

Monument Academy School Board, March 21

Board hears Unified Improvement Plan, approves bond underwriter

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on March 21 to hear the school's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP), approve an engagement with D.A. Davison as their bond underwriter, and receive a letter from concerned parents.

Unified Improvement Plan

Principal Elizabeth Davis provided highlights from MA's draft UIP to the board. The UIP, which is a two-year strategic academic plan, analyzes performance data, determines root cause analysis, identifies strategies to address performance challenges, and monitors progress. More information about the UIP is available at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip>.

Davis said the UIP was written with the input of deans, the director of literacy and intervention, and the School Accountability Advisory Committee. The draft plan was presented to the District Accountability Advisory Committee on March 12 by first-grade teacher Laura Barrette, who is working on her administrator's license.

Davis noted that since MA has a low participation rate on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing in the spring, it makes the data tough to work with. The state requires use of CMAS data as the primary data and allows schools to backfill with other data. MA uses data from Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments and the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBEL) tests that are given throughout the year.

While the full UIP covers reading, teacher ability to use data driven instruction, communication with parents regarding assessments, and developing a curriculum framework for Math and Language Arts, Davis focused only on reading growth for her report to the board. The goal is to make more than a year's growth in a year's time as demonstrated by assessments.

MA is specifically focused on early learners, in kindergarten and first and second grades, to make at a very minimum the state-expected median growth percentile for all students coming into MA identified as having significant reading deficiency. This will be done via interventions with a focused pull-out program where kids are getting a minimum of two hours of extra reading instruction per week.

Davis is working with Dr. Lori Benton, executive director of Learning Services at D38, to ensure the data are reported consistently with the district. Davis responded to a question on the report's breadth by noting that MA had pulled data from up to seven years back to look at trend analysis, which was tricky given the low participation rate and privacy rules.

The following website will show the completed UIP and can be used to see prior years' UIP reports: www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/performance.

[co.us/schoolview/performance](http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/performance).

Bond underwriter approved to seek financing

Don Griffin reported that MA's financial advisor Russ Caldwell advised against traditional funding in favor of bond financing to get better interest rates. MA has a series of bonds that can and will mature to the point of refinancing in 2024, so having this bond financing would give MA an advantage. The recommendation is to engage D.A. Davidson as their bond underwriter to drive the process as they did several years ago when they refinanced their bonds. Davidson will use a national legal firm out of Salt Lake City along with other parties who helped last time, including bond counsel Kutak Rock. The bond underwriting process would all be under D.A. Davidson Vice President Eric Duran's purview. Board members Mark McWilliams and Melanie Strop moved and seconded the motion to sign the engagement letter, which was unanimously passed.

Concerned parents

A meeting attendee named Victoria said she had been talking to other parents who recruited her to deliver a letter on their behalf. She asked if she should read it or simply hand it to them and was directed by Don Griffin to hand the board the letter. She handed one copy to board President Patrick Hall and one to board member Melanie Strop, who glanced at the letter but made no comment and took no action.

Highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- All staff members who go through teacher licensure renewals must have a culturally and linguistically diverse stamp on their certificates. MA is working on approval for an online/hybrid course for that requirement to be done in an online/hybrid learning management system along with other required mandatory training hours.
- MA has seen 43 flu cases versus 18 in the previous year.
- Board elections are coming up, with applications due by April 25, a candidate forum on May 15, and actual elections happening on May 16 and 17 via SurveyMonkey.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 11 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 <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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

Support Our Community. Shop Local!

TAKE A PEAK
CONSIGNMENT

Upscale Furniture and Home Furnishing Consignment
Discover One-of-a-Kind, Name-Brand Items at Significant Savings
See New Furnishings at takeapeakcos.com



Spring Special! Extra 10% OFF!

lowest current price on furniture and art. Good through 4/20/19. With coupon. Cannot be combined with other offers. Not valid on previous purchases. All sales final.



Send photos for consignment consideration to takeapeakcos@gmail.com.

Please include your name & phone number
Now Consigning Your Fine Furniture!

13375 Voyager Pkwy • I-25, Northgate 156 (adjacent to Sprouts Farmers Market)

Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 12-4

f Take A Peak Consignment

719-313-9180 www.takeapeakcos.com

The Lewis-Palmer School District #38 HALL of FAME



The Lewis-Palmer School District #38 Hall of Fame committee is now accepting nominations from the community for inductees to the 2019 Hall of Fame.

Anyone may nominate a person who has made significant, ongoing contributions to the excellence of District 38 schools. The awards seek to honor retired staff (teachers, support staff, administrators), volunteers, elected officials, and community members. Nomination forms and information about how recipients are chosen are posted on the District website at www.lewispalmer.org under the Community Tab. **Deadline: April 19, 2019**

On a great path...

OCN ads work!

Jennifer Cunningham, Gallery 132 - "OCN is the only print publication where I've seen consistent results in engagement for my business."

Randi and Dale Sehestedt, Woodmoor Handyman and Snow Plowing - "OCN is the only paper we advertise in and it consistently brings us plenty of good local customers. Great paper and great people to work with."

For advertising information, contact John Heiser, (719) 488-3455, ads@ocn.me, or visit www.ocn.me.