

Madera Unified School District
District Safety Committee Meeting via ZOOM
Thursday, October 17, 2024
5:13 PM – 6:03 PM

MINUTES

I. Welcoming and Introductions:

Introductions made at the beginning of the meeting:

Prince Marshall, Assistant Superintendent- Student and Family Support Services

Ruben Mendoza, MUSD Board Trustee

Joetta Fleak, MUSD Board Trustee

Nadeem Ahmad, MUSD Board Trustee

Lawrence Fernandez, Director- Safety and Security Department

Brad Holck, Principal, Desmond Middle School

Matt Tobin, Principal, Mt. Vista

Aurora Guzman, Vice Principal- Martin Luther King Junior High

Catalina Garcia, Administrative Assistant/Minutes

II. Previous Minute Review : Prince Marshall

III. Gang Task Force Collaborative: Lawrence Fernandez

- Heavy gang activity in our middle schools and three High Schools
- MUSD is collaborating with MPD, Probation, District Attorney, MCSOS, Madera Behavioral Health to meet bi-monthly and bring our resources together to reduce gang activity.
- Creating opportunities for our students/families to develop capacity around gangs and encouraging our students to select positive outlets
- The focus of the task force is: Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement
- Building a list of students that are playing a key role in gang activity (Bubble Youth)
- Reaching out directly to the students and completing home visits to also educate parents
- Gang workshops have been arranged for parents this semester in collaboration with our Gang Consultant Hector Garibay. These workshops are done in both English and Spanish.

IV. School Resource Officers: Lawrence Fernandez

- Thank you to the support the MUSD School Resource Officers provided over the past several years.
- This year's data shows that our SRO's are more vital than ever, handling a growing number of incidents and ensuring our schools remain a safe place for all.
- SRO's not only respond to immediate needs but also build relationships with students, making themselves approachable and trusted figures on campus.
- Story shared regarding personable examples of the SRO's impact with students on campuses.

- V. Cell Phone Initiative for Middle Schools/Ripperdan:** Prince Marshall & Lawrence Fernandez
- Hosted two town halls (in-person and virtual) explaining to the community the current law and direction of the district regarding cell phone YONDR pouch.
 - Discussed the schools we visited and they're experiences
 - Impact of cell phones on our youth academically, behavior, mental health and less school day interruption with school threats.
 - The program will start January 2025 for the Junior High Schools and High School will begin August 2025.
 - A FAQ brochure needs to be created for staff, students and parents.

- VI. School Hoax responses:** Lawrence Fernandez
- Across the state and nation schools are dealing with an increase in social media hoaxes.
 - We take these calls very seriously every single time.
 - Our district has had approximately ten since the school year started.
 - Many of the calls came through the week of September 16, 2024.
 - MPD was informed that an extremist group was taking requests to make threats to schools starting on October 3, 2024.
 - If it can be traced to someone specific, the suspect runs the risk of pending criminal charges

VII. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

VIII. Next Meeting: December 12, 2024

VIX. Meeting adjourned @ 6:03 PM