

Monument Academy School Board, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14

Board defines roles, hears financial audit review

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Aug. 10 and Sept. 14 to approve officers and committee memberships, review academic excellence metrics, and hear from the financial auditor's report,

Board establishes roles

The MA board unanimously approved the following officers: Scott Saunders, president; Julie Galusky, vice president; Mike Molsen, secretary; and Patrick Hall, treasurer.

The following committee assignments were unanimously approved: Matt Dunston, buildings / facilities; Scott Saunders, School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAC); Julie Galusky, resource development and grants; Patrick Hall, Finance Committee; Mark McWilliams, curriculum; and Mike Molsen, governance

Academic and character metrics revised

The board unanimously voted to remove the John Irwin Award metric as MA no longer qualifies given its low participation rate in testing. The board also agreed to remove TCAP scores which are no longer used by the state and also have a low participation rate. In their place, the board agreed to adopt the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Academic Program and NWEA Academic metrics, which are nationally normed tests, to track student performance and achievement.

Financial audit report review

Paul Niedermuller of Clifton Laron Allen reviewed the 2016-17 audit report. He focused on the audit process and the board's governance role. He noted that some items on the financial report, such as depreciation expenses, are an estimate which could change. A second major area is pension liability—as a member of the Public Employees Retirement Association

(PERA), MA is allocated its share of that liability which has a lot of assumptions built in that are disclosed but also subject to change. Due primarily to the new requirement to report the pension expense, MA is in a negative position as of June 2017.

One item Niedermuller brought to the attention of the board was that although the firm became aware, at the time they released the report, of the suspected fraud allegations against a former board member, they did not do a full-scale engagement in relationship to all checks and disbursements under the purview of that board member and that each transaction has not been reviewed in thorough detail.

Management and governance shares the fiduciary responsibilities and he wanted the board to be aware of the limitations as it relates to the allegations and the impact it could have on MA. He noted that management and the board had submitted a statement which the audit firm corroborated based on identified procedures.

Asked if the audit firm intended to go back and look at each transaction, it was noted that that would be a decision made by the board. The board clarified that the audit firm did not see any red flags in the audit that would indicate a need to do so.

The audit report found that MA's financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the school. The full audit report can be seen on the MA website under Financial Transparency at <http://bit.ly/MA2017Audit>.

Other highlights

- The board unanimously voted to revise the Uniform Policy 1501 to incorporate current guidelines and add the dean structure for enforcement. The policy can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/ma-policy1501>.
- The high school application has been submitted to the school district and will be presented on Oct. 10 and Nov.16. The Lewis-Palmer Board of Education will vote on Nov. 15 so a decision may



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WARNING TO LEWIS-PALMER DISTRICT 38 VOTERS

D38's union-backed establishment is, as always, running its own candidates

THEIR LIBERAL CANDIDATES ARE:

⚠️ **A Democrat** whose supporters have repeatedly attempted to silence conservatives who voice concerns about the liberal direction the district is headed by insisting school boards are "non-partisan"

⚠️ **An Unaffiliated** voter and current board member who joined the board's public resolution rejecting Common Core, but who has since consistently rubber-stamped Common Core curriculum. She has continually supported large raises for administrators who are already paid six figures. Her time on the board majority has resulted in unprecedented retirements and resignations of our best, most experienced teachers. In 2015, the union (CEA) contributed \$11,000+ to get her elected.



THE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES ARE:



TIFFINEY UPCHURCH, a Republican and fiscal conservative, PTO mother and School Accountability Committee Chair who has actively supported and served in D38 schools since moving here in 2009

CHRIS TAYLOR, a Conservative Republican, former CPA and local business owner who, as treasurer of his HOA, reduced spending and was able to cut annual dues in half

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VOTE FOR LEADERS THAT WILL REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITY.

VOTE TAYLOR AND UPCHURCH



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