



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, November 10, 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

1. **ELECTRONIC SPORTS** - Staff defined "esports" as playing video games competitively, which can include one vs one, team play, leagues, tourneys, and post season play. In college, there are more than 400 club teams, over 60 varsity teams, and \$9 million in scholarships. About 46 percent of esports "athletes" are women and 54 percent are men, according to staff. Research has found that video games can improve visual acuity and attention, increase problem solving skills, foster scientific reasoning, accelerate language learning, improve digital and print literacy, and is associated with higher math achievement and fluency with technology. Esports teams consist of about eight varsity players and a total of 30 participants. Total equipment costs for Madera, Madera South, and Matilda Torres high schools would be \$71,657.37.
2. **WILLIAMS ANNUAL REPORT** - Diana Young Marsh, assistant superintendent of Educational Services for Madera County Superintendent of Schools, reported to the Board of Trustees the findings of state required visitations. The report concluded that students have access to sufficient instructional materials for core subjects and that the data submitted for the School Accountability Report Card was correct. An inspection of school facilities will occur later this school year. Data on teacher vacancy, assignment, and credentialing will be reviewed this spring.
3. **UNION TIME** - President David Holder of the Madera Unified Teachers Association thanked veterans and said many MUTA members have served in the military.

Superintendent's Time

1. **VETERANS DAY** - Superintendent Lile noted that "we honor the veterans of our community and district" tomorrow on the anniversary of the end of World War I.
2. **STUDENT TRUSTEES** - The superintendent praised the work of student trustees in recruiting and organizing their Student Voice teams.
3. **COVID-19 UPDATE** - Superintendent Lile shared that the state had again designated Madera County's status for COVID-19 as "[purple tier](#)," which is the highest risk level and the most



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restrictive as far as public indoor activities. “There are systemic issues that adversely affect small counties like ours and make it unlikely that we will achieve red (tier) anytime soon despite being a mirror image of our larger neighbor to the south,” he said. The superintendent announced that the district’s leadership team would be “carefully developing the waiver processes to submit to the state for each” elementary school, but said no date had been set for submitting waivers or reopening schools. With holidays approaching, he urged making personal decisions that keep us all safe “until infections decrease and vaccines are being administered.”

Consent Agenda

1. **OFFICE LEASE** - The Board of Trustees approved extending the district’s lease of Suite #2 at the Courtyard Professional Business Center, 1816 Howard Road. The 756-square-foot suite has housed the MUSD Preschool Office for four years. The lease was extended until Nov. 30, 2021. Due to a 3% rent increase, the cost will be \$1,155 per month plus utilities.
2. **THS CLUBS** - The Board of Trustees okayed six proposed clubs for Matilda Torres High School. The THS Drama Club will promote theater on campus. The Future Business Leaders of America will help students explore college and career opportunities. The THS Gay Straight Alliance will promote tolerance and acceptance on campus. The Hiking Club will promote the understanding of nature and an awareness of regional parks, natural areas, and shared natural resources. Health Occupations Students of America will promote health science careers, awareness of issues, and leadership. Music Club will promote music culture and composition.
3. **STUDENT HELP** - The Board of Trustees ratified an agreement with [California Teaching Fellows Foundation](#), which will assign staff to assist students within small in-person groups of no more than 14 children and two supervising adults. They will support students with tutoring and other services. The cost is not to exceed \$471,018.24 in district COVID-19 funds.
4. **PRESCHOOL STAFF TRAINING** - The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with [Frog Street Press](#) to virtually train 50-100 preschool staff from 14 preschool sites. The first two sessions will be Jan. 11, 2021, and the third session is not yet set. Training will include trauma-informed care of young children, family engagement, and adapting Frog Street lessons for children with special needs. The cost is not to exceed \$6,000 in preschool program funds.
5. **ONLINE TICKETING** - The Board of Trustees okayed an agreement with high school event ticket-seller [GoFan](#), part of Huddle Tickets. GoFan will manage reservations, certificates, admissions, and/or confirmations. Costs of the service would be paid by ticket buyers, who would pay fees of about \$1 per general admission ticket costing \$10 or less.
6. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board of Trustees approved the filling of five vacant positions, five new Counselor positions at various schools, and a new Paraprofessional Aide position at



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Madera High School. Trustees also assented to eliminating a full-time equivalent Office Assistant position and creating a new School Office Technician position, both at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

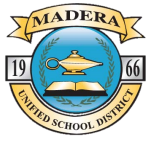
7. **JOB DESCRIPTIONS** - The Board of Trustees okayed three new classified positions and three revised classified job descriptions. Most of these were brought forward as part of a reorganization of the Department of Information Technology and Support Services. The new positions are School Office Technician, Information Systems Technician, and Information Systems Specialist II. The revised job descriptions were for Database Administrator - Developer, Information Systems Specialist I, and Information Specialist - Lead.
8. **MOTIVATIONAL POET** - The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with poet Brandon Leake of Stockton to provide 11 motivational assemblies, 11 poetry workshops, and an “Open Mic” event between Nov. 11, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Leake won the 15th season of reality television show [America’s Got Talent](#) on Sept. 23, 2020. The cost will be \$60,000.

Old Business

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - The Board of Trustees okayed a revised board policy and administrative regulation on physical education and activity. Staff recommended the 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, sexual orientation, and mental or physical disability.

New Business

1. **LINCOLN SCHOOL UPGRADE** - The Board of Trustees approved the awarding of a bid for construction work to replace the central plant at Lincoln Elementary School. The central plant provides heating, cooling, and often electricity, staff said. The one at Lincoln school has been in operation for nearly 30 years - far beyond the typical life span of about 20 years. The equipment is breaking down more frequently and becoming costlier to repair, staff said. The winning bid to replace the central plant came from [Lawson Mechanical Contractors](#). The cost will be \$394,296 from deferred maintenance funds.
2. **NEW CLASSES** - The Board of Trustees listened to a first reading of new classes proposed for grades 9-12. The classes are “Automotive Systems Technology,” “Medium Heavy Truck Repair I,” “The Art of Plant Science,” “Foundations of Engineering,” “Engineering Principles,” “AP



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Microeconomics,” and “AP Comparative Government and Politics.” The projected cost for proposed textbooks and materials would be \$199,000.

3. **CONCESSION FOOD APP** - The Board of Trustees okayed an agreement with [FanFood](#) to provide a way to order concession food by smartphone app at events hosted by Madera, Madera South, and Matilda Torres high schools. Staff said the app would help create a safe environment as far as handling food and minimizing lines, especially during the pandemic. Customers who use the app would pay a 12.5% order fee. Each high school would receive four hardware kits to enable the app orders. The one-year contract with FanFood