

Monument Academy School Board, Feb. 14

Board discusses School Resource Officer availability, state legislation

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Feb. 10 to hear about the possible availability of a School Resource Officer (SRO) and updates on state legislation. Board members Melanie Strop and Mike Molson were absent.

School Resource Officer

Executive Director Don Griffin noted that the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) has identified money in its budget to fund a new program to put an SRO in each high school and charter school on a cost-sharing basis. SRO's are EPSO deputies who are assigned to work in and around schools on a long-term basis to provide a triad of functions: teacher, counselor/mentor, and law enforcement officer. Monument Academy could have its own SRO by paying \$56,000 of the \$112,000 cost to cover salary, benefits, equipment, and car. The SRO would be assigned to the current campus and would be shared with the new campus when it opens.

Griffin noted that D38 currently has two SROs, which are shared with MA. A parents group led by Wendy and Josh Brethauer is specifically focused

on raising money for security, kicking off a fundraising effort to raise a \$50,000 annual endowment. They will also look for corporate sponsorships.

Board member Dwayne Cook said he was excited about the SRO proposal but expressed concern based on his past experience. He noted that deputies who are highly trained in handling violence and de-escalation may need different skills in a school setting, especially dealing with special education students. In the past he implemented a program in the school system to give ongoing training and identification to SROs to help them understand the differences in dealing with special needs kids to be ahead of the curve.

State legislation

Griffin discussed legislation that MA is tracking at the state capital. He noted that the governor is looking to provide tuition-free, full-day kindergarten, which may impact MA. There is currently enough interest to possibly open a third full-day kindergarten class. Board member Patrick Hall inquired about the new sex education bill and how it might impact MA. Griffin noted that it hadn't passed yet but had only

come out of committee in the House, but it is a piece of legislation he is tracking.

Highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Principal Elizabeth Davis reported that she and middle school Dean Julie Seymour presented to a packed house at the annual Colorado Council of the International Reading Conference. Eight staff members attended the conference and attended different sessions, bringing back a takeaway that they can share at the upcoming curriculum committee meeting.
- The American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser was successful, raising close to \$13,000. In addition, all eighth-graders will be CPR-certified by the end of January.
- MA unanimously approved a change to Board Policy 1512 Open Records Requests. It had a typo that needed correcting to change the rate from \$35 to the statute approved rate of \$30. MA board policies can be seen at <http://bit.ly/>

ma-policies.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 14 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 except for July and December. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances, can be found at www.monumentacademy.net/school-board.

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TRIVIEW (Cont. from 1)

initiated the process of selecting a general contractor with the goal of being under contract mid- to late May. Connor confirmed that HR Green continues to coordinate the taper of the lanes north of Higby Road with the Town of Monument, El Paso County, and Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), which adds to the complexity of the plan.

Another project, or opportunity, underway for the district is the North Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI), which has the potential to direct wastewater flows from six sanitation districts north of Colorado Springs—including Triview—to the J.D. Phillips Water Reclamation Facility in Colorado Springs. The proposed Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) gravity-based system has the potential to decommission two wastewater treatment facilities and multiple lift stations, ultimately streamlining services and producing cost savings. CSU and the sanitation districts continue to evaluate financial and wastewater treatment responsibilities, thus there was little discussion of NMCI at the district's February meeting.

Related to this topic is a correction

of an OCN reporter error. In the Feb. 2 Triview article, OCN reporter Jennifer Kaylor erroneously wrote that McGrady had met with representatives from the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) and Monument Sanitation District (MSD) to discuss participation in a cost-share agreement for a four-phase drinking water pipeline study that would include a pipeline routing and feasibility study, 30 percent design plans, permitting, and final design and bidding." McGrady met with representatives of WWSD and the Town of Monument.

The district also kicked off its 2019 road rehabilitation plan. The Feb. 19 board meeting doubled as the deadline for contractor bid submission upon which three bids were received. McGrady expressed confidence in the lowest bidder, Martin Marietta, which bid \$1.3 million. If approved, Martin anticipated that the work would span April through June, McGrady said. The board unanimously approved the Martin bid.

District manager projects long-term view

McGrady segued into a presentation regarding the district's fiscal posi-

tion starting with 2019 and extending through 2040. Speculating on residential and commercial growth, inflation, multiple sources of revenue, and significant capital projects, he prompted discussion about options for long-term



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