

provide proof of attendance, and documentation of subject proficiency. MA may choose to further test the student. The principal will make the final decision. Richard noted that the parent may always choose to enroll the student in another school. She estimates this will impact between three and five kids in K or first

grade. The policy has been reviewed by legal and by the policy committee.

The school board unanimously approved this policy, which can be read in its entirety at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/1527-Student-Retention-Policy.pdf>.

**Fundraiser for field**

During the citizen comment portion of the meeting, MA PTO President Lance Goraczowski gave an update on the March 5 Green4Green auction fundraiser raising money to install artificial turf on the playground. The turf, which is phase 1 of a multi-phase project, is projected to cost \$150,000. Goraczowski asked that the board all attend the event and challenge them to bring friends and family. The PTO has received over \$60,000 in donations for the auction. He also asked the board to help sell tickets and to consider a dollar-for-dollar match.

Board member Mario Ciabarra commented the team has done a tremendous job and wanted to see more outreach outside

the school via advertising, etc. Goraczowski noted that they have done a lot of advertising in the local newspapers, website, social media, and emails to parents and alumni. Ciabarra noted that the board will do all they can and will consider the request for matching in a special meeting. Ciabarra prefers to see this as a board commitment to building a playground rather than contributing to a fundraiser. The money would come from the reserve funds.

- Board report highlights
- The teacher intent surveys show 114 out of 119 intend to return. This rate is better than the 25 percent attrition rate that is typical for U.S. charter schools.
- Reading assessments show growth year on year using diagnostic tests. Teachers have focused on reading comprehension.
- For the first year, MA is differentiating math all the way to first grade.
- Executive Director Griffin has been meeting with project managers about the Highway 105 improvement plan and posted links on the school's web site.
- Charter renewal discussions continue with really good

sessions. MA proposed a new way of calculating special education expenses.

- The twice yearly financial metric review shows that MA is in the blue (exceeded) on the new metrics agreed to in the revised strategic plan. These reflect the new covenants under the refinanced bonds.
- The budget under discussion is relatively flat. MA expects a 1.4 percent increase in per pupil revenue along with an increase in health care and retirement expenses. The state may increase reimbursement for full-day kindergarten and is looking at the impact of TABOR on tax revenues.

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The Monument Academy usually meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the school library at 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument. The next meeting will be on March 10. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee, and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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**Academy Water and Sanitation District**  
 (Continued from page 1)

Curry said he hoped AWS D can pay for half of the Donala connection project using federal grant money, "as long as the TABOR measure is approved by voters." Recent plans to also apply for state and local grants have stopped now due to complications in the TABOR law as it applies to enterprise funds, he said. By making sure current wastewater rates are reasonable and not too low, it makes it more likely the district could receive federal grant money, he said.


The existing AWS D wastewater lagoon treatment facility will be decommissioned af-


ter the connection to Donala is completed in 2018. If the district did not connect with Donala, it would have to rebuild its current treatment facility instead, which would be much more expensive. District Manager Anthony Pastorello said, "We are looking for the cheapest and best way (for district residents), but if the state takes over, they will (make us meet the new requirements) however they want."

**User fees different than construction costs**

The board members explained to a district resident attending the meeting that since Donala homeowners already pay taxes for use of the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF), but AWS D homeowners do not, once

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