

executive director's future daughter-in-law without valid transcripts, and an alleged affair.

Longenbach was interrupted several times by board members who confirmed she was not a parent of an MA student but confirmed her right to speak and incorrectly stated she had two minutes to speak, which they immediately corrected to three minutes. After her comments, Hall said she was "welcome to leave" and reiterated that she was not a parent but, along with board member Mark McWilliams, confirmed she had every right to speak.

Update on new school

Griffin reported that construction meetings continue and noted that the El Paso Planning Commission had approved MA's site plan. The next steps include approvals from the Colorado Department of Transportation regarding the intersection, the storm water management plan, and environmental impact reports. He felt that everything was on schedule to begin construction in June. Board member Melanie Strop asked if the YMCA was part of the approval and Griffin stated that the approval was for the site plan that included the 5,000 square feet for the Y. See related El Paso County Planning Commission article on page 1.

Highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- The board voted unanimously to change Open Records policy 1512 from the statute-allowed one free hour of resource per request to calculating that hour on a cumulative basis per month on the advice of their legal counsel and approval of the Governance Committee. After the first hour per month, MA will charge the \$30 per hour allowed by statute. MA has responded to 35 CORA requests in the last 12 months from nine individuals who are not parents of MA students.
- Griffin met with D38 Superintendent Karen Brofft and Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wageman to discuss implementation of the 2017 law that requires districts to share mill levy override (MLO) proceeds with their charter schools. MA will receive the legally required 95 percent of the MLO money on a per pupil basis to be offset against fees MA pays the district effective July 1, 2019.
- The board recognized teacher representatives Tom Herndon and Kelli Beers for their service during the 2018-19 year.
- Principal Elizabeth Davis noted teacher retention rate was stable with 11 teachers not returning next year. MA's retention rate is higher than the national rate for

charter schools. Davis said that the intent to return form asks why they are leaving, and that MA is a somewhat transient neighborhood.

- Board member Dwayne Cooke reported on the board's annual support assessment noting general agreement on 12 of 13 questions. However, 33 percent of respondents disagreed that they had good information to monitor school performance especially at the middle school. Additional comments said the board should review its role in relating to the executive director, principals, and parents; proper onboarding of new board members is needed

for the board to fully understand policies; and work sessions would further goals of working together as one board.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 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 except for July and December. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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

Monument Academy School Board Special Meeting, May 28

Executive Director's contract not renewed

By Jackie Burhans

At a special board meeting on May 28 attended by 35 people including teachers and parents, the Monument Academy school board voted unanimously not to renew the contract of Executive Director Don Griffin for the 2019-20 school year, giving no reason.

Board President Patrick Hall said this decision was made in accordance with the school's commitment to the

value of integrity and transparency. He expressed gratitude for Griffin's commitment to the school and efforts on the high school project. He indicated MA would consider using Griffin in a consulting capacity on the project, and the board expected to break ground soon and open in 2020.

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

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, May 6 and 20

Board approves contracts for Lewis-Palmer High School principal and head of Financial Services

By Harriet Halbig

At its special meeting on May 6, the Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education approved contracts for Bridget O'Connor as principal of Lewis-Palmer High School and David Crews as executive director of Financial Services.

During the following work session, the board continued to refine a presentation to reflect projected growth in the district, including the possible impact of the opening of the new Monument Academy middle and high school.

Some suggestions included making the two middle school areas coincide with the two high schools (assuming that Bear Creek Elementary will become Creekside Middle School with the passage of this year's bond). Another consideration is the impact of moving sixth-graders from the elementaries into the middle schools.

Further discussion included the difference between program and design capacity of each facility. The distinction involves such requirements as a limit to the number of students in a

preschool classroom and a limit to the number of students in special education rooms, both of which are much smaller in number than a regular class.

At present, some spaces that were not intended to be classrooms are serving as such, especially at the middle school.

Director Mark Pfoff commented that if a new elementary is built on the campus with Bear Creek (to become Creekside Middle School), the district could move fifth-graders into the middle school without disrupting bus service. This decision cannot be made before the proposed bond election.

Board Vice President Tiffney Upchurch said that the board should have a plan ahead of time.

The board discussed the financing of the proposed bond, bond language, and the 2019-20 budget.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wageman said that full-day kindergarten will be offered beginning this fall. This is in response to state law. The district can no longer charge tuition

Let us sell for YOU on the WORLD'S LARGEST auction site!

Professional photographs, descriptions & shipping!

We do ALL the work so you don't have to!



The Blue Sage Merchant

stores.ebay.com/thebluesagemerchant

Call 488-1822 or visit us at 251 Front St., Monument

Tuesday - Friday 10-4 & Saturday 10-3
Closed Sunday & Monday

Proudly serving the Front Range for 16 years!



I'm saving for walks in the park.



Investment strategies for a lifetime of income.

At Lang Investment Services, our goal-focused strategies are designed to help you live a life of purpose and passion—without worrying about running out of money in your golden years.

(719) 481-0887 • langinvestmentservices.com
236 North Washington St., Monument, CO 80132

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products and services offered through CES Insurance Agency.

Serving the Tri-Lakes area since 1998.