

Magerko offered a brief meeting before the DAAC meeting during which he explained the process of budgeting for the district. The meeting was agreed upon because one of DAAC's responsibilities is to advise the board on budget matters.

### Campus introduction

Monument Academy Principal Lis Richard gave an introduction to the academy campus. Enrollment is approaching 1,000 students in grades K through 8. Due to space constraints, there is now a waiting list for enrollment.

Richard explained that the academy has its own Board of Education, but the district enforces state statutes. It also offers special education services, which are often absent in charter schools.

The academy's middle school now offers academic, arts, and athletic programs.

The academy was able to increase compensation for its staff but still falls behind the level of the traditional schools. The academy maintains a large budget for staff development and is considering opening a high school while limiting the overall size of the school.

### School calendar

The committee reviewed the proposed calendar for the 2018-19 school year in advance of presentation to the Board of Education.

### Bylaws revision

Committee Co-Chair Anne-Marie Haastedt reported on the presentation of the proposed bylaws to the Board of Education at its December meeting. The committee requested that the board no longer propose a formal charge but instead allow the committee to incorporate its responsibilities and subcommittees in its bylaws.

In response to a question, Haastedt said that the Committee for Political Achievement is only active during years of school board elections.

Another committee member pointed out that a charge to the committee is still mentioned in the bylaws and suggested that the bylaws be reworded to remove the reference. The committee will vote on this revision at its February meeting.

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The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Locations vary. The Feb. 7 meeting will be at Lewis-Palmer Elementary Schools, 1315 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument.

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## Monument Academy School Board, Jan. 18

# Board hears Grandparents Day plans, treasurer's report

*By Jackie Burhans*

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Jan. 18 to hear about plans for a Grandparents Day event. Board member Patrick Hall and Principal Lis Richard were absent.

### Grandparents Day

Parents Amy Torrence and Angela Leighty presented plans for an upcoming Grandparents Day event scheduled for April 28. They said they had dreamt of having a Grandparents Day and appreciated the enthusiastic support of the board this year. They want to bring grandparents into the fold of the school, introduce them to the environment, and bring them into the classrooms. They thanked grandparents for their contributions and encouraged them to volunteer. The event will include a continental breakfast, choir performances, and an opening assembly, and will culminate in spending time in their grandkids' classroom. Teachers are very supportive and parents are excited. There are corporate and family-named sponsorships available. Torrence and Leighty asked for the board's consideration of sponsorship at some level.

The goal is to send 1,000 invites with an expectation of 400 to 500 attendees. They will have offsite parking and shuttles. Board President Sonya Camarco noted that the event will yield a promotional piece of MA with

a professional logo, a video crew and drone footage of the school. This will be available for use on the school's website. Standing boards with information about the school tenets and event parking signs will be created and available for use at other events.

### Treasurer's report

Treasurer Nancy Tive reported that revenue for December was higher than budgeted revenue due to receiving READ Act and G/T funding in December that is amortized over 12 months in the budget. Academic Fee Income was higher than the budgeted amount but Before and After School Enrichment (BASE) revenue was lower than budgeted.

Expenses for December were higher than budgeted due to the salary true-up, bonuses, stipends, and master teacher payments. The line item for technology is at 99 percent of the budget, due to unbudgeted payments for upgrades that were financed by a capital lease from First National Bank. The upgrade payments totaled \$38,107 for December and 82,711 year-to-date. The budget will be revised to reflect this spending. The project included upgrading a total of 130 computers; however, 24 of them were paid for by the Parent Teacher Organization.

### Other board highlights

- Parent Cynthia Fong Smith reported that two of the four expanded character curriculum lessons

had been delivered before the Christmas holiday and were well-received. All who attended the first lesson returned for the second lesson. Fong Smith thanked the board for its support.

- MA's membership in the El Paso County Coalition of Charter Schools was renewed. It receives information on what is going on in Denver and work with other charter schools that are part of the coalition.
- The board unanimously approved the 2017-18 School Calendar, which includes a four-day break in the fall and eight or nine days of the state mandatory requirement to account for snow days.
- The board entered an executive session to discuss the next steps concerning the high school, with regard to authorizers, timetables, and the application process.

