**Monument Academy**

**School Accountability Advisory Committee**

**(SAAC)**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2023**

**West Campus, Room 324**

**2:00 p.m.**

**~Meeting Minutes~**

Kurt Walker MA Elementary 3-5 Assistant Principal

Laura Sadlon MA Elementary K-2 Assistant Principal

Jilinda Dygert SAAC Chair

Kelly Turner SAAC Vice Chair

Kristy Davis SAAC Secretary

Matt Ross MA Board Liaison

Delaney Rudolph Teacher Representative

Kristy Davis PTO Vice-President

Teresa Nicholas Member at Large

1. **Introduction and Attendance**
   1. Jilinda Dygert called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
   2. Members present in-person: Kurt Walker, Laura Sadlon, Jilinda Dygert, Kelly Turner, Kristy Davis, Matt Ross, Delaney Rudolph and Teresa Nicholas.
   3. Members absent: None
2. **Review & Approve Meeting Minutes from 11-07-2023**
   1. Teresa motioned to approve the 11-07-23 meeting minutes.
   2. Jilinda seconded the motion.
   3. All approve. Motion was carried.
3. **Review & Approve Meeting Agenda**
   1. Kristy motioned to approve the 12-07-23 meeting agenda.
   2. Matt seconded the motion.
   3. All approved. Motion was carried.
4. **Business**
   1. **PCAC Report – given by Jilinda:**
      1. MA West hosted the last meeting.
      2. They discussed valuing the staff.
      3. D38 conducted a survey. They wanted to get perspectives from families and staff. The top three answers from each of the four categories were discussed.
         1. D38’s Greatest Strengths Per Employees
         2. D38’s Greatest Opportunities Per Employees
         3. D38’s Greatest Strengths Per Families
         4. D38’s Greatest Opportunities Per Families
      4. Ways to fix problems were brainstormed by the group.
      5. Suggestions were presented to the Board after the meeting of the PCAC members.
      6. Mark Belcher would like feedback from the community also, not just families and staff members. He would like an application online for people interested in joining a committee.
   2. **Board Report – given by Matt:**
      1. Policy around LGBTQ will be voted on at the next meeting, they have done a first reading and are open for editing.
      2. Staff Policy was discusses. Delaney said the staff liked the changes for next year, but the staff is not thrilled about what will happen for the remainder of this year.
      3. The next BOE meeting is Thursday, Jan, 11th.
   3. **Principal Report - given by Kurt:**
      1. PCAC was discussed, there was a nice crowd, more parents than staff were in attendance.
      2. Mid-year assessment was discussed.
   4. **Teacher Report – given by Delaney:**
      1. Diebel’s Testing took place this Thursday.
      2. The staff is working on getting grades in.
      3. The teachers are excited for the upcoming Staff Party.
      4. NWEA starts next week.
   5. **PTO Report – given by Kristy:**
      1. Restaurant Night last month was at Parry’s Pizza, Laura suggested they get a member or someone to stand outside with the flyer to advertise at upcoming events to draw in more people to donate to MA.
      2. Shade Structure has finally been erected, over Thanksgiving break.
      3. PTO photo session was a huge success.
      4. Craft Fair will be tomorrow Dec. 8th.
      5. I Heart Mac and Cheese is coming up for the Dec. Restaurant Night.
      6. The Staff Holiday Party is next week, Tuesday Dec. 12th.
      7. Upcoming events for Jan are the K.I.S.S. (Kids Invite Someone Special) and Penny Wars. There will be a KISS dinner on Friday Jan. 19th and a KISS Breakfast Feb. 3rd. More details to come soon. There is a give back event at DartWarz in January, restaurant night TBD still, there will be a stock the lounge for 3rd grade in January and the next general PTO meeting will be held January 9th at Serrano’s.
   6. **MOY Survey Report – given by Jilinda:**
      1. Discussed the final survey results in detail.
         1. Question #1: How satisfied are you with MA’s ability to provide a challenging, content-rich academic program for your child? Curriculum Committee: can they explain if tech is being used appropriately and for academic reasons? Delaney commented that the teachers had training for tech, and she can say that definitely happened in K-3. Laura replied that 1st year they have tech as a special.
