

Monument Academy School Board, June 9

Board welcomes new members, appropriates excess funds to potential teacher bonus fund



Above: At the Monument Academy School Board meeting on June 9, the board recognized the services of outgoing board member Jason Castro.

Left: New Monument Academy school board members Patrick Hall, left, and Matthew Dunston, right, are sworn in. *Photos by Jackie Burhans.*

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) school board met June 9 to recognize outgoing board members, swear in incoming members, and appropriate \$450,000 to a Potential Bonus Endowment Fund.

Recognition and oath for board members

Board member Sonya Camarco presented Jason Castro with a plaque in recognition of his three years of service on the board. Mario Ciabarra, who also concluded his service with the board, was absent. Board member Jason Castro administered the oath of office to new board members Patrick Hall and Matthew Dunston who will take office at the July meeting. Castro asked Camarco to chair the nominating committee and asked board members Andy Gifford and Julie Galusky to be members of the committee. The nominating committee was directed to meet before the next board meeting member to propose officers for next year as well as make recommendations for board committees and assignments. Since three board members will be meeting it must be an open meeting, although they are not required to post it.

Potential teacher bonus fund appropriated

In a discussion of the motion to revise the 2015-16 appropriation, Camarco noted that Colorado Statute 22-44-106(2) states that general expenses plus reserves cannot equal more than 15 percent of the budget. She noted that MA needed to appropriate (though not necessarily spend) about \$450,000 for budgeting items as a contingency. The appropriation would be used for potential bonuses for teachers in the form of a segregated endowment. Per the board documents, this money could be used for general fund expenses in the event of a 7 percent decrease in students, per pupil revenue, or capital construction funds and may be used as performance-based bonuses as deemed appropriate by the administration. This type of appropriation will have to happen each year depending on the state of the budget. The MA board unanimously approved this motion.

The next line item was to amend the 2016-17 budget from April to reflect the appropriation change. This motion was also unanimously approved.

Board report highlights

- The assessment report will be ready for the board in time for the July meeting and will be put on the website.
- Teacher turnover rate was 17.85 percent, which was higher than previous year's rate of 13 percent but is

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