

order, signed on Jan. 29, titled "Ending radical indoctrination in K-12 schooling" declared the intent to eliminate federal funding for K-12 curriculum, instruction, programs, or activities in schools that even indirectly support the advancement of gender ideology or social transition of students.

Therefore, the resolution authorizes and directs the executive director (ED) to update any relevant administrative policy, procedures, facility agreements, and usage guidelines to be consistent with the knowledge that there are only two sexes and consistent with the right to privacy and security in restrooms and locker rooms and consistent with the right to fair competition in sports. It further directs that the ED ensure restrooms and locker rooms separate males and females and that males are not competing as females in sporting events and to decline to par-

ticipate in sporting events when males may be competing as females for competing teams.

Graham then explained that this resolution rendered the JRT-MA Parental Rights policy null and void. The board unanimously approved the removal of this policy.

Parent Kristy Davis, who serves as vice president of the MA West PTO and serves on other MA committees and is the chapter chair for Moms for Liberty of El Paso County, expressed gratitude to MA for its continued dedication to upholding its mission statement and valuing parental rights.

Educational program update

Lis Richard of Helping Schools Thrive (HST) provided a training presentation on education principles, patterns, programs, and protection. MA hired HST in April 2024 to provide an operational audit, which re-



Above: At its March 13 Monument Academy School Board meeting, board member Craig Carle spotlighted MA's registrar, Lena Gross, and assistant registrar, Amanda Bennett (not shown), for their hard work registering families for the upcoming school year. They created streamlined processes, supported families with questions, and made MA a welcoming place, Carle said. From left in the photo are board President Ryan Graham, Vice President Lindsay Clinton, Gross, Carle, and board member Jilinda Dygert. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

sulted in a special meeting in October of the same year to share the results and to recommend that MA return to its charter foundations. See the November 2024 issue of OCN at <https://wp.ocn.me/v24n11d38ma/>.

Richard spoke of the seven tenets of education that MA should follow: Traditional, Classical, Character in Action, Caretakers of the language, American and Patriotic, Caretakers of the Mind, and School for the Arts. She said these are principles MA should stand on; if it didn't, she had covered that in her audit. Richard noted that it broke her heart that MA's secondary campus did not have a library, saying it was necessary to support a classical education with literature. She said she knew it was on MA's radar.

She stated that the goal is to produce virtuous citizens with the ability and tools to think for themselves rather than robots who know rote memory facts. Richard said these principles are what MA should discuss rather than the lack of a gym or other things. She asserted, "There has been such a revival of classical education recently, and even Moms

for Liberty and groups who stand for the past ideas of our country and embedding that into our young people—that is what all these groups are so passionate about because we have lost so much of the past."

Richard spoke about the educational patterns that follow the principles. Referred to as trivium and assigned to grade levels since MA must conform to the public education system, she lists them as:

- Grammar—elementary school—the facts a student needs to be successful, including parts of speech, pronouns, nouns, spelling rules, and math facts.
- Logic—middle school—connecting knowledge to the world around them and engaging in narrative.
- Rhetoric—high school—thinking analytically and critically about the world, internalizing and synthesizing to determine where they might fit.

She said that MA wanted to develop an appreciation for truth, beauty, and goodness through field trips, community involvement, and

literature and ideas that have stood the test of time. Libraries should not worry about the most popular contemporary author, as they may not align with MA's principles, she said.

Richard noted that annual state assessments would monitor and measure objective standards, though MA would not teach to the standards or tests. She then described the education programs for preschool through eighth grade with its core knowledge sequence and ninth through 12th grade as a liberal arts program with vibrant leadership emphasis. She spoke of the benefits of vertical alignment.

Finally, she discussed education protection as being the responsibility of the School Board and executive director who needed to emphasize teaching how to learn rather than what to learn, ensuring teachers are held accountable for good instructional practices, keeping the target on core virtue implementation, supporting the library needs of each campus, protecting policies supporting education at MA, providing funding, and enabling annual staff training.

Discipline concerns

Justin Kaminsky, the spouse of an MA substitute teacher and the father of three MA students, said he was proud of the community and MA and what it stands for. He said that children come to MA for the fundamental purpose of transitioning them from their happy homes to the expanses of the real world. He noted that MA buildings are training centers for challenged thinking, broadening experiences, and the realization of accountability they will be held to.

In light of recent events that allege serious physical harm to students, Kaminsky stated that the majority of parents supported and encouraged discipline. There are consequences when discipline is not maintained. He urged those in charge of disciplinary hearings, including the executive director, to enforce parental expectations and honor MA's

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MONUMENT 2040
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
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The Monument 2040 Comprehensive Plan will establish a 20-year vision for the Town. This vision will be a direct reflection of the community's aspirations, ensuring that the town's growth and development align with the values of its residents.

More than a plan, this is our commitment—to honor Monument's history while forging a future that is vibrant, resilient, and uniquely ours.

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