

pushes, including MA. See [www.ocn.me/v18n7.htm#d38](http://www.ocn.me/v18n7.htm#d38)

MA Executive Director Don Griffin sent an email to Superintendent Karen Brofft on July 31 requesting funding for some specific segments of the new high school, totaling up to \$5 million. He requested that the funding be added to the bond ballot measure.

Griffin said that when the high school was approved, the board also approved moving the middle school (grades 6 to 8) students from the current MA campus to the new school. This move would make an additional 300 seats available for elementary-age students (K through 5).

The elements of the new school for which support was sought were:

- A competition high school gymnasium with seating for 300 spectators, \$2.46 million.
- A dramatic arts auditorium with seating for 800, \$2.25 million.
- High school locker rooms, \$840,000

Brofft reminded Griffin that these aspects of the high school could be considered because they could revert to the district in the case of the academy's failure.

When asked who would own the land on which the school was built, Griffin said that a building corporation would own it and lease it to the academy.

Board Secretary Mark Pfoff objected to the proposal for several reasons:

- The board would have no say in how the money was spent.
- Taxpayers may be unaware that MA is a separate entity.
- The board voted on wording for the bond at its June meeting and it is too late to make substantive changes.
- Pfoff would prefer that the academy seek a separate bond so that the public could decide whether they wished to support it separately.

Brofft said that a citizens committee is already promoting the bond as passed in June and said that she would like to seek legal counsel before voting on a change.

Treasurer Chris Taylor said he felt that a theme of this year is unification of the district and adding MA to the bond issue would ensure support of the bond by MA parents.

Vice President Tiffney Upchurch said that MA students are also district students and deserve support.

Director Theresa Phillips, attending by phone,

agreed with Pfoff that the timing of changing the wording so late was a problem.

President Matthew Clawson said that although timing may be a problem, MA's proposal would increase the district's seating capacity. He suggested increasing the total amount of the bonds in the revised ballot question by adding \$2.5 million for MA to avoid upsetting stakeholders by such a large amount as proposed.

The board went into executive session to consult legal counsel.

Upon reconvening, the board voted to ask the superintendent to alter the wording of the bond to include \$3.5 million for Monument Academy. Legal counsel said that increasing the proposal by more than 10 percent would threaten MA's tax-exempt status.


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