

also reported on a mid-year parent survey that saw an increased response rate. Overall satisfaction and feeling heard received high ratings.

- The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for the west campus asked for teacher requests for reimbursements and grants. They also reported on activities, events, and the pavilion project. PTO for the east campus reported on teacher appreciation, thank you posters,

and improvements to the staff lounge.

- Assistant Principal and Assessment Coordinator Mary Venticinque is preparing for spring assessments, which will include the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) tests and, most likely, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests.
- MA is using its full wheelhouse of marketing tools to attract kindergarten students, retain cur-

rent fifth-graders through middle school, retain eighth-graders through high school, and attract new students at all grades. At this early juncture, MA has 1,024 students in K-10 for the 2021-22 school year.

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 11 at 6 p.m. The MA School

Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings may be held in-person and/or via Zoom, which will be streamed to the MA YouTube channel. For more information on how to join the meeting in person or virtually or to submit a public comment, see <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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

MSD (Cont. from 1)

Since early 2016 when it received the notice of violation for exceeding the radium MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) at the discharge point of the Well 3/9 Water Treatment Plant, the town has considered several treatment options including dilution (blending), an ion exchange system, HMO System (Hydrolyzed Manganese Oxidation), and adsorptive resin. See [www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#mbot1017](http://www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#mbot1017).

In 2017, the town made Well 9 treatment modifications that allowed sufficient dilution to occur to satisfy the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on the radium issue. Public Works Director Tom Tharnish said then that the state preferred a blending option that required water from Well 3/9 to mix with water from another well with significantly less radium to dilute the radium. Blending did not require the disposal of hazardous byproducts. See [www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#mbot](http://www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#mbot), [www.ocn.me/v20n12.htm#mbot](http://www.ocn.me/v20n12.htm#mbot).

When the town began this process, it was noted that treatments to remove radium result in either a liquid or solid residual that requires special disposal methods.

The town's new proposed NORM removal process would create concentrated TENORM in specialized radium removal filters. If it backwashes these radium filters into the MSD sanitary sewer collection system, the TENORM filtrates would become part of the MSD influent to TLWWTF. Disposal of the resins must be done through the only Colorado-based facility, Clean Harbors, that is authorized to process radioactive material. See [www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlwtffuc](http://www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlwtffuc).

Normally, all wastewater from the town's Public Works Department, including potable water filter backwash cleaning discharges from the water treatment plant, flows to MSD for treatment.

The CDPHE just approved the cleanup method. See related Feb. 16 Monument BOT article on page 16.

Chairman Dan Hamilton and Treasurer John Howe both suggested MSD could refuse the TENORM backwash wastewater altogether.

MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick suggested GMS create a pre-treatment regulation regarding any radium backwash TENORM in conjunction with EPA Region 8 Pretreatment Coordinator Al Garcia. He went on to recommend the new regulation make clear MSD will prohibit any wastewater with TENORM from coming to its collection system—and the TLWWTF plant. Kendrick said if the town uses an ion exchange process, which is one of several EPA's best available technologies and Small System Compliance Technologies for removing radium, the resulting solid resin aggregate is expensive to dispose of.

Adding to the issue, the CDPHE is developing guidance for implementation of regulations on registration and licensing of TENORM and is in the process of receiving stakeholder input. It will deal with requirements and provisions for the generation, handling, processing, transfer, receipt, transportation, disposal, possession, distribution, and beneficial use of TENORM. The requirements become enforceable on July 14, 2022.

Hamilton said he would lead the contract preparations suggested by Kendrick.

**ORC and engineering reports**  
Since MSD has no district manager now, Donala Water and Sanitation District is MSD's contracted Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC). Jeff Hodge, Donala general manager, said via memo that as his team familiarizes itself with the MSD systems, they fixed a circuit breaker for pump 2 at the Trails End Lift Station where they also pumped out the station and cleaned it. This led to checking connections for similar equipment.

Howe suggested the board review how invoices are split for the TLWWTF Joint Use Committee (JUC). The JUC is composed of three wastewater treatment districts—MSD, Palmer

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Trina Shook, RN  
Aesthetic Nurse Consultant

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