



**Above:** A number of community members spoke at the D38 Board Education meeting June 10 to protest the location of the new Monument Academy facility at the intersection of Highways 105 and 83. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

meeting between concerned citizens and the board. He said there are processes to seek community input before such a decision. When the district purchased the property, it was for a small school. There was insufficient notice of the single hearing on the subject, he said.

David Conway said that MA represents taxation without representation. It is putting a middle school where it is not needed, and the current high schools are not at capacity. He said Kilmer Elementary is the right school in the right place and that hundreds of anti-MA emails have been sent.

Tom Ryan, a Kings Deer resident, said the Planning Commission meeting was well-attended. He doesn't understand how MA could claim that the county planned to improve the Highway 105 and 83 intersection when in fact the county had planned to do so in 2035. He fears increased traffic between the two MA locations and said if the construction goes forward, the bond will fail.

Sean Heery, president of a homeowners' association at the intersection of Highway 83 and County Line Road, said his children attended MA and St. Mary's High School. Although his children got a good education at MA, he said the sale of the land appeared to be a sweetheart deal.

Others commented on the recent mailer sent to area residents regarding the bond and the necessity to reach the senior population, and one commented that the district is losing teachers due to lack of compensation and overcrowding.

#### Board members' comments

Director Mark Pfoff said that the public's concerns regarding the relationship between D-38 and MA need to be addressed. When the original MA was built he objected to the location, but the school bought the property without consulting the district.

In 2006, Pfoff said, when the district needed a new high school, it rejected the site at Highways 105

and 83 due to lack of water.

The board only voted to sell the land, saying that it didn't anticipate the need to build a school on the site. See [www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#d38board](http://www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#d38board).

Pfoff stressed that building this school will not increase the number of middle school seats in the district but only move them from one location to an-

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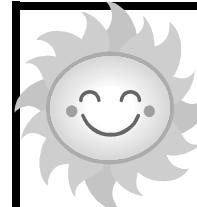
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