



**Above:** At the April 10 School Board meeting, Executive Director Collin Vinchattle recognized the Monument Academy Gala Team—Allena Baker, Vice President Lindsay Clinton, Operations Manager Jake Dicus, and Amanda Peters—for organizing a seamless event at Falcon Stadium. He highlighted the year-long planning to secure vendors and volunteers and praised their dedication to this unique tradition. The photo features, from left, board member Matt Ross, Dicus, Baker, Clinton, board member Jilinda Dygert, and board President Ryan Graham. Peters was absent. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Vice President Lindsay Clinton questioned whether parents understood the differences among prior communications, the survey, and the proposed wording. Vinchattle explained that “smart casual” was introduced at a “new high school” event. Clinton also expressed concerns about removing gender annotations, especially around makeup. Vinchattle acknowledged that dress codes often feel more punitive toward females and noted some respondents preferred business casual.

Board President Ryan Graham highlighted the policy’s ambiguity and requested changing “gender” to “sex” in the first paragraph, removing markup, and itemizing changes in a clean draft. Board Member Jilinda Dygert suggested discussing the changes with students, which Vinchattle agreed could be done during study hall, and the board could review the policy again in two weeks.

**Library Review Committee report**

Secondary Assistant Principal Jesse Davis reported that the Library Review Committee held initial meetings to review the form submission process and book scoring rubric. With seven books queued before its formation, the committee has reviewed three so far. The following books were examined:

- A parent, citing Facebook groups focused on children’s innocence, deemed *Smile* by Reina Teigemeier inappropriate for elementary students due to topics like attracting boys, bras, puberty, and kissing. They argued it conflicted with MA’s classical philosophy and noted that hygiene discussions for fifth-graders require parental permission. The committee removed the book from West Campus, placing it at East Campus for better alignment with middle school audiences.
- A parent found *Cat Kid on Purpose* by Dave Pilkey inappropriate for a third-grader after her sixth-grader raised concerns. She cited sections showing characters screaming and appearing on stage in underwear. She argued it conflicted with MA’s character-building values. The committee retained the book at West Campus, citing its positive teamwork, conflict resolution, and perseverance themes.
- A parent reviewed *Cat Kid Collaboration* by Dave Pilkey after reading *Cat Kid on Purpose*, citing similar concerns about detrimental character-building themes, including characters and parents screaming. The reviewer labeled the author’s message on “global sameness” and references

to the deaths of Batman’s and Superman’s parents and Spider-Man’s uncle as adult topics. The committee retained the book at West Campus, highlighting its alignment with MA’s moral vision and positive themes.

Vice President Lindsay Clinton noted all the books were graphic novels and asked about future purchasing priorities. Librarian Kelly Huffman emphasized supporting teacher curriculum while addressing gaps in graphic novel series and ensuring balance. Graham clarified that the board votes only to override the committee’s recommendations, with a two-year wait before a book can be challenged again.

**Additional policies discussed**

The board reviewed and unanimously approved the following policies:

- 1500A Board of Directors Governance Policy renamed BA-MA; 1500B executive director renamed to CED-MA.
- JG-MA Enrollment and Placement: added a lottery process and aligned with D38’s proof of residency requirements.
- IKE-MA Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Student: merged IKE and 1527 policies, added definitions, and aligned with MA’s mission and vision.
- KE-MA-E(1) Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Student: retention form used in the IKE-MA policy.
- 1527 Student Retention: rescinded, as it merged with IKE-MA.
- IJ-MA Selection of Instructional Materials & Textbook Policy & Procedures: removed the statement requiring alignment with federal

and state standards but emphasized monitoring standards through state/national assessments.

- IJ-MA-E Selection of Instructional Materials & Textbook Policy & Procedures: Governance Committee flagged rubric