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Monument Academy School Board, Sept. 8

## Board hears test plans, Highway 105 update, audit report

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) school board met on Sept. 8 to hear about testing, Director Don Griffin's meeting with Highway 105 engineers, and to discuss the school's audit report. Board member Julie Galusky was absent.

### PARCC and NWEA testing challenges

Board President Sonya Camarco noted that the school has seen a low participation in PARCC testing for the last two years and that kids who opted out had stayed home. She wondered if the kids who did participate could be switched to the library, allowing the kids who opt out to

have a full day of school. Principal Lis Richard noted that a large amount of space is needed even though only 30 to 40 percent of the kids participate. All of the grades have to test at the same time and cannot be in the same room. Richard noted that the school is considering a delayed start so that the kids who opt out can come later and teachers can plan solid instruction rather than lose that time.

Griffin and Richard noted that a project to replace computer servers was taking longer than anticipated. Richard noted that due to time required to do the replacement, configuration, and data migration, it was decided that MA would do the NWEA testing a little bit differently this fall only. MA will only test new students and second-graders (since they've never been tested before) to lessen the load on the system. MA will not add Science for this round of testing. They will still be able to show the year's growth from spring to spring.

### Highway 105 project update

Director Griffin met with two engineers on the Highway 105 project on Sept. 7. The initial drawings he saw did not appear to have any accommodation for MA parents. At one point, they wanted to restrict left turns from 105 into the church property, which would be a disaster, he said. They also suggested a solid median that would run from Knollwood Drive almost past the church—this would cause parents to make a U-turn on a blind hill. The county engineer came back at Griffin's invitation that afternoon to observe the carline and take pictures. Griffin discussed parent needs during pickup and concerns for safety and talked about MA paying for a warning light. Griffin felt the county heard MA's concerns.

### Audit report

Paul Niedermuller of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP appeared before the board to discuss the audit report. He noted that some adjustments were made on the building core to comply with standards and some adjustments related to the pension liability surrounding MA's participation in the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA). He noted that net pension liability is an estimate and that the assumed rate of return of Colorado PERA is set by the Legislature at 7.5 percent. Over the past two years, the miss on that projection is about \$1.3 billion from the school trust fund. The MA balance sheet reflects

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