

tract for one year.

Board candidates introduced

Graham noted that two board members, Chris Dole and Megghan St. Aubyn, were leaving as their terms are expiring soon and that the board voted earlier to expand to seven members. St. Aubyn said that since there were three open positions and three candidates, there was no need for an election, but the board wanted to let the candidates introduce themselves and set up a parent Q&A meeting.

The three candidates spoke briefly about their backgrounds and reason for running for the MA school board. Emily Belisle, a parent of three kids, has moved around a lot as a military family and wanted to bring her experience to MA and represent regular moms and dads. Craig Carly has a kindergartner daughter at MA and doesn't want to change a lot but wants to protect the incredible foundation. Danny O'Brien has one student at MA currently, with two more in the next couple of years. He intends to build on a foundation that is strong and keep MA steered in the right direction and moored to the foundations that have led to success.

The board unanimously voted to hold a special meeting on April 21 at the West Campus for parents to meet and question the board candidates.

Highlights

Board meeting highlights include:

- The board unanimously voted to renew the contract of its CFO, Marc Brocklehurst, for one year.
- Holmes presented a draft of a first-ever organizational chart for MA that included the newly hired, part-time Director of Academics Tina Leone and a new director of People Operations position. The chart also reflects the presence of the Monument Academy Building Corp. and the Monument Academy Foundation, organizations that hold the lease agreements for the West and East campuses, respectively. The organizational chart will be available for staff to digest, and the board will vote on it in its next meeting.
- MA spotlighted parents Josh and Wendy Brethauer, who are active volunteers and have spearheaded fundraising efforts.
- Holmes introduced Secondary High School Principal Dave Kennington and the middle school Principal Collin Vinchattle, who attended an event to meet staff and parents.
- The board brainstormed questions for its upcoming community survey regarding the FASTER armed staff program.
- The board unanimously agreed to change the date of its spring retreat to Wednesday, June 1, at the East Campus.



Above: Parents Wendy and Josh Brethauer were recognized by Monument Academy for their extensive volunteer work. The Brethauers have two daughters who attend MA. They founded the MA Security Solutions Committee in 2019 to raise money to hire MA's first school resource officer. Most recently they organized MA's first annual fundraiser event and raised \$156,000 to provide teacher bonuses and benefit safety programs. Marc Brocklehurst, chief financial officer, looks on as board member Misty McCuen, center, presents a certificate of appreciation at MA's April 14 regular board meeting. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The next regular board meeting

will be on Thursday, May 12, at 6 p.m. on the East campus. See more information at <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, April 19

Third ambulance in service; wildland fire mitigation efforts ramp up

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on April 19, the board received updates on the new district ambulance and the ongoing district wildland mitigation efforts. It held an executive session to discuss the unification process and to consider other matters regarding the draft intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the Provision of Emergency Services with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD). A pension board meeting was held after the regular meeting.

Agenda amendment

Chairman Mark Gunderman made a motion to remove the second executive session discussion regarding the future of Station 3 (now Station 6, located at 15000 Sun Hills Drive), due to a lack of information.

The board unanimously approved the agenda with the amendment.

Third ambulance in service

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs said the combined district had received about 1,100 calls since Jan. 1 and continues to be busier with calls for Emergency Medical Services and Advanced Life Support compared with the same time last year, but the district now has a third ambulance that operates out of Station 4 (formerly DWFPD Station 1). Ambulance units are still requested to assist in Colorado Springs, with about 54 requests in March, but the combined district responded to only about 26 requests, and the district will not be left without service, said Kovacs. See www.ocn.me/v22n4.htm#dwfpd.

Mitigation efforts ramping up

Kovacs said Director of Administration/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner had over a dozen chipping events scheduled for the year, and the district's goal is to get communities involved with some "sweat equity" and help mitigate a wildland fire. Secretary Larry Schwarz asked how chipping events are staffed, and if a fire break conversation had occurred in light of the Marshall Fire in Boulder County. See www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#dwfpd.

Kovacs responded with the following:

- Firefighters are paid time and a half to assist with the chipper, and homeowners are responsible for bringing yard debris to the roadside. HOA volunteer groups assist with bringing the debris to the chipper.
- The mitigation of the long grass surrounding the former golf course needs to occur several times a year.
- Through a state grant, the Town of Monument (TOM) is developing a Wildland Fire plan that will include DWFPD.
- Politicians at the state level are concerned about fire danger and grant money will be available for the combined fire district.
- The district is excited to partner with the TOM and get the document rolled out.
- A stakeholder meeting is planned for June, which will include the Monument Police Department, util-



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