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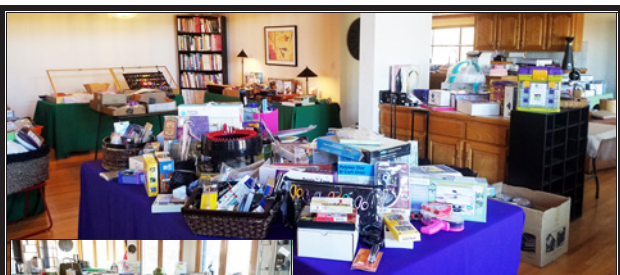
UPCOMING EVENTS

2 Dec – Small Town Christmas with violinist Michelle Edwards and painting demonstration by Sarah Gonzalez

9 Dec – Ice Carving Event, 12pm

Look for classes beginning in January!

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OMG II Estate Sale Continued!

Personal Property of the late Patti Harrison

1770 Pinnacle Ridge Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80919
Dec. 7-10 Thu-Sat 9:30-5:00 Sun 9:30-3:30

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Furniture and office items: Desk studios, glass front storage cabinets, oak rocker, hutch, wardrobe, king bedroom suite, retro pecan table, **HUGE** amount of home office, business, and desk supplies.

Brand-new E-BIKE mfg. by LEOAS. This is an electrical power assist cycle (EPAC).

and so much more...DON'T MISS IT!

Monument Academy School Board, Nov. 9

Board revises budget, modifies teacher representative policy

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Nov. 9 for 16 minutes to adjust revenue projections, discuss curriculum planning, and modify the teacher representative board policy. Principal and Chief Academic Officer Elizabeth Davis was absent due to illness.

Revenue adjustments and budget revision

Board Treasurer Patrick Hall reported that the full-time equivalent (FTE) pupil count had been adjusted down from 919 to 913 for the purposes of budgeting, resulting in a small revenue drop. He noted that October's budget shows a small loss of \$4,000 because the \$10,000 paid to all coaches is paid twice a year but budgeted monthly. Hall's report noted a yearly principal payment of \$380,000 on Oct. 1 with an outstanding bond balance of \$13.3 million. Hall noted that the debt service to FTE ratio of \$1,016 for 912 students compares to D38's ratio of \$1,228 for 5,375.5 FTE.

Board President Scott Saunders brought up the discussion and approval of the revision of the 2017-18 revised budget that included updated revenue based on actual numbers and decreased expenditures. The board unanimously approved the revision with no discussion. The 2017-18 revised budget along with prior budgets are available at <http://bit.ly/ma-budget>.

Curriculum planning

Director Don Griffin provided the principal's report in Davis' absence. He reported that Davis is working with the curriculum committee on elementary and middle school scope and sequence. They are also starting to work on the high school curriculum. Davis has been sending people to different educational opportunities so that MA has some in-house expertise as they go into a two-year development once they receive approval for the high school.

Teacher representative board policy

The Governance Committee recommended three small revisions to Teacher Representative to the Board policy 1515. Changes include modifying the

term from one year to two years, revising the process to replace a teacher representative by following the same process as School Board bylaws, and softening the requirements for attendance because some meetings don't affect teachers. The board unanimously approved the proposed changes and noted that current teacher representatives are grandfathered in or out depending on their preference. Board policy 1515 can be seen at <http://bit.ly/ma-policy1515>.

Other highlights

- Griffin reported that he met the new executive director of the Colorado Military Academy (CMA) charter school next to Peterson Air Force Base. CMA has a lot of members of families from Peterson and Fort Carson. He noted that their 130,000-square-foot building was given to them by the Department of Defense. They don't yet have a playground, auditorium, or gymnasium but the building is amazing.
- He noted that the district has to wait for the election to be certified, which was expected to occur between Nov. 22 and 24. D38 then has 10 days to install the new board and 15 additional days to set up the organization, but usually the installation and certification happen at the same time. He noted that the second high school application public hearing on Nov. 16 would be seen by same board as the first hearing, which he said is good for continuity.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. There will be no December meeting, and the January meeting date has been adjusted. Meetings are adjusted as needed to avoid conflicts. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Nov. 15

Voter approval increases TLMFPD revenue for 2018 and beyond

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD), meeting on Nov. 15, discussed the infusion of about \$2.93 million in additional revenue that will be provided to the fire district by the property tax increase of "up to 6.9 mills" approved by district voters in November and the many effects it will have on the proposed 2018 budget. They also heard presentations about the new administrative office space, IT system upgrades, the maintenance status of the fleet, and changes to the district's training program.

Treasurer John Hildebrandt and Director Tom

Tharnish were excused.

Board needs to certify exact mill levy amount in December

Because 61 percent of over 10,000 ballots cast in TLMFPD's territory approved the issue 5A property tax mill levy increase (see election results on page 20), TLMFPD now has the option of adding up to 6.9 mills to the current 11.5 mills, per \$100,000 of assessed value to its budget.

Fire Chief Chris Truty said that due to a higher than expected property value assessment in 2017, the proposed 2018 budget reflects a 6.6 mill levy increase rather than the 6.9 mills approved in the ballot measure. This would still reach the same dollar amount the district said it needed before the election to reach its goals. It would give the district a 0.3 mill cushion for future budgets without needing to go back to community for a vote if that "extra" \$140,000 were needed when it certifies its mill levy in future budget years.

Vice President Roger Lance said, "this budget does not get us much growth, it just sustains us next year," and he thought TLMFPD should certify the whole 6.9 mills right away in 2018 and put the extra toward a cushion for new equipment.

Director Terri Hayes disagreed, saying TLMFPD should stick to the dollar amount it had calculated it needed before the election to meet its goals and "not go to the max" just because they could. Also, the new



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