



Above: CRP Architect Brian Risely and builder representative Kurt Connelly provide updates on the new Monument Academy secondary school and field questions about features, timing, programs, and funding. Attendees included a mix of parents and staff along with two board members. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Attendees were split evenly between parents and teachers who raised the following issues among many others:

- Viability of the project if the YMCA does not agree to lease 5,500 square feet.
- Access control between the Y and MA.
- Effectiveness of shared teacher workspaces.
- Lack of space for special education, intervention, and counseling.
- Adequate space for audiences for performances and games.
- How to accommodate 10th-graders in Phase 1 given two-year timeframe to Phase 2.
- Why the bond is for \$28.950 million if the construction is \$17 million.
- If the land had been donated, why does MA now have to pay \$1.5 million for it?
- The role of developer and former MA board member Matt Dunston's various LLCs: Walden Corp., MA Infrastructure, etc.
- The ability to make changes to the current design footprint.

McWilliams said he thought the designs, which were led by Griffin and former Principal Elizabeth Davis, had accounted for all input but would meet with staff to review. If the YMCA agreement falls through, that space would be available for some of the missing components. He noted that the primary funder of the bond, Fred Kelly of Parker, had insisted that MA retain Griffin as a consultant and had required that they spend \$1.5 million "on paper" to purchase the land and then have MA Infrastructure LLC pay for \$1.5 million of the expected \$3 million to \$4 million in infrastructure upgrades that are part of the bond. Connelly said that given the budget and schedule, major changes are unlikely.

Highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- The board unanimously approved a larger fifth-grade class—capped at 27 per four classes.
- The board voted to recruit a chief academic officer and chief business officer, responsible for finance, facilities, and HR, to report to the board.

Board member Dwayne Cooke voted no, saying that he did not think it was in the best interest of the school financially, but agreed to support the board's decision.

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menu, do the grocery
shopping and the
cooking.*

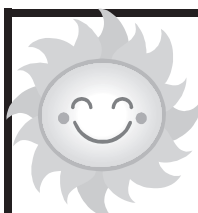
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