

of Advanced Placement (AP) courses were specifically mentioned.

Respondents also said they still believe in and love MA and hope that there will be greater years ahead with consistent leadership and faculty. They suggested MA should work on building a community of teachers and staff again by encouraging and appreciating them, and respondents provided positive comments for teachers by name.

Graham expressed his appreciation for the report, saying this would fall back into MA's Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis, and expressed his support for continuing this survey on an annual basis.

Highlights

Board meeting highlights include:

- The board swore in the three new board members, Emily Belisle, Craig Carle, and Danny O'Brien, of whom only Carle was physically present.
- The board held a special meeting on July 22 to go into an executive session to discuss COO performance. Several hours later, they came out and voted to create a committee consisting of Buczkowski and Carle to investigate contracts and operations, reporting back by Aug. 5.
- Graham reported that the Highway 105-related re-circulation plan went back out to bid but still received no responses, so the project will not likely be done this coming school year and may be delayed until next summer. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints next door has graciously said it will extend MA's use agreement through the 2022-23 school year.
- Buczkowski reported for the Finance Committee that the school has financial challenges for the upcoming year because the debt service for the East Campus building will increase by \$1.4 million, which will lead to a \$700,000 deficit unless MA raises funds or uses its reserves. MA hopes to

close that gap by increasing enrollment, fundraising, and other efforts.

- Parent Emily Davis said she had kids both at MA and D38 schools and noted common ground regarding snow day schedules, band concerts, and a safety grant. She said MA couldn't exist without D38, and D38 can't serve all students without MA. Noting that D38 is considering a mill levy override (MLO), Davis said that MA could gain up to \$1.1 million to increase teacher pay and that it would be foolish not to support an effort that draws from the whole community. She urged the board to work cooperatively with D38 on this issue.

The MA School Board meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The next regular board meeting

will be on Thursday, Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. on the East Campus. See more information at see <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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

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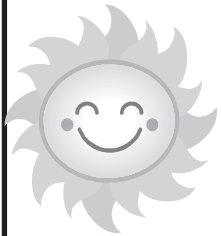
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