

Monument Academy School Board, Jan. 3, 12, and 27

Board hires financial consultant



Above: The Monument Academy board heard from its interim chief operating officer (COO), Kim McClelland, at its Jan. 12 meeting about her efforts to get to know the staff, do some fact-finding, and begin planning to update MA's strategic plan and develop operational and academic dashboards. Pictured from left to right are board

members Joe Buczkowski and Danny O'Brien, Board president Ryan Graham, board members Lindsay Clinton and Craig Carle, McClelland, High School Principal David Kennington, Middle School Principal Colin Vinchattle and Elementary School Principal Kurt Walker. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

By Jackie Burhans

At a Jan. 3 special meeting, the Monument Academy (MA) board hired a financial consultant. At its regular meeting on Jan. 12, the board heard from its interim chief operating officer (COO) on its strategic plan and announced the process for upcoming board elections. Finally, at a special meeting on Jan. 27, the board heard about changes to its budgeting format and approved an amended budget for the 2022-23 school fiscal year.

Financial consultant hired

At a special meeting on Jan. 3, the board went into executive session for two hours to discuss "negotiations and advice to negotiators regarding potential contracted finance and bookkeeping services."

The board returned to open session, noting that its former Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Marc Brocklehurst had resigned effective Jan. 6 and announcing that it had found a solution. The board voted unanimously to authorize board President Ryan Graham to proceed with the execution of a contract with Glenn Gustafson as a financial consultant supporting the ad-

ministration and governing board. Gustafson has extensive experience working with school districts in financial roles, including as CFO for D11 schools and School Finance Program manager at the Colorado Department of Education.

The board also approved a financial manager job description.

At the Jan. 12 meeting, Graham clarified that the financial consultant role was not a permanent posting and that the board had not hired a new CFO but had posted an open position.

Board election

Vice President Lindsay Clinton reported on the upcoming MA board election. Graham, who is term-limited, and board Director Michael Geers, who was appointed to fill a vacancy, will see their terms end on June 30. Clinton explained that the board sets policy and has two employees: the COO and CFO. MA is accepting applications through March 31 from qualified applicants who are parents or guardians of a current student and over 25 years of age.

Applicants will give a five-minute statement of interest at the April



Above: At the Jan. 12 Monument Academy (MA) meeting, board Director Craig Carle, left, presents Monument Police Officer Trevon Perry, right, who serves as MA's school resource officer (SRO), with a certificate of appreciation. Carle spoke about Perry's contributions to the school as its SRO. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

board meeting and participate in a community question-and-answer session. The five-day election will be held at the end of April.

In May, the election results will be announced at the board meeting, and newly elected directors will be sworn in at the June meeting to begin their three-year term starting July 1.

Clinton raised the idea of changing MA's bylaws to expand board qualifications so that parents of high school juniors or seniors could continue their term after their student graduated. Graham noted that bylaw changes required a first reading and then would come back to a later meeting for a vote. Board Director Joe Buczkowski recommended the board take its time and do some additional research. Clinton agreed to table the discussion and bring it back later.

Strategic plan update gets focus

At the Jan. 12 meeting, Kim McClelland, interim COO, reported that she had been getting to know the staff, doing some fact-finding, and planning to develop operational and academic school dashboards, which visually display metrics on school performance. She noted that MA's strategic plan had not been updated in some time. The strategic plan would improve prioritization going forward by identifying short- and long-term goals and would guide what goes onto the

board agendas and the dashboards. The dashboard, she said, would be available to the community as well as the school district.

McClelland laid out the next steps and the process to work with stakeholders to develop the goals and objectives of the strategic plan, which will allow MA to hold the COO, administration, and students accountable. The plan should evolve over time, she said, and needs to be a living document that includes continuous dashboarding to show key performance indicators on how goals are being met. She hopes to have a draft by August.

Clinton and Board Director Craig Carle were appointed to the strategic plan committee.

Budget updates

The MA board met via Zoom on Jan. 27 to approve its amended budget for 2022-2023. Gustafson reported that former CFO Brocklehurst had prepared a mid-year budget that only included the general fund and not the preschool fund, the facility corporation funds, or the pupil activity fund. Gustafson said he talked to the D38 Chief Business Officer Brett Ridgway, who said he was not concerned so long as MA did not exceed its original budget appropriation.

Gustafson noted that Brocklehurst's budgets focused on looking at the two campuses separately due to bond requirements. Gustafson has been learning about the bonds



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