

and found out on Wednesday that annual reports were due on Jan. 26 for which he was able to scramble and get done. He also noted that MA had received a notice of deficiency because the audit has not been completed. He contacted the auditors, who said they are getting close and are required to complete it no later than March 1.

Gustafson said he would be preparing a budget using the Colorado Department of Education template he had created that would show all five funds consolidated and would also show the two campuses separately. Next year, MA will have a more robust budget that the board, parents, and community will like, and that will let the board and executive director make strategic decisions, he said.

The board unanimously approved the amended budget for the 2022-2023 school fiscal year.

Highlights

- Board meeting highlights include:
- Carle spotlighted School Resource Officer (SRO) Trevon Perry. Perry, who is also a police officer for Monument Police Department, has done a fantastic job, Carle said, building good relationships with kids and responding to a threat in December.
  - Graham reported for the Highway 105 Committee that MA had engaged Wilson & Co. as its construction manager for the West Campus recirculation project. Phase 1 of the project is expected to begin in mid-May and will construct a road behind the school to allow cars to enter and exit on Knollwood Drive and circulate around the school for carline. MA hopes to complete Phase 1 by October 2023; its current agreement with the church next door allows it to use the church's exit until Dec. 31. Phase 2 will include a roundabout at Knollwood as part of the Highway 105 expansion by El Paso County.
  - Carle reported that the Lynx Fund Annual Campaign had raised 13% of its \$500,000 goal with 153 donations, 12 of which were Lynx Legacy donations of \$1,996.
  - The board approved a resolution authorizing MA to participate in the Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust (ColoTrust) to pool funds for investment, increasing their return on reserve funds while maintaining liquidity and minimizing risk. Board Director Michael Geers voted no.
  - A new preschool contract and fee structure were unanimously approved by the board for the 2023-2024 fiscal school year.
  - The board approved a facility use agreement for its East Campus to be used as a Red Cross shelter in case of a disaster.
  - Geers read a letter from the parent survey conducted by the West Campus School Accountability and Advisory Committee (SAAC). It recommended that MA hire a communica-

tions manager and educate the community on the Colorado Measures of Academic Standards (CMAS) testing.

- The board approved the athletic sportswear discussed in the Dec. 6 meeting for inclusion into the middle school uniform

policy and instructed the governance committee to update the policy. The high school dress code already allows it.

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

meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. at the East Campus. See more information at see <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, Jan. 23

Board discusses budgeting strategy for facilities, passes amended budget

By Harriet Halbig

In response to conversations at the December board meeting and Jan. 10 work session, the board was presented with detailed information on the condition of facilities, a strategy for funding improvements, a letter to stakeholders, and an amended budget for the 2022-23 school year.

Facilities capital planning

At its December meeting, the board declined to purchase additional school buses due to uncertainty in the economy. Board President Chris Taylor requested that Execu-

tive Director of Operations and Development Chris Coulter determine the condition of the district's facilities, including the cost of regular replacement of such items as turf on playing fields. In this way funding could be prioritized.

At the Jan. 23 meeting, Coulter and Chief Business Officer Brett Ridgway reported on the results of conversations with principals and building managers at all district schools regarding the condition of their facilities. This investigation did not include Monument Acad-

emy because theirs is a separate budget. Feedback from the two high schools had not yet been received.

Improvements include such major items as roofing and paving and such minor projects as painting and replacement of carpets.

Coulter recommended spending \$3 million per year to have all facilities in good condition by the 2026-27 school year.

Coulter said that during the pandemic it became impossible to get guaranteed estimates from contractors due to fluctuating oil cost



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