

Monument Academy School Board, March 12

Board approves pandemic plan, construction contingencies, and teachers' raises

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held a regular board meeting on March 12 to discuss pandemic plans and construction updates, approve teachers' raises, and make plans for the upcoming board election. Board member Chris Dole was absent.

Pandemic planning

Chief Operating Officer (COO) Christianna Herrera thanked the Information Technology (IT) committee

and school administration for their help on the pandemic readiness and operation plan she was submitting to the board for its approval. The plan includes an eLearning option that she had already thought might be useful for snow days based on the current year.

She noted that Lewis-Palmer District 38 Superintendent Dr. K.C. Somers had contacted her about communications he had had with area superintendents and shared communication that went out just before the board meeting indicating the district would be closed for 14 days to include spring break, returning on March 30. (Note: Later communication extended the school closure until April 20 based on Gov. Polis' executive order to stay at home.). The plan, if approved by the board, indicates that MA will cooperate with the district plan and that all communication will go out district-wide, including to MA and its staff.

Herrera said the district and MA will use the time off to do a deep cleaning of schools, facilities, and

buses using industrial products. She noted that if the break extended beyond the initial two weeks, MA would implement its eLearning option and would continue to pay faculty and staff. The district would handle any required waivers of contact hours (educational hours teachers must spend with students) due to this extended time off.

Herrera noted the cooperation among districts across Colorado and said this has been very unifying. She said the extra week would allow everyone to be trained before rolling out eLearning, which can be used in the future for snow days as well. Herrera confirmed the curriculum is the same as what is already used. In a nutshell, the plan covers taking attendance, office hours for four hours a day via call, email, or Google Hangouts to ask questions on instruction and assignments. She noted that eLearning already happens in Colorado in Banning Lewis and D49.

The board discussed device and internet access and availability as well as screen time and control. The board unanimously approved the pandemic and eLearning plan.

More information from the district about the pandemic can be found at <http://lewispalmer.org/coronavirus>.

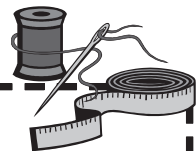
Construction update

Board member Melanie Strop reported that contingency funds were good at around \$200,000, but there is a hiccup on material for the new secondary school. The tariffs placed on China and the impact of the epidemic may cause material delay for flooring, finishes, and drywall. She noted that it is not easy to switch to other suppliers due to higher costs but said that project is on schedule for now.

Board President Mark McWilliams noted there might be several things adding to the delays, given

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