obligation bond, which does not require voter ap-

proval, is issued by a state agency and secured by a non-binding covenant that any amount necessary to make up any deficiency in pledged revenues will be included in a budget recommendation to the state Legislature which may appropriate funds to make up

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the shortfall.

#### **Highlights**

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- McWilliams summarized the traditional slide presentation of the School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC). The biggest takeaway was a desire for better communication from teachers, the administration, and the board. McWilliams suggested a communication flowchart; a SAAC member asked the board to use email, social media, and the school app for agendas and to highlight policy changes.
- A grandparent of a student remarked on the difficulty of obtaining documents from MA on the TAGG substitute teacher system compared to other charter schools and raised concerns about conflicts of interest.
- Sherry Buzzell, director of Human Resources, will compare past, current, and other substitute (guest) teacher services to select the best system by the end of June in time for training.
- Deans will work with Quantum Learning (QL) to develop a new character curriculum based on QL's keys of excellence series.
- Hall swore in new board member Mark Dole, who, along with Meggan St. Aubyn—who is out of the country—will begin their terms in July.
- McWilliams recognized the service of board

President Patrick Hall whose term ended June

#### **Post-executive session actions**

The MA board made and passed the following motions unanimously unless otherwise indicated:

- Authorize the MA administration to select a guest teacher service based on completion of its research.
- Remove Griffin from the Monument Academy Foundation effective immediately and appoint McWilliams to that board.
- Approve separate charter contracts with D38 for MA's elementary and secondary schools.
- Engage in a project manager contract with Griffin to supervise and direct the secondary education project, subject to final approval by Hall as sitting board president. This motion was approved 3-1 with Melanie Strop voting no.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 18 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committees, and finances, can be found at http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board.

> Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

### BOE (Cont. from 1)

governing authority but only ensures that the academy act within state law. The district cannot tell the academy how to enter into contracts or whether to supply transportation.

Board Vice President Tiffiney Upchurch asked whether staff raises are included in the site-based budgeting. Wangeman responded that they are, with the exception of Special Education and English as a Second Language staff.

There was a single public comment on the budget. Derek Araje said the district spent \$1.1 million on modulars, primarily to house preschool classes. He said the district used parents as an excuse not to provide a centralized preschool.

Araje said that the district is not required to provide extensive preschool service and that the Pre-K services should have been cut back following the failure of last year's funding initiatives. He suggested that the community be given the opportunity to vote on the use of the Grace Best Education facility.

#### **Public comments**

Many people attended the meeting to protest the location of the new Monument Academy (MA) school at the intersection of Highways 105 and 83.

Mike Norris said he is part of a group that wants to stop construction at that location. He says he has a petition with over 100 signatures and is concerned that people drive 65 mph on Highway 83.

Stephanie Colgate is concerned with student safety at that location because there will be no security personnel. If, as planned, the YMCA also has a facility on site, she is concerned whether those entering will be screened. She said that memories of the Black Forest Fire evacuation lead to concerns about large numbers of inexperienced drivers in that area.

Allen Zendle commented that the Planning Commission approved the site by 3 to 2. He said that D-38 is the sponsoring entity and should therefore have had a say in the selection of the site. Statute says the charter authority, not the school, should select the

Steve Gutman, a resident of nearby Walden and a retired community planner, requested a special



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