

is a smaller chance of becoming positive or contagious. This change may help schools stay open.

She said she was grateful that the district is committed to in-person learning as much as possible and that everyone is striving to do what is best for students.

Highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Herrera sent the board a strategic plan document for their review for next spring. The last time it was updated was in 2016.
- Herrera reported that the Colorado Charter Schools Program grant had been approved going forward with an opportunity to recoup funds later if high school enrollment projections are met.
- MA held general enrollment and eighth-grade information nights

Forest Lakes Metropolitan District and
Pinon Pines Metro Districts 1, 2, and 3, Dec. 7

Wastewater rates increase
approved

By Lisa Hatfield

The boards for Forest Lake Metropolitan District (FLMD, Pinon Pines Metropolitan District 2 and 3 (PPMD 2 and PPMD 3), and the separate board for Pinon Pines Metropolitan District 1 (PPMD 1) met on Dec. 7. They met to discuss 2020 and 2021 budgets. FLMD approved a wastewater increase, and PPMD 1 discussed the recreational areas.

Board members for FLMD, PPMD 2 and PPMD 3 are: President George Lenz, executive vice president of finance of Classic Homes; Secretary James Boulton, vice president/project manager of Classic Homes; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer Doug Stimple, CEO of Classic Homes; and Assistant Secretary Joe Loidolt, president of Classic Homes. One board member vacancy exists in all three of these districts.

PPMD 1 board directors are all residents of Forest Lakes. They are President Mike Hitchcock, Vice President Mike Slavick, Secretary Chris Paulene, AJ Slavick, and Ashley Franklin.

Ann Nichols is the manager for all four districts.

Note: FLMD, west of I-25 at the end of West Baptist Road, is a Title 32 service district in El Paso County established in 1985. FLMD is the half-acre operating district responsible for the public infrastructure and utility and general governmental services for the residents of PPMD 1, 2, and 3, which actually collect the property taxes. PPMD 1 and 2 are in unincorporated El Paso County, but the commercial section PPMD 3 is within Monument town limits.

Wastewater rate increase

In an FLMD public hearing on a proposed 7% wastewater rate increase, Nichols said her regular cost of service study found that the current wastewater rates still do not cover the cost of providing service. It is currently in a deficit that is being made up, temporarily, by development fee revenue, but this is not sustainable.

The proposed UPS Distribution Center would be in PPMD 3 and would be served by FLMD if it is approved by the Monument Board of Trustees.

that were well attended, as part of its marketing effort.

- Distance Learning Specialist Janyse Skalla reported that the schoolwide distance learning week went well. She said that secondary school distance learning had increased slightly due to family needs or pre-holiday caution.
- Strop reported that the Governance Committee met but needed more time to review policies and asked to table this discussion so that information can be sent out for the board to review and to highlight changes.
- Board member Ryan Graham provided an update on the Teacher Gift Committee, commending the organizers and noting that parents donated a total of \$31,792, which funded

\$268 each for full-time and \$134 for part-time employees.

- Patricia Silva, a parent who signed up to be a substitute teacher, reported that she spent a day in a classroom. She thanked the teacher for sharing her students and said she learned that kids really appreciate their teachers. Note: Please see school and district websites for information on how to become a substitute and the special rules enacted for this year due to COVID-19.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings may be held in-person and/or via Zoom, which will be streamed to the MA YouTube channel. For more information on how to join the meeting in person or virtually or to submit a public comment see <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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

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