         2. Question #2: We value security, character, connections, growth, and excellence. How satisfied are you with MA’s ability to meet these expectations for your child? There is concern for big class sizes, everyone replied they feel safe. Jilinda remarked: Is there a way to ensure a buddy to lower anxiety? Laura replied that they try their best to ensure there is a buddy but that situations vary such as a student leaving MA, that may throw off the system in place. It is hard to balance classes, they used to allow parents to request but it led to favoritism. This process takes time for staff and admin, and they consider parents, academics and behaviors, teacher and student personalities. There are many stages to the decisions before they are finalized, and there is constant tweaking.
         3. Question #3: How satisfied are you with MA’s ability to meet the mental health needs of your child this year? Comments were not a good testing climate, why do we test so much it creates anxiety, there is too much homework (multiple comments), is this the schools responsibility (multiple comments). Delaney remarked that a standard set for the school is a grade wide standard, so all grade teachers stick to a base of what is required.
         4. Question #4: Which, if any, subjects do you feel need modifications or improvement at MA? Answers: math/reading/grammar had the most comments. More Spanish was suggested, and more electives should be offered. More gifted and talented time was suggested. It was suggested by Kristy to watch the Covid trends. The kids in 6th/7th grade (they were the 2nd/3rd graders during Covid) may have been hit the hardest if they did not learn how to read properly. Reading by 3rd grade sets a benchmark for how well you will do academically if you are unable to read at grade level.
         5. Question #5: Has the school’s new communication tool (Parent Square) allowed you to receive communications in a timely and effective manner? Comments about Parent Square were, too much info is going out, lot’s loved it, great way to get communications. Jilinda would like to sit with this platform for awhile to see how it works for our community. A snippet video on how to use Parent Square may need to go out to help families familiarize themselves with it.
         6. Question #6: Are you aware that opting your child out of the state’s CMAS Test has had a negative impact on your school’s performance framework? Parents would like to see sample questions. Comments from the survey should be sent to Anna Arndt so she can address them in her presentation to the families in February.
         7. Question #7: Please rank MA’s atmosphere as it pertains to your child’s learning environment. Poor diversity was mentioned. A dress code for teachers was mentioned but the principals remarked it is an incentive for teachers. Days are too long, some want to bring back early release the principals said this cannot be done.
         8. Question #8: Do you feel that your family is connected to the MA community? They group agreed it takes personal effort by families to make connections. There should also be an attempt to have more connections with the teachers as well.
         9. Question #9: Which do you feel is the most pressing issue(s) for MA to address? (List of 10 was provided plus an “other” option) Remarks: Carline, whole grade get togethers, better meals at the school, a complaint that their students have received new to the school teachers every year instead of teachers who have been established with MA. Teacher retention was discussed as a solution to the last remark, MA needs more incentives, principals remarked they are doing everything possible, but we should still give feedback to the Board to continue looking at ways to improve. Why are teachers leaving? The responses were babies, husbands’ jobs forcing them to leave the area. Delaney remarked that some may be leaving this year because they are unhappy, but next year looks good and teachers are being very understanding. (This has to do with the recent policy changes).
         10. Question #10: How likely are you to recommend our school to others? Board is doing a great job. Sharing positive comments with teachers was suggested by the group, as there were many wonderful comments provided by the community in the survey.
      2. Letter of recommendations to the Board: Jilinda and Laura will do a write up in Google Docs and the final will go out to the SAAC, the SAAC members should provide feedback or input.
5. **Other topics for discussion from parent feedback:**
   1. SAAC meeting at East is coming up. Jilinda and Kelly will attend that meeting.
6. **Meeting Adjournment:**
   1. Teresa motioned to adjourn the meeting.
   2. Matt seconded the motion.
   3. Jilinda adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.
   4. Next meeting will be on February 1, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at West Campus, in Room 324.