

This motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Pfoff voting no.

The board also voted to increase the price of school lunches for grades 7 to 12 by 10 cents.

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Monument Academy School Board, Aug. 9

Board discusses preparations for the new year, grant application for new facility

By Jackie Burhans

At the Monument Academy (MA) School Board meeting on Aug. 9, the board discussed preparations for the new year and applying for a grant for the middle/high school expansion.

The meeting began with an executive session on special security measures. No announcements were made after the closed session.

Preparing for new year

Principal Elizabeth Davis shared the staff training schedule and her approach to training, saying that MA hires professionals who have strengths and areas of growth but do not depend on one-size-fits-all training. The training is grouped by whether staff members are new to the profession, new to MA, or new to their team. MA does training based on those factors; members are also trained with their new team members. MA also offered a complete refresher on Saxon math and is continuing to roll out Cornell note-taking with fourth- through eighth-grade teachers.

Davis highlighted additional activities, including:

- Finalizing character curriculum for next year.
- Interviewing fifth-grade teacher candidates.
- Reviewed middle school meet-and-greet activities and parent communication.
- Facilitated training for middle school English teachers in the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) curriculum.
- Planned middle school back-to-school teacher training on discipline, uniforms, character education, and houses.

Charter school grant for new facility

Executive Director Don Griffin reported on the Colorado Charter Schools Program (CCSP) grant that MA will apply for from the Colorado Department of Education.

CCSP provides grants and technical assistance to new and expanding charter schools. The grant may be used for reasonable expenses associated with planning, design, and implementation of a new school or significant expansion project for up to three years. Eligible expenses include equipment, furnishings, professional development, board training, curriculum and supplies, library development, technology, and software.

Davis will attend a mandatory meeting in support of MA's request for \$190,000 per year for three years. MA's grant request will be considered and, possibly, approved in fall 2019.

Other highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Teacher turnover rate as of July 31 was 15 percent, the lowest in three years. Overall turnover is 18 to 19 percent, with the national average around 25 to 30 percent.
- Three general contractor finalists for the new middle/high school were selected and interviewed on Aug. 22.
- The annual operations report was submitted to D38 on time and will be presented at the January D38 Board of Education meeting. See <http://bit.ly/ma-annual-2018>.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 13 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 board, including schedule, minutes, committee, and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Aug. 20

Discussion of bond issue continues

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education continued its discussion of a proposed bond issue for the November ballot at its Aug. 20 meeting after a one-hour executive session at the beginning of the meeting.

At its special meeting on Aug. 6, the board had voted to include \$3.5 million on the bond to support the construction of the new Monument Academy high school, proposed to open in 2019, but it did not finalize the bond ballot wording at that meeting. On Aug. 20, due to an inability to resolve a last-minute recognition of a legal issue related to Monument Academy's articles of incorporation, the board did not finalize the wording either, but added another special meeting for Aug. 23.

Bond discussion

The board discussed the wording of both the mill levy override (MLO) and the bond issue for the November ballot.

The board voted to approve the wording of the MLO as presented. This initiative supports safety and security by funding the hiring of additional security personnel and counselors.

Turning to the bond issue, board Secretary Mark Pfoff proposed that the addition of \$3.5 million for Monument Academy (MA) be deleted.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman said that the administration had recently been informed that the Monument Academy Building Corp., which would own the property and lease it to the academy, was not required to refund money to the district or MA in the event that the corporation failed. She said that investing such a large sum in the corporation without guarantee of return would be irresponsible. Rather than reverting to the district or MA, the assets would go to a tax-exempt entity that supports education.

Superintendent Karen Brofft commented that, should MA fail, its assets revert to the district. This is not

the case with the building corporation.

President Matthew Clawson said that he sees this as a hurdle to the bond. He suggested having an additional meeting on Aug. 23.

Director Theresa Phillips said that the community had no input in adding MA to the bond due to the late date of the proposal. She felt that, had a traditional school made such a request, the board would have rejected it. Pfoff confirmed that the MA proposal was late and that the original bond was created following many months of deliberation. He said he hoped that the board could approve some type of wording on a 5-0 vote. He withdrew the motion to delete the MA portion of the bond and agreed to an additional meeting.

Resolution on sale of district property

A motion was made to sell the district's property at the intersection of Highways 105 and 83 because it would not be needed in the foreseeable future.

Pfoff said that the public has insufficient information on this issue. He said that the district has owned the property for a long time and growth continues in that part of the district, perhaps requiring a new school at that location. In his opinion, the land may be needed by the district.

Treasurer Chris Taylor said that he thought the main growth area was in another part of the district.

Pfoff said the board cannot state that it has no use in the foreseeable future, and it would cost the district nothing to retain it.

Vice President Tiffney Upchurch said that she recalled seeing a "for sale" sign on the property and asked Wangeman for some history.

Wangeman said that the property was seen as a potential high school site when purchased 14 years ago. The school was not built due to water problems.

In 2007-08, as part of a planning study, it was determined that an elementary would not be built there due to the proximity of Kilmer Elementary.

Brofft said that the sale sign was put up in December 2017. Wangeman compiled a list of interested parties.

In October 2017, MA Executive Director Don Griffin expressed interest in the property.

In March of this year, the board considered leasing the property to MA. A third party then considered purchasing it and donating it to MA.

Clawson said that he felt it was better to monetize the property if the district were not to use it. There are a number of problems, including water and ingress and

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