

two other new board members, Dwayne Cook and Melanie Strop, were administered the oath of office. Cook and Strop will begin their three-year terms on July 1. Board member Patrick Hall recognized outgoing members Saunders, who served as president, and Julie Galusky, whose terms end on June 30.

Board policies

After hearing two parents reiterate concerns about the new uniform policy requiring shoes to be one color, the board unanimously approved revisions to policies 1501 ES and 1501 MS to allow the athletic shoes to be black or white while the shoe itself and the laces must be all black or all white. A parent involved with

the uniform swap committee noted they would add shoes to the yearly swap event.

The board discussed and unanimously approved policy 1529, Administration of Non-smokable Medical Marijuana on School Grounds, which allows a parent or a licensed medical professional to bring and administer prescribed non-smokable marijuana. The marijuana must be brought to the school, administered, and then removed from school grounds.

End-of-year survey

Tanja Curtis presented highlights from the School Advisory Accountability Committee annual end-of-year survey that saw 180 families respond with over 80

percent saying they would recommend Monument Academy to others. In middle school, kids were included in the survey. Highlights include:

- Pre-school parents would like teacher conferences and a return of the music program.
- Only 35 percent of families use Infinite Campus for communication; teachers respond via email.
- The No. 1 issue is the uniform policies on shoes and hoodies due to costs.
- Fifth-grade parents would like to see study hall in the elementary grades.
- Parents would like to see increased visibility of specials.
- The Canvas system isn't being utilized and needs to be more user friendly.
- Eighty percent of kids liked their teachers; there is concern about teacher turnover in middle school.
- Less than half of kids feel they are being challenged; parents say it's too challenging.
- The overall perspective from kids

on the house system is positive.

Other highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Executive Director Don Griffin announced that MA has been able to restore the National Junior Honor Society and is working out the needed resources, bylaws changes, and the notification of parents of seventh-graders.
- MA has arranged for its choirs to do scheduled performances throughout the year at Jackson Creek Senior Living Center.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 19 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>.

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Forest Lakes Metropolitan District and Pinon Pines Metro Districts 1, 2, and 3, June 4

Differences between Forest Lakes and Pinon Pines Metro Districts discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

On June 4, two new board members joined Pinon Pines Metro District 1 (PPMD 1), and they learned more about the differences between PPMD 1, 2, and 3, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD).

FLMD is the half-acre operating district that owns and is responsible for the public infrastructure, water, wastewater, storm drainage, parks and trails, landscaping, and streetlight services for the residents of PPMD 1 and PPMD 2, the residential districts, which are in unincorporated El Paso County, and PPMD 3, the commercial section, which lies mostly within the southwest town limits of Monument. "The Pinons" are financing districts and provide no services except to collect property taxes, District Manager Ann Nichols and attorney Russell Dykstra explained on June 4.

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 each.

PPMD 1 is now made up of Lenz, Stimple, Loidolt, and newly-elected members Mike Hitchcock and Mike Slavick.

Ann Nichols is the manager for all four districts.

New PPMD 1 board members learn how statutes affect the district

No traditional swearing-in ceremony was performed for the two new members, but Hitchcock read his oath of office aloud to the group, and Slavick had already had his signature on the oath notarized before the meeting.

Slavick said he was shocked at how his property taxes increased when he moved into Forest Lakes from Woodmoor. Hitchcock agreed that his reason for running for the board was because of his high tax bill in Forest Lakes and because he "questioned how things were being done."

Dykstra reviewed Special District Association facts including:

- All district business can only be discussed and decided at posted public meetings, not in group emails or side meetings, to avoid violating the Colorado Sunshine Law.
- Metropolitan (special) districts are formed so that development will pay its own way to build new infrastructure.
- Special districts are governed by CRS Title 32, especially sections 100-1002.
- Board members must fulfill fiduciary duty to the district.
- The district manager, attorney, and accounting advisors provide guidelines for the board.
- Property tax mill levies and fees are the only funding sources for the district.
- Debt mill levy for infrastructure built already is set in stone with bonds and capped at roughly 50 mills.
- Mill levy for general operations costs can fluctuate each year and are capped at roughly 10 mills. See www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#flmd.

Note: For more background, see www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/special-districts-0.

Dykstra said it was to the advantage of residential development PPMD 1 and 2 to have commercial development such as PPMD 3 also paying property taxes to FLMD, since it pays a tax rate of 29 percent while residential taxes are assessed at 7.2 percent now. See www.ocn.me/maps.htm.

Nichols summarized that the Bristlecone and Pinon reservoirs were built in 1987, and interest has been accumulating on that loan since then. She said the multiple districts were formed to limit risk to developers. Triview and Donala were also both started as developer districts like FLMD, but eventually residents will be making up the boards and will provide services to about 500 residences.

Dispute about Bristlecone Lake water use continues

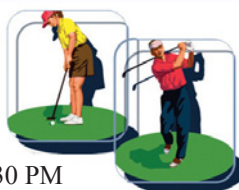
Stimple argued that residents' assertions were "factually inaccurate" when they claimed that the Classic Homes sales staff told potential buyers that Bristlecone Lake would only be a secondary source of drinking water.

In fact, it has always been the plan that FLMD's primary source of drinking

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For more information

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Two eggs, hashbrowns, choice of bacon or sausage and pancakes
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**Mon - Fri
7am - 9am**

Monday \$1⁹⁹ Kids Meals

5pm - Close

Kids 12yrs and younger can order a kids meal for just \$1.99 with each adult entree ordered.
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5pm - Close

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