



**Above:** Board member Misty McCuen, left, presented Gifted and Talented (GT) Coordinator Erin Hastedt, right, with a certificate of appreciation Feb. 10. Hastedt joined MA in 2019 with 20 years of experience and an endorsement in GT and supporting the emotional needs of the gifted, she said. McCuen said parents wrote that Hastedt goes above and beyond, encouraging and engaging GT students, producing a monthly newspaper, and even creating a special math class to meet students' needs. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Board member Joseph Buczkowski said the issue is close to him as he comes from a family of immigrants. Clinton quoted Martin Luther King and MA's philosophy and said that MA is an American school. McCuen also read a statement of support for the resolution, saying that teachers should focus on the subjects they are teaching without bias.

The board unanimously passed the resolution, which can be found in its entirety at <https://bit.ly/ma-crt>.

#### Highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- MA spotlighted teacher Erin Hastedt, MA's gifted and talented (GT) coordinator, saying she goes above and beyond in encouraging and engaging GT.
- The board unanimously adopted updated graduation requirements.
- Buczkowski said the staff survey results were still under review and had a 79% participation rate.
- Board member Chris Dole said MA has over \$29 million in outstanding bonds on the East Campus, with debt service representing 20% of its overall budget. With plans for expansion

costing a minimum of \$12 million to \$15 million, hopes for teacher pay raises, and the desire to increase security measures, he hopes to see MA raise up to \$3 million starting with \$150,000 from its upcoming gala and other events to possible building naming opportunities.

- Graham discussed an upcoming School Safety Information Night on March 3 with guest speakers discussing the possibility of armed staff inside the school.
- The board approved using virtual learning on any extra snow days called after allocated snow days are used up, with only St. Aubyn voting nay.
- Graham recognized Geitner and invited parents to take advantage of his time and provide him feedback.
- The board adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel matters in relation to the

Employers Council survey as it relates to evaluating the chief operations officer.

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at the East Campus band room in person only. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. For more information, see <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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

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