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The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The Monument Academy usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committees, and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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

## Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Jan. 19

# Board reorganizes, receives report from Monument Academy

*By Harriet Halbig*

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education reorganized its assigned positions and received an operations report from Monument Academy at its Jan. 19 meeting

Following Mark Pfoff's resignation as president of the board at its December meeting, the officers were re-assigned to include Sherri Hawkins as president, Matthew Clawson as vice president, Mark Pfoff as secretary, and Dr. John Magerko as treasurer. Sarah Sampayo will serve as a director. Hawkins and Clawson were elected, and the remainder of officers were appointed.

### Monument Academy operations report

Dr. Don Griffin, executive director of Monument Academy, presented an operations report to the board.

Griffin reported that the academy has its own Board of Education, with four members present at this meeting. Enrollment for this school year is 907.86 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. Enrollment has increased by 62 students over last year, and the eighth-grade class of 309 is the largest in the school's history.

There have been slight increases in the exceptional student and gifted student populations, and the school has received a state leadership award as a choice school.

The largest expenditure last year was \$130,000 for a new turf field, and the school has added high-definition cameras and fences as recommended.

Griffin reported that 200 middle school students are now involved with athletic programs, and dramatic arts and music are also offered. The middle school band won an award this year.

The biggest concern of academy board members and parents is the proposed addition of a median on Highway 105 that would restrict access to the school and the church next door. The school is working with the church to make their concerns known.

Monument Academy would like to expand its offer-

ings to add a high school in the near future. Planning is underway to make this a reality.

### Community recognition

The board recognized the contributions of Tri-Lakes Radio. General Manager Michael Bailey reported that the station is streaming hockey and basketball games to the community and has sold advertising to support the district. Bailey presented checks from JJ Tracks and Act II (a new thrift store) to Superintendent Karen Brofft.

### Demonstration of communication

Lewis-Palmer High School teacher Michele Baxter explained her Project Lead the Way curriculum in the area of biomedical sciences. She explained that the program spans four years and the demonstration was about human body systems with an emphasis on communication.

Students worked with members of the board to demonstrate how communication works.

Baxter said that all classes in the curriculum are inquiry-based, rather than lectures. Each unit includes discussion questions.

### Superintendent update

Brofft spoke of the actions of the district in response to the previous week's windstorm, acclaiming the excellent coordination in getting kids home in the wake of having to discontinue bus service as required by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Brofft also mentioned the value of the Path2Empathy program in special education, a virtual reality program at the middle school that reflected the experiences of a local veteran at the attack on Pearl Harbor, and continuing professional development on such subjects as mental health training, CPR, and other areas.

The district is once again accredited with distinction with low participation. This refers to the fact that, although federal guidelines require a 95 percent par-

ticipation rate in standardized testing, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has granted a waiver to students whose parents opt out of testing. However, the district must develop a program to improve participation, she said.

Brofft reported that the annual open enrollment period is underway. The district has 300 students choosing open enrollment (referring to attending a district school other than the neighborhood school, or someone from another district attending school in District 38).

The rules of open enrollment require parents to re-apply each year, and school principals determine whether there is space and sufficient staff to accept additional students.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported that the outflow of students as opposed to inflow during the 2014-15 school year was 130 students. In 2016 only nine more students left than entered the district. She pointed out, however, that as district buildings reach capacity this trend may change.

Regarding the windstorm, Wangeman reflected that the district should have been notified earlier because the winds at 2 a.m. were already dangerous.

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster offered a first reading of the proposed 2018-19 school calendar.

The board approved policy DC-B regarding debt management. Wangeman said that the district's financial planner suggested the usefulness of such a policy. The first reading was presented at the December meeting.

The board voted to request a waiver on the procedure for application for a new charter school. The state requires that an application for a charter school must be submitted by Oct. 1 of the year before the opening of a school. The board is requesting that the deadline instead be April 1 of the previous year, allowing more time for