



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

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

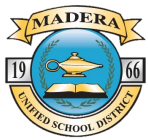
Below is a brief summary of this week's regular meeting of the MUSD school board. It is not comprehensive and is for informational purposes only. Meeting recordings will be uploaded online when available ([click here for video](#)). Official minutes listing board actions at each meeting are approved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

Information and Reports

MUTA - President David Holder of the Madera Unified Teachers Association said he wanted to inform trustees that the labor union had submitted a reminder about the consultation process required by the state's Public Health Department on small cohorts of students coming to school sites. MUTA demands that MUSD consult with it. "Demand is a harsh word, but it just means" the union wants the process to happen, Holder said.

Superintendent's Time

1. **LINKAGE FOUNDATION** - Superintendent Todd Lile praised the [Madera Linkage Foundation](#) and its recent districtwide gift card drive for victims of the Creek Fire in the mountains. He encouraged everyone to consider supporting the foundation's work with regular donations.
2. **STUDENT VOICE** - The superintendent said Student Trustee Annelise Stephens of Torres High School had recently shared about virtual bullying, which he passed on to teachers. Some wrote him back to share how touched they were and promised to be more vigilant about what happens in virtual classrooms. He said student trustees are organizing teams of students to speak with him and the Area Assistant Superintendents. Student Trustee Kiyana Granados of Madera High School led the first Student Voice session on Monday, Oct. 26. The team of students was "outstanding and so thoughtful about their needs."
3. **SCHOOL REOPENING** - Superintendent Lile said the district's leadership team has worked since April on a range of plans for reopening schools. He shared his and the team's disappointment that on Tuesday the county "slipped back into the 'purple' or 'widespread' designation," and said they don't see a timeline "that provides the chance to return students to campus before January." He said MUSD will double efforts to improve distance learning, and that planning for reopening will continue. He asked the public "to practice health and safety measures" so we can bring back our students to the classroom.



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Consent Agenda

1. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the hiring of staff for four new positions at Rain Creek (a Software Developer and three Communications Technicians) and the filling of four vacant positions elsewhere (two Teachers, a Safety Officer, and a Groundsperson I).
2. **CSEA AGREEMENTS** - The Board of Trustees unanimously okayed three non-binding yet serious agreements with local chapter 169 of the California School Employees Association. The first involved reducing a vacant 6-hour Office Assistant position at Washington Elementary School to 3.75 hours due to less funding. The second involved the elimination of a Relief Bus Driver position in the Transportation Department. A third involved changes to how schools operate if they are to safely reopen this school year in the middle of a pandemic.
3. **PANORAMA SURVEYS** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved expanding an existing contract with [Panorama Education](#), which since 2016 has gathered feedback from MUSD students and families for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. The revised contract includes surveying 3rd and 4th grade students on school culture and climate, surveying 3rd through 12th grade students on “Social-Emotional Learning” and “Well-Being,” and surveying staff districtwide on “Adult Well-Being” and “Social-Emotional Learning.” Contract costs will increase by \$19,000 for a total of \$40,800. Of that increase, \$8,500 will come from COVID-19 Funds and \$10,500 will be from a Cowell Grant.
4. **CONFERENCE SPEAKERS** - The Board of Trustees unanimously okayed consultant agreements with two speakers who will offer keynotes for the 4th annual Madera Unified Parent and Community Engagement Conference on Nov. 18 via Zoom and Facebook Live. [Demontray “Dee” Hankins](#) will share his personal story of resilience amid the difficulties of life as a minority foster child. [Mike Longoria](#), who has a Ph.D. in early childhood education, will talk about the academic benefits of integrating music and movement in the classroom, especially for fidgety, overactive, restless, or aggressive children. The cost for Hankins to speak will be \$3,000, and for Longoria it will be \$2,750.

New Business

1. **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved extending an existing contract with [Kitchell Capital Expenditure Managers](#) to include construction management for various facilities projects, such as the Torres Stadium project. Kitchell would provide its opinion on the ease and efficiency with which a project can be built, a review of the



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pricing for a project's engineering, scheduling services, and construction administration and oversight. The expense will be \$27,100 per month through the end of the year, and then \$28,000 per month afterwards due to a cost of living increase.

2. **CTE PROJECT** - The Board of Trustees unanimously okayed a final change order for the Madera High School Career Technical Education Modernization Project. Its seven changes include adding wireless access points, removing curb and fixing the gutter at the parking lot on N Street, and several changes to the automobile laboratory and its classrooms. The cost will be \$85,191.89 from the Project Contingency money in the General Fund. The remaining contingency balance is \$95,979.
3. **SERVER COOLING** - The Board of Trustees tabled a design proposal by Lawrence Engineering Group for a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (and related infrastructure) for the district office's server room. The cost would have been \$119,500 in COVID-19 Relief Funds. Trustees expressed concern about the price and wanted [Kitchell Capital Expenditure Managers](#) to review the proposal before they reconsidered it.
4. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - The Board of Trustees heard a first reading of a proposed revision to board policy and administrative regulation on physical education and activity. Staff recommended changes based on best practices outlined by the state, those used by similar districts, language proposed by the California School Board Association, a new state law ([Senate Bill #75](#)), and recommendations by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The changes include a statement on equal opportunity regardless of gender expression, gender identity, or mental health, staff said. Trustees will vote on the proposal at a future meeting.

Announcements

1. **WELLNESS COMMITTEE** - The next Wellness Committee meeting will be next Wednesday, November 4, at 4:30 p.m. The group puts the district's Wellness Policy into action.
2. **PAC MEETING** - The [Parent Advisory Committee](#) will meet next Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 6:00 p.m. This group advises MUSD on its finances and consults, reviews, and comments on the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 10, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.