

Highlights

Board meeting highlights include:

- Board Vice President Lindsay Clinton spotlighted Amanda Peters, a parent, for bringing her event-planning skills to MA's Boot, Scoot, and Bid fundraiser. Dicus reported that the event was a great success, raising over \$129,000, which would impact salaries, contributions toward benefits, and a second school resource officer.
- The board unanimously approved changes to MA's bylaws specifying that the board may not include MA employees or their immediate family and declaring that a director shall be deemed to have resigned in the event they have two unexcused absences.
- The board set its summer retreat date for 9 a.m. July 13 ahead of its regular meeting.
- Clinton said that Board Café chats would resume in August.
- Graham said the first pre-construction meeting for the recirculation road around the West Campus was held on the morning of May 11 at the Wilson & Co offices. They will be mobilizing equipment on May 22 and breaking ground shortly.
- Graham thanked the MA West Campus Parent-Teacher Organization for reaching out about a shade structure. He spoke with contractors at a pre-construction meeting about doing this work at the same time.
- Board member Michael Geers reported on the School Accountability and Advisory Committee (SAAC) West end-of-year survey, which recommended the school put out a video on how to use the carline and hopes to see PTO events better promoted.
- Board member Emily Belisle reported that the SAAC East end-of-year survey had 39 responses, whose greatest concern was mid-year teacher turnover. The committee recommends that the board remain dedicated to staff pay and retention, aligning curriculum, expanding extracurricular activities, and developing school spirit and meaningful traditions.
- After the adjournment of the May 11 board meeting, Calvin Yuen, a student, spoke against the board's

cancellation of an eSport event, saying the club was trying to make money for something students are passionate about.

- After the executive session following the special meeting on May 25, the board reported that member Danny O'Brien has resigned from the board.

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, June 8, at 6 p.m. at the East Campus. See more information at <https://bit.ly/ma-boe>.

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D38 BOE (Cont. from 1)

whether this increase in state funding was sustainable.

Ridgway responded that this amount is sustainable but that another increase of this magnitude is unlikely.

Schwarz commented that this indicates that the state is confident in its ability to fund at this level.

In his proposed budget presentation later in the meeting, Ridgway also mentioned interest income as a revenue source. Interest income for this year totals \$200,000, which will be applied to compensation.

Ridgway also said that the district has set aside \$3 million for capital improvements in the coming year, returning to pre-pandemic levels.

When asked how property taxes are reflected in the revenue, Ridgway responded that property taxes never leave the county. The state is aware of the amount collected and backfills the remaining amount to reach the appropriate funding.

He pointed out that D38 enjoyed a large increase in property values over the past few years and consequently provided a larger percentage of the funding than some smaller counties.

The proposed budget presented later in the meeting is required by state statute to be provided by May 31. The board will vote to approve the final budget at its June 26 meeting.

Pay schedule approved

Ridgway explained the pay schedule, which reflects the increase in state revenue.

Ridgway explained some new programs which will be made available to employees in the coming year. These include Health Savings Plans, lower bonuses for hard-to-fill positions, and bonuses for longevity. In addition, employees will be credited for additional years of experience, for 15 years up from the current nine, and this credit will be reflected in compensation. Over the next few years, this credit will increase to 20 years.

Ridgway credited the Staff Collaboration Committee for its help in determining which programs are desired by district employees.

He reported that nearby districts anticipate increasing compensation by 8% to 9% while D38 will be able to provide an average 12% when including the \$850,000 in efficiencies. While this does not entirely close the gap, it is a considerable improvement.

For details on the pay schedule, please see boarddocs on the district website, lewispalmer.org, under the May 22 date of this meeting.

The board approved the pay schedule as presented.

Board reorganization revised

At its April 17 meeting, following the appointment of Kris Norris as the new director of District 1, the board conducted a reorganization in pursuit of district policy.

At the April meeting, the board elected Tiffney Upchurch president by secret ballot, and the board voted on a new vice president, which was not a vacant position.

Because this position was already filled by Theresa Phillips, the vote for new board vice president was considered null and void.

The board thereby proposed that Phillips be reinstated as vice president. At the May 22 meeting, the board appointed Norris as board secretary.

This proposal was passed.

The board further stated that though the full reorganization was not necessary during the April meeting, it is important to note that all members have been duly elected and appointed and their actions are still valid.

Parent and Community Advisory Committee

Outgoing Chair Kelly Bain reported on activities of the Parent and Community Advisory Committee.

The committee is composed of teachers and parents from all schools in the district, including Monument Academy, liaisons from the Board of

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Above and left: At the May 22 meeting of the D38 Board of Education, the board recognized the Bearbotics district robotics team. Head coaches Jeanette Breton and Mike Hinkle (see

inset) displayed their robots for the First Robotics Club (FRC), First Technical Challenge (FTC), and First Lego League (FLL) teams. Dan Vandehoek, FRC representative and co-captain, and other team members spoke about the program's origins and the team's efforts and achievements over the past school year. All three teams placed in regionals and went to state competitions. Bearbotics is an experiential learning program for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)-focused students. Teams build large, custom, high-power, complex robots—using the latest design and fabrication tools—for competition. Students practice skills like leadership, communication, project and business management, teamwork, and applied creativity in a supportive environment with extensive access to local professionals for mentorship. Learn more about Bearbotics and its summer programs and support the team at www.bearbotics.org. Photos by Jackie Burhans.