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## MA (Cont. from 1)

### Armed staff discussion tabled

Board President Ryan Graham reviewed the timeline saying MA had started talking about arming staff via the FASTER training program in February, then held a special meeting in March on the program, then sent a survey to parents and staff. See more information at <https://www.ocn.me/v22n4.htm#ma>.

Graham said he felt a decision was needed quickly. He noted that some parents said they would pull their kids if MA implemented the program, and he thought it right to give them that option over the summer. He also said MA had heard from some staff members that they would leave.

Graham reported the survey results of 450 parent respondents showing support for arming staff at 67% yes, 15% no, and the rest needing more information. Staff support was at 47% yes, 30% no, and the rest needed more information.

Board member Joe Buczkowski asked about the program's cost, which Graham replied was \$1,000 per person. Graham noted that under Colorado's statutes, individuals who graduate from

the program would be contracted in addition to their current position as armed security guards. Holmes said MA should pay a stipend to participants. Buczkowski said the school's insurance premium would increase, though he did not know the exact amount. Buczkowski understood wanting to make a decision quickly but said it was hard without complete information on the budget impact. He also said it would be nice to bring in a consultant to look at the vulnerabilities of the two campuses and address prevention efforts first, then look at the FASTER program.

Board Secretary Lindsay Clinton said she felt this program was one tool in a comprehensive toolbox that included active shooter, triage, and mental health training. She strongly felt this is a tool MA should have. Board member Misty McCuen wanted to hear from staff and didn't want to live in fear or be naïve. She said she, too, was supportive of this effort and noted it did not replace the school resource officer (SRO) program.

Holmes said he was generally supportive of the program but would take direction from the board, noting that other safety procedures are available as well. Dole said he supported arming teachers



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