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curriculum mapping and alignment to ensure that students at the same grade level at different schools are receiving the same information at any given time.

Each year, curriculum from different grade levels and subject matter are reviewed and new alternatives are proposed. The community is invited to review the new materials before adoption by the board, followed by a period of training for teachers before the materials are introduced in the classroom.

Johnson reported that recent innovations and digital systems allow teachers to tailor material to various learning styles, including audio versions of texts and specialized flash cards. Assignments can be accessed electronically.

One problem is that some schools have more electronic devices than others to access the digital materials. Grants are being sought to solve this prob-

Communications update

Public Information Officer Julie Stephen encouraged committee members to use their tablets or cell phones to access Thoughtexchange and provide their opinions on the effectiveness of the department's programs.

Opinions were sought on the website of various methods of notifying parents of closures and schedule changes, and suggestions of new strategies. These opinions would be recorded electronically, enabling the department to compile them for later use.

The same system is being used at the community collaboration meetings.

Student Services update

Director of Student Services Krystal Rasmussen reported on initiatives in her department. For further information, see the article on the Board of Education on page 1 of this issue.

DAAC Co-chair Susan Hunter-Smith reminded the committee that her term will end at the April meeting and encouraged members to come forward to volunteer their services.

The next meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee will be at 7 p.m. on April 14 in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Monument Academy School Board, Feb.13

Board sets school calendar, discusses uniforms and board election

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held a regular board meeting on Feb. 13 to approve the academic calendar and discuss the uniform policy and the upcoming board election. New board member Susan Byrd was sworn in and Lewis-Palmer D38 board member Tiffiney Upchurch attended as the board liaison to MA.

Academic calendar

The board discussed options for the academic calendar, noting that the district's approved calendar starts Aug. 18. Members also discussed a calendar that starts on the 20th or 31st, making sure to incorporate 167 days of contact. It would mean a longer summer and push the semester to end after Christmas but would ensure extra time for the new building to be finished.





has been mitigated by extending work hours. Many people agreed that a later calendar start was not ideal but was doable and would be a one-year modification to the standard calendar. There was a lot of discussion on the impact of snow days and the need to build in and communicate

Construction has been impacted by the weather but

alternate days off that could be converted if there are too many snow days. The board, administration, and teachers weighed in on the need to have days off built into the calendar during stretches where there are no holidays in order to mitigate burnout.

The board voted unanimously to approve a calendar with a start day of Aug. 31, adding Oct. 16 as a day off and making sure to highlight school board meetings. The 2020-21 calendar can be seen at: bit.ly/ ma-cal-2021.

High school uniform policy versus dress code

The results of the survey came back with resounding support for an open dress policy, including any color shoes and socks with logos for the secondary school. A caveat is that students should dress modestly to honor themselves and the school. The elementary uniform policy would remain the same, though it may be modified to allow a small logo of the opposite color on black and white shoes. The middle school uniform policy would allow more leeway in polo colors.

The board discussed jewelry, piercings, and hoodies and other clarifications and moved to have the Uniform Committee revise the policy in light of their discussion and return for final approval. Current uniform policies can be seen at bit.ly/ma-polices.

Board election

The board discussed how to conduct the upcoming election to replace the two board members whose terms are expiring: President Mark McWilliams and board member Mike Molsen. They noted that in the past the election had been handled by the executive



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- Sign-ups start 5-6 weeks prior to class. Register at www.tlumc.org/events/event-registration
- Any age welcome that can pay attention for 8 hrs.
- The \$30 cost includes the certification card and course manual.
- Held at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church (TLUMC), 20256 Hunting Downs Way (in King's Deer, just SW of Hwy 83 and Palmer Divide Ave./ County Line Rd).
- Bring a lunch, no restaurants nearby.
- Can't make this one? Future classes July 11, Oct. 10
- Questions? Contact TLUMC Emergency Preparedness Group at epg@tlumc.org.