



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

By John Rieping, Executive Administrative Assistant for the Superintendent's Office

Below is a brief summary of a regular meeting of the MUSD school board. It is not comprehensive and is for informational purposes only. Meeting recordings will be uploaded online ([click here for video](#)). Official minutes listing board actions at each meeting are approved at the following meetings and can also be viewed online ([click here](#)).

Information and Reports

UNION TIME - David Holder, president of Madera Unified Teachers Association, said last week's orientation for about 100 new teachers and this year's summer school went well. "Having increasing numbers of brand new teachers each year reinforces the direction that MUSD has taken to invest resources and experienced" educators to support inexperienced ones, he said. "This is a California statewide education situation and not all school districts are taking a proactive approach" like MUSD.

Superintendent's Time

1. **STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING** - Superintendent Todd Lile praised the "superb" planning and execution of the Strategic Action Planning Day on August 2 by the Area Assistant Superintendents, principals, and teacher leaders. "Our teachers are very insightful and thoughtful about the individual needs of the students they serve," he said, and the day gave him "a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm for the direction" of the district.
2. **SUMMER SCHOOL** - The superintendent said some who at first didn't want to teach this summer thought differently after a few days. "Many of them felt like it was the best summer experience they've ever had ... because it just felt so amazing to be with enthusiastic kids who wanted to be in class, learn something, and be part of something special," he said.
3. **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** - Supt. Lile saw similar sentiments "all over the district" on Monday, Aug. 9, when students returned to school. "The work that parents did to prepare their students to come to school was phenomenal ... There were a lot of little tears shed yesterday as support staff and teachers watched kids just be kids on the school campuses again," he said.

Consent Agenda

1. **HIGH SCHOOL SPEAKER** - The Board unanimously approved having inspirational speaker [Dee Hankins](#) speak on resilience at Madera, Madera South, and Matilda Torres high schools this month during assemblies to welcome students back to campus. The assemblies will be on



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Thursday, Aug. 12, at Madera and Madera South high schools and on Friday, Aug. 13, at Torres High School. The cost will be \$3,000 from Title I funds.

- KINDNESS GRANT** - The Board unanimously okayed a “Kindness Grant” award agreement with Choose Kindness Foundation, which is offering \$7,500 to support [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#) (PBIS) at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School from now through June 4, 2022. According to the foundation, the [grant](#) targets year-long initiatives that ensure those from “marginalized groups” lead and participate in kindness activities. The grant will be used for, among other expenses, PBIS “kindness-in-schools” products available from the foundation as well as for staff time, art materials, prizes, rewards, games, balloons, postage, and the administration of a School Kindness survey twice. Staff said the foundation’s materials emphasize four kindness skills: “show appreciation,” “offer help,” “be friendly,” and “reach out to those in need.”
- STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board unanimously approved the filling of 16 vacant teaching positions, 11 vacant classified jobs, 7 vacant Child Nutrition I jobs, 5 new art teacher jobs, 3 new [S.T.E.M.](#) teaching positions, 2 other new teaching jobs, 2 new classified jobs, and a vacant K-8 music position.
- PERMANENT SUBSTITUTES** - The Board unanimously okayed the hiring of 18 permanent substitute teachers for the current school year to support the “elementary elective library model.” The substitutes will work a total of 191 days for one year and earn \$160 per day plus health benefits. The cost will be covered by COVID-19 funds.
- UNIVERSAL SITE HANDBOOKS** - The Board unanimously approved an agreement with Student Support Service Solutions to help the district create new “universal” school site handbooks from scratch to make sure they meet state and federal requirements and are up-to-date. These handbooks for students and parents must be written in English and, when required by law, in the primary language of a student’s family. Site specific information will be generated by each school to tailor each “universal” handbook. The cost is not to exceed \$10,800.

New Business

- BOARD COMPENSATION** - The Board adopted a resolution on raising the monthly compensation of its members from \$400 to \$420 (5 percent). Each non-student trustee receives the money in proportion to how faithfully the member attended public meetings of the board. The compensation has never been increased by the Board before, but MUSD policy and Education Code 35120 allow the Board to raise it annually by up to 5 percent. The cost will be up to \$140 more per month from the General Fund.



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2. **COYOTE LANE PARKING** - The Board unanimously okayed [Central Valley Asphalt](#) undertaking a Madera High School parking lot improvement project on Coyote Lane. The company submitted the lowest “responsible” bid for the project - \$678,000. The next lowest bid was \$760,900. The project consists of expanding the existing parking lot southward, new layout and striping to the existing parking lot, reconfiguring drive approaches, new fencing, and [required work to accommodate the disabled](#). Originally the project was part of a larger MHS Varsity Softball project, but it became necessary to separate it to better handle coordination with a solar project and time constraints with getting [state approval](#). The cost will be covered by the General Fund.

Announcements

1. **BOND OVERSIGHT** - The Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee will meet Wednesday, Aug. 18, at 5:30 p.m. at the Matilda Torres High School library. This group of community members reviews financial audits of all bond projects and informs the public on project progress. They meet four times a year.
2. **SAFETY COMMITTEE** - The Safety Advisory Committee will meet Thursday, Aug. 19, at 5 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing software. This group advises the Board of Trustees on safety issues and concerns, including trainings, materials, and programs to promote school safety.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 24, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.