

**MA (Cont. from 1)**

range of responses on the number of hours they were working during eLearning. Some felt they didn't have enough; others felt it was too much. She noted that eLearning is very different in a crisis situation than a homeschooling situation. The biggest struggles were around sharing technologies among families, technology issues, and time management. MA added live meetings later to ensure security and allow families more flexibility.

Board member Megghan St. Aubyn raised concerns about the long-term ability to uphold standards of learning, differentiate in the classroom, and check in on social-emotional health. She recognized that some grades are doing a lot while others are doing very little. She asked what the administration's process is to keep consistency, hold people accountable, and keep up to speed so that kids are not way behind next year while putting extra pressure and work on parents. She said that kids are our customers and it is the teachers' jobs to educate the kids. She indicated she was appreciative of the effort that has been happening but wants to be forward thinking for the current year, including the possibility that we will not be able to come back. There was discussion about the need for two-way communication and additional surveys, but also about how difficult it is to plan amid the current crisis. Chief Operating Officer Christianna Herrera noted that MA is thinking about identifying and assessing students to identify any gaps before they come back, so MA is prepared to deal with them immediately.

**Other pandemic impacts**

Herrera noted at the meeting that other districts had already closed for the remainder of the year. She hoped that MA could salvage some part of the year or find alternative ways to hold events like graduation and awards.

She participated in a Town Hall meeting with the League of Charter Schools and Colorado Department of Education (CDE) representatives and school leaders to discuss technology needs for eLearning and Exceptional Student Services (ESS) requirements. Until ESS waivers come through, MA is trying to ensure students received the full service to avoid needing to make it up later. She gave Director of Exceptional Student Services Jessica Coote and team a huge thank you for their efforts to provide this service online.

Herrera noted that MA is committed to continue to pay teachers but felt it wasn't fair to require preschool parents to pay tuition, so it was making that optional for those who are able. She also noted that MA was investigating the possibility of a CARES Act for Early Education. Although it is too soon to know, it would be worth about 10% of a faculty member's payroll cost, which would cover two months. MA is looking to see how this relates to other stimulus money and to understand if MA qualifies.

**Construction update**

Board member Melanie Strop reported that while the budget looks good, there may be an issue due to Northwest Mill's work production shutdown. She said it's not possible to change suppliers due to cost. Things are moving more slowly since social distancing requires JHL to have fewer workers on site. Herrera said that they are losing three days per week due to social distancing, but once the roof is on they will only be losing one day per week. Once the roof is in place, the schedule will be updated.

President Mark McWilliams noted he had gotten an email saying that all of the plans have been submitted to El Paso County for final approval. Once approved, roads will be worked on. Meanwhile, the Dunston brothers are working to ensure water pressure and roads are in place and getting approval for two roundabouts; one on the north at Walker Road and one on the southeast corner as an exit. There is

also an access only onto the site from Highway 83; it cannot be used as an exit.

**Highlights**

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- The Spring Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing has been canceled by CDE. MA is in discussions with Northwest Educational Association (NWEA) on that testing, which MA uses to gather internal data for analysis.
- MA received permission from the CDE to spend grant money to purchase desks and furniture for the new secondary school.
- The board agreed on a plan to solicit candidates for the school board, collect information to provide to parents, and conduct voting online using Survey Monkey.
- COO Herrera gave a huge shout out to the district nutritional services team, which has been providing food for students and families across the district, including dropping off meals for those with limited transportation.
- MA's school nurse has returned medication that was stored at the school and is working with families to obtain medication that is in short supply.
- Board member Chris Dole reported that the March 16 meeting was canceled and the Student Accountability Advisory Committee has several items pending to cover at a future electronic meeting, including a required Uniform Improvement Plan (UIP), end of year survey, and review of parent-community involvement.

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The next meeting was moved to Wednesday, May 6 due to conflicts. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Email [board@monumentacademy.net](mailto:board@monumentacademy.net) to get an invitation to the next board meeting and/or to submit comments or ask questions. See <http://www.monu->

mentacademy.net/school-board for the latest information.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

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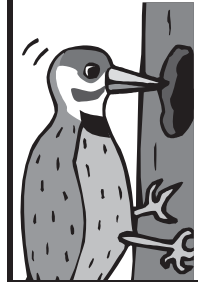
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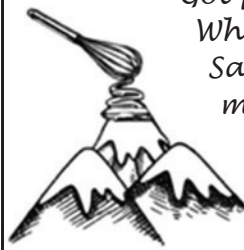
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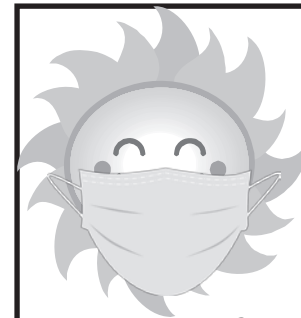
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