Parents speak out on new uniform policy, phasing out of National Junior Honor Society

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on May 10 to hear parents’ concerns about the new uniform policies and the phasing out of the National Junior Honor Society (NHS), hear highlights of a teacher survey, and to vote on a builder’s representative and architect for the new high school. Board member Mike Molson was absent, and Matt Dunston has resigned from the board.

Uniform policy concerns
Four of the five parents speaking at the board meeting indicated concerns with the new uniform policies 1501-ES and 1501-MS (see http://bit.ly/ma-bd-policies). One parent felt that there was an unwelcome shift coming with the new high school being positioned as a preparatory school. She said there was already a rift with the community, which sees MA as elitist and very militaristic and she felt the uniform changes would widen the rift. She expressed concern about the financial burden of purchasing new items for the uniform rather than being able to use hand-me-downs. She noted that there was concern with kids hiding vaping pens in sweatsuits but felt it was harsh to punish the entire student body for the acts of a few. She indicated that skinny pants were the only ones that fit her daughter and asked that the board consider softening the policy or allowing her daughter to wear the pants she could wear.

A third parent, who claimed to be a preparatory school, said there would be a rift with the community, which sees MA as elitist and very militaristic and she felt the uniform changes would widen the rift. She expressed concern about the financial burden of purchasing new items for the uniform rather than being able to use hand-me-downs. She noted that there was concern with kids hiding vaping pens in sweatsuits but felt it was harsh to punish the entire student body for the acts of a few. She indicated that skinny pants were the only ones that fit her daughter and asked that the board consider softening the policy or allowing her daughter to wear the pants she could wear.

A fourth parent was concerned about the new policy but had questions about the process. They asked why this was a concern for the board and why there wasn’t a community discussion. They suggested waiting until the board receives more data from the community and that the board should consider softening the policy or allowing students to choose what they wear.

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Above: Caleb Landrum, left, and Andrew Deeds were congratulated by Superintendent Karen Brofft for their fundraising for the Shield 616 organization. Photo by Harriet Halbig

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