application and approval. Nov 16th, Mr. Svendsen and Principal Kennington will be attending the CHSAA meeting regarding our acceptance into CHSAA. With a lot of hard work over the last year and a half, we are extremely confident in being accepted into CHSAA for the '24-'25 school year. Mr. Svendsen would like to thank all of his coaches, student athletes, admin team, and families of MA for all of your continued support and for helping MA grow our athletic programs. We can't wait to make this announcement official in a few weeks!

### ***School Culture and Assessment Coordinator***

- The UIP for West Campus has officially launched! We presented on Friday afternoon, October 20, to an open and thoughtful staff. Many asked great questions that dug

deeper into steps they can take to support the realization of the goals set forth in the plan. Ideas were churning about supplemental resources to bolster our instruction, including ways to extend Read Alouds by adding constructed response work. Teachers were encouraged by learning about the opportunity to observe their fellow teachers who are masters at certain skills or instructional concepts! A few even stayed behind after the presentation to talk more about how they can pitch in - even in Specials classes! I walked into the weekend energized and excited for what will come from this.

- A Staff Culture Survey is in the working stage. Modeled after the four priority branches of our Strategic Plan, the goal is to solicit periodic upwards feedback from our staff to help us more effectively achieve our Strategic Plan goals. The vision for this is for our leadership team to thoughtfully read through the data collected and take action steps or even pivot (if the trend indicates) to better serve our staff, and ultimately, our students. We intend to send the survey out in early November with a collection date in early December, so that the leadership team will have time to analyze and create action items from the data when we return from Winter Break. The second survey will be sent at the end of the year, with analysis and planning for the 24/25 academic year taking place in June.
- In the testing world - PSAT 89 / NMSQT moved into all digital this season and went off on October 18 without a hitch! We are celebrating that success for many reasons, including the information it provides for our 9th-11th graders *months before* they take the official CO State (P)SAT in the spring. This information allows the high school team time to respond and provide academic support to students who are in danger of not meeting the cut scores in spring. Additionally, it opens scholarship opportunities for those who qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program.

Looking ahead, DIBELS midyear testing window begins on December 1, and planning for our first K-8 NWEA midyear administration is well underway. Stay tuned!

### ***Director of Academics***

- Primary Elementary completed 3 consecutive sessions of PD the last 3 months on CKLA, which we haven't had in over seven years.
- Continued support for the Instructional Coach
- The Curriculum Committee met and voted on two finalists for the Math Curriculum/ Update included in board committee reports.