

Monument Academy School Board, Feb. 8

Board discusses assessments, revises opt-out policy

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Feb. 8 to discuss the role of assessments in informing educators and switch to an electronic assessment refusal form. Board members Julie Galusky and Patrick Hall were absent.

Role of assessments

Principal Elizabeth Davis reported on meeting with the data assessment team to discuss how and why they assess kids. They discussed training teachers to use the data to inform instruction in the classroom. She noted that they talked about best practices around assessments, especially the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) that MA depends on heavily to inform what they do for interventions and gifted students. MA is gearing up for state assessments, end of year NWEA and DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) reading data for 1,000 students.

State assessments refusal policy goes electronic

Monument Academy Executive Director Don Griffin noted that state statute requires that MA have a policy for parents who want to opt out of assessments. MA has 400 parents who opt their kids out of state assessments, the highest in both number and percentage in El Paso County. The process had become a logistical nightmare due to the amount of paperwork. The company MA uses for athletic paperwork was able to adapt a module to electronically

handle the assessment opt-out forms. Parents are able to set up an account and register one or more kids. The system can generate a roster so that MA can set up accommodations for kids who are not taking the test.

Griffin noted that the cost to adapt the module was minimal, and the system could reduce the opportunity for fraud. Board policy 1525 required a small change to eliminate acceptance of paper forms in favor of electronic requests. The board unanimously approved the change; the updated policy can be seen at <http://bit.ly/ma-policy1525>.

Other highlights

- Davis highlighted a new elementary technology teacher who helps each grade integrate technology into the core knowledge sequence from kindergarten through 5th grade.
- MA was selected to be spotlighted for National Choice Week and had an event with over 100 people in the multi-purpose room.
- Griffin noted that last year's project to redo servers then required replacing phones and an upgrade to the wireless infrastructure. This led to a finding that the phone service and internet speeds were insufficient. MA was able to renegotiate with CenturyLink and contract with Peak Communications, saving about \$17,000 per year.
- Griffin noted that as choice enrollment closes, MA asks families

about their intent to return. For kindergarten through seventh grade, the retention rate is 99 percent, which he credited to the teachers. He noted that registrars are still doing tours even though there may be only one or two seats available in August.

- MA is working on finalizing a grant to place an automated external defibrillator in the lobby.
- The second annual Grandparents Day will be held on March 16.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 8 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. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances can be found at www.monumentacademy.net/school-board.

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

District Accountability Advisory Committee, Feb. 13

Committee receives reports on Sources of Strength, long-term facilities planning

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) discussed progress in long-term facilities planning, heard a report on the Sources of Strength program and learned of new legislative initiatives at its Feb. 13 meeting at Prairie Winds Elementary School.

DAAC Co-Chair Anne-Marie Hasstedt, a member of the Long Term Facilities Planning Committee (LTFP), reported on recent developments.

The committee presented facilities options to the Board of Education on Jan. 30 at a work session, and there was a second public deliberation event on Feb. 5 with a limited number of options to consider.

These options involve:

- Converting the present Bear Creek Elementary Campus into a K-8 campus, building an elementary school next to Bear Creek, converting Bear Creek back to a middle school and returning sixth-graders to middle school.
- Building an elementary school on the Bear Creek campus, converting Bear Creek back into a middle school (which it was, originally, as Creekside Middle School), and building an additional elementary school in the Forest Lakes area west of the highway.

The second option was preferred by most attendees after the deliberation.

Regarding the use of Grace Best Education Center, the options were:

- Leave the facility as is with the

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2018 MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS

One Member. One Vote. Your Voice Matters.

During the Annual Meeting on June 7, 2018, at Calhan High School in Calhan, three directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. (MVEA), Board of Directors from the following districts:

District 1: Limon, Karval, Genoa and surrounding areas (*incumbent Joseph D. Martin*)

District 4: Calhan, Peyton, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Milton L. Mathis*)

District 6: Falcon, Cimarron Hills, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Barry R. Springer*)

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. For additional candidate requirements, visit MVEA's Annual Meeting webpage at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. Before applying, please contact either MVEA office at (719) 775-2861 or (719) 495-2283 to verify your district. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or by nomination by petition. To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact a member of the committee or contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line as shown below. To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 members of MVEA. Petitions and procedures are available at the Limon Headquarters, 1655 5th St., Limon, or at the Falcon Operations Center, 11140 E. Woodmen Rd., Falcon, or online at the Annual Meeting webpage listed above. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire must be returned to either MVEA office by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 23, 2018. A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. The questionnaire can be found on MVEA's website or you can pick one up at either office. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by the committee or submitted to candidate@mvea.org by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 29, 2018. If seeking election by nomination through petition, a candidate questionnaire and a petition must be submitted no later than 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 23, 2018. If you have questions, please contact a member of the nominating committee or contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

Nominating Committee

District 1: Steve Burgess • PO Box 383 • Limon, CO 80828 • (719) 760-0681

District 4: Byrel Woolsey • 824 Golden Street • Calhan, CO 80808 • (719) 347-2750

District 6: Dick Ayer • 12558 Meridian Road • Elbert, CO 80106 • (719) 495-4930

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