

handbook rules, which say that qualifying for expulsion includes behavior on- or off-property detrimental to the welfare or safety of students or school personnel. Likewise, he noted that the handbook says that the commission of one of these offenses, if committed by an adult, would qualify as assault under Colorado Statutes and should be direct grounds for expulsion.

Kaminsky stated that parents do not want MA to continue using resources for undue charity toward people threatening the growth and transition he alluded to earlier. He said if MA continues to hold young women and men accountable as children, they will stay children and that one day they will all hopefully be accountable men and women.

Additional policies passed

The following policies, reviewed at the Feb. 26 meeting, were brought back for a second reading on March 13 and were unanimously approved by the board:

- IJ-MA Selection of Instructional Materials and Textbook Policy and Procedures.
- IJ-MA-E Selection of Instructional Materials and Textbook Policy and Procedures.

Executive Director Collin Vinchattle said the previous rubric was too broad and he had sought feedback from the community on improving the tiers.

- GBK-MA-E Staff Grievance and Conflict Resolution. This is a form to be filled out by the employee presenting the

grievance.

- KE-MA Student/Family Conflict Resolution. This was formerly policy 1518B.
- KE-MA-E Student/Family Conflict Resolution. This is a form to be filled out by the complainant. MA's board policies can be found at <http://bit.ly/ma-boarddocs>.

Highlights

Board meeting highlights include:

- Board member Craig Carle spotlighted MA's registrar, Lena Gross, and assistant registrar, Amanda Bennett, for their hard work registering families for the upcoming school year. Bennett created streamlined processes, he said, supporting families with questions and making MA a welcoming place.
- Finance Director Laura Polen highlighted January financials, showing positive income across all three schools and detailed reports for each campus and fund. She expressed optimism about receiving Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) funds. Interim Chief Financial Officer Glenn Gustafson shared that while he sought Rep. Jeff Crank's assistance, progress with the IRS might remain slow.
- Gustafson described the state budget as gloomy, citing voter-approved reallocation of \$300 million to law enforcement without new taxes, forcing cuts in other areas. Proposed reductions include reducing

enrollment averaging for schools with declining numbers, and cutting optional state grants, fifth-year programs, and homeschool enrichment funding. He plans to present a draft budget in April when there's more clarity.

- Board member Matt Ross shared recommendations from the West Campus School Advisory and Accountability Committee parent survey. Parents raised concerns about fifth-grade academic rigor, requested greater club involvement, and questioned the effectiveness of the Capturing Kids' Hearts program. They urged the board to implement urgent text notifications and expressed strong interest in enhancing lunch options.
- Vinchattle announced updates to the staff handbook, incorporating MA's operational audit recommendations and details on its educational philosophy. Revisions include policy numbers, personal appearance guidelines, and field trip language. Awaiting legal review, he requested the board delay approval until the April meeting.
- The board unanimously approved changes to the 2024-25 calendar, extending half-day Fridays in April to full days to compensate for

snow days and a plumbing issue. If more days are needed, eLearning days will be considered. It also approved updates to the 2024-25 and 2025-26 calendars, finalizing the last day for staff.

- The board unanimously approved hiring a leadership teacher and revising the secondary school administrative assistant job description. Vinchattle acknowledged he had overlooked these changes, which aim to enhance principal support.
- The board unanimously approved an hourly payment proposal for HST to train the board and staff and evaluate MA's progress on its audit recommendations.
- Graham reported that

the board's legal counsel was still drafting a letter of intent to D38 for the potential purchase of the Grace Best Education Center. He noted community questions and assured that, if D38 accepted the letter, MA would have time to conduct due diligence with its inspectors.

The MA School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The next regular board meeting will be on Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Campus. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>; for the agenda and packet, see <https://bit.ly/ma-boarddocs>.

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MONUMENT PLAN (Cont. from 1)

According to the Town Council-Planning Commission Workshop held on Sept. 25, 2024, the Comprehensive Plan:

- Is developed through public participation and input.
- Establishes and guides community vision.
- Reports and expands upon community goals and objectives.
- Provides the basis for land use and community development decisions.
- Provides the basis for capital improvement planning.
- Provides the basis for grant applications and funding.
- Aligns the annual budget process with long-term community goals.
- Establishes community-developed expectation for public/private investment.

The MTC hired and is collaborating with the planning and design firm The Lakota Group to organize various public engagement events for residents, business owners, students, and community leaders to share their thoughts. Before the Bear Creek Community Conversation, they had hosted 17 focus group sessions at the Town Hall and at the local YMCA.

The conversation at Bear Creek Elementary was introduced by Dan Ungerleider, director of planning for the Town of Monument, who then asked Hannah Bader from The Lakota Group to describe the evening's format. The gathering of about 60 residents was invited to split into six groups for roundtable discussions covering the following topics:

- Housing and Neighborhood
- Economic Vitality
- Parks & Open Space
- The Downtown
- Sustainability
- Safety, Wellness, & Connectivity

Each table was hosted by a facilitator with a whiteboard to capture the input. Conversations were triggered by cards on the table with specific questions; e.g., "What are the biggest environmental concerns facing Monument today?", "What types of retail stores, services, or businesses do you feel are currently missing in Monument?", "How often do you visit downtown Monument, and what typically brings you there?"

Over the next hour, participants were encouraged

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