

School Accountability Advisory Committee

(SAAC)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

10:30 pm, MA East Conference Room

Participants: David Kennington, Collin Vinchattle, Lindsay Clinton, Char Sellers, Emily Davis, Pam Garcia, Kurt Wolfe

Meeting open to members of the public. One member of the public in attendance. ￼

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – 10:39AM – Char Sellers
   1. Excused absences: Tinna Warthan, Sheri Parks, Jilinda Dygert
2. Approval of Agenda – 10:42AM
   1. Accepted
   2. Motioned by Char, Seconded by Lindsay
3. Approval of 11/13/23 Meeting Minutes – 10:41AM
   1. Accepted
   2. Motioned by Char, Seconded by Pam
4. Principals’ Updates
   1. Middle School

Mr. Vinchattle advised the committee of the large number of students absent prior to Christmas Break due to illnesses. This impacted the NWEA test schedule significantly. Approximately a quarter of students had to make-up the test after the break. This led to the question of how the scores may have been affected for those students who returned from the break to complete the test.

The results of those tests did show promise. The test scores reflected growth from past results. Previous scores showed 30 percent growth while this year’s scores showed 45 to 50 percent growth. NWEA training for teachers was conducted this past week. Teachers reviewed reports and are looking forward to addressing and trying new practices.

Admin and staff recognized the potential effects of the timing of the NWEA tests and will alter the schedule next year. The plan will be to have each teacher complete one test per subject per day and only have two tests per week. This will also hopefully ease the test burnout felt by students during the current NWEA test schedule.

* 1. High School

Mr. Kennington updated the committee of the recent unanimous vote by CHSAA to accept MA as a member. Official membership will begin July 1, 2024. This is a significant step toward having more competitive sports and growing sports programs at Monument Academy High School (MAHS).

The NMSQT fall testing results show very strong scores from MAHS students. 12th grade does not participate in this test. Data was strong for 11th grade students. Ninth and 10th grade students were well above state means in math, English, and total scores. These tests help to address weaknesses in students overall. Some of the weaknesses have already been addressed by teachers and are currently being instituted in the curriculum this semester.

The band concert was re-scheduled and was a success.

* 1. Mrs. Clinton updated the committee of the pick-up difficulties at the West campus due to construction. She clarified that we are still only in Phase 3 of the project, and Phase 4 should alleviate some of the additional pressure being felt during carline currently. There is no real solution to the delays it is causing except for the project to be completed.

A message was sent out to MA East parents and guardians concerning late pick-up (after 3:50) of students, which caused concern for parents who are late to East Campus pick-up because of the construction difficulties with West Campus pick-ups Mr. Kennington and Mr. Vinchattle explained that most students who are picked up late do not have siblings at the West campus and that students who must linger because they have siblings being picked up at West Campus will still be supported. A second message will be sent out to clarify and to address safety concerns caused by unsupported late pick-ups.

1. Board Update – Mrs. Clinton
   1. The video from the last meeting is available. A lot of information was covered, and Mrs. Clinton highly recommended the committee and parents view it.
   2. A Homeschool Partnership Proposal was recently presented to the Board of Directors. This plan will be brought back to the Board in a February and a Townhall Meeting will be held to gauge interest. If there is enough interest, a vote will take place to approve hiring and development of this program.
   3. An Executive Director Succession Plan was discussed by the Board concerning the hiring of a new director. They have no indication of how many applicants there may be. They are also looking to see if they can afford to hire a recruiter to help find qualified applicants. Their plan included having different committees to review and interview applicants and discuss the process used to hire a new director (Q&A and meet and greet to engage the candidates). A special meeting will be held later this month to discuss the job description.
   4. A draft policy was created by the Board concerning parental rights. Please view Highlights and video for details.
   5. A budget audit was completed and is part of the recent Board Highlights.
2. PCAC: Mrs. Sellers and Mr. Wolfe informed the SAAC Committee of the following information from the latest PCAC meeting:
   1. District 38 (D38) is hiring a search firm to find a new superintendent.
   2. Funds have been provided through the Inspire Grant for MA West to receive a new ceramic kiln.
   3. Mr. Wolfe advised Ascent Church is offering training for addressing Mental Health issues. The district will also attend a training being offered on the campus of Flying Horse Ranch. Details will be provided to the MA East principals if they are interested in sending a couple of staff to that training. Mr. Kennington expressed interest in doing so, and Mrs. Sellers will find out who to contact for more information.
   4. D38 considered a four-day school week next year, however that was voted down for several reasons.
3. Mid-Year Survey Results – Mr. Kennington/Mrs. Sellers
   1. Mr. Kennington presented to the Committee the results of the Mid-year Survey. 102 out of 500 recipients responded. A SAAC sub-committee will discuss the results and recommendations to the Board based on the results. Mrs. Sellers will send a draft Letter to the Board out to all the SAAC members for input before sending the letter to the Board in time for Mrs. Clinton to read the letter at the February Board Meeting.
4. Meeting adjourned at 11:46AM