

rections, Nay said. All students and families must feel safe and welcome in the school environment and parents must understand how the school system works.

Also, it is important to tap community resources as needed to ensure student success.

Discussion of committee charge

DAAC Co-Chairs Melissa Hinton and Anne-Marie Hasstedt asked members for input on whether the committee requires a formal charge in addition to that in the CDE handbook.

Jeff Fowler of Lewis-Palmer High School suggested that the committee ask Superintendent Karen Brofft what subjects she would like input on.

Before the meeting, committee members said that examples of DAAC acting in an advisory capacity included discussion of new graduation requirements and the request for a school readiness waiver. In the past, the committee has also sponsored meet-the-candidate events for superintendent and political candidates.

The consensus remained that the committee does not require a formal charge from the

board and that Hinton and Hasstedt would report the decision to the board at its next meeting.

Principal Gary Gabel gave an overview of Palmer Ridge, its history and accomplishments.

Board Liaison John Magerko reported on a new process of cross training between maintenance and grounds staff in the district so that they would both understand such processes as snow plowing. He also reported on the fact that School Resources Officer Dennis Coates explained the Standard Response Protocol in the event of lock-out, lockdown, evacuation, and shelter and how the grounds and

maintenance staff could be involved.

Magerko also reported on continuing efforts to increase school funding and its importance to the success of the state and its economy.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets five times a year on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Jan. 10 at Monument Academy, 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument

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Monument Academy School Board, Nov. 10

Character curriculum for teens expanded; Highway 105 improvements discussed

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met for about a half-hour on Nov. 10 at the rescheduled time of 12:30 p.m. in the principal's office to hear about an expansion to the character curriculum and updates to the Highway 105 improvement plan, and to consider the 2016-17 revised budget. Board members Julie Galusky and Andy Gifford were absent along with Principal Lis Richard. Lewis-Palmer D38 Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman was able to attend a portion of the board meeting at their invitation.

Middle school character curriculum expanded

Cynthia Fong Smith, who has eighth-grade twin boys at the school, spoke about her efforts to expand the character instruction offered to middle school students. She expressed her concern that middle school kids may participate in high-risk behaviors such as drinking, drugs, and sex. She wants to increase knowledge and develop stronger character for her kids and others at the school. Fong Smith noted that the school encourages those who make suggestions to come up with a solution and help to carry it through.

Fong Smith completed a Colorado Department of Education (CDE) 40-hour certification for high-risk behavior instruction. She researched and found a program called YES You Can!, created by the New Jersey Physicians Advisory Group. She felt it was a good supplement to the existing curriculum. She noted that a published article showed positive behavioral changes in students who participated, and she offered to provide this to the board. The cost of the expanded curriculum is \$1,100, for which Fong Smith submitted a grant application. She has volunteered as an adjunct teacher since she has the background along with

the CDE certification and will be working with the lead character teacher, Janette Olson. She plans to present the curriculum at physical education classes during inclement weather.

Board members applauded her involvement and confirmed that the curriculum committee had approved the expansion. Director Don Griffin noted that parents are notified and have the option to opt out if they choose. The expanded curriculum will roll out in December.

Highway 105 improvements

Director Don Griffin spoke with members of the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) church next door to Monument Academy about their meeting with county representatives regarding the Highway 105 improvement project. The county indicated it wanted 18 feet from the front of the LDS property to use for a turn lane and sidewalk. They discussed plans for a raised median that would impact ingress to the church with a suggestion that people could get to the church through the school parking lot. Griffin characterized the LDS response as unhappy.

Griffin mentioned a meeting with a nearby homeowners association that was very contentious. Most people would have to go through the neighborhood to get to the Kum & Go. He did not know when more information would be available but expressed hope that the project representatives are getting feedback that would lead them to revise their plans.

2016-17 revised budget approved

Treasurer Patrick Hall presented information on the 2017 budget. An increase of 5.06 percent in revenue includes an increase in funded pupil count, increased full-day kindergarten tuition, increased academic fee revenue, and miscellaneous revenue in-

cluding the reconciliation with District 38 for last fiscal year. Expenditures will increase by 5.93 percent from 2016, including a salary "true up" approved last month, additional teachers and staff, a technology outsourcing estimate of \$73,000 plus \$40,000 for the server project, and a \$2,500 per month computer lease cost.

The board unanimously approved the 2016-17 revised budget, which can be viewed on the website under the financial transparency link at the bottom of the main page (<http://bit.ly/MA-1617Budget.com>).

- Other board highlights
- MA's annual report to the district Board of Education will be presented at the Lewis-Palmer Board of Education meeting on Jan. 19. The MA board was encouraged to attend.
 - An MA parent commented briefly that she has some concerns and will be attending the meetings to learn more about what the board does.
 - The board viewed a video created by staff and teachers thanking the board for the recent salary increases.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 18 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. The board does not usually meet in December and has changed the date of the January meeting due to the joint meeting on Jan. 19 with the Lewis-Palmer Board of Education.

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.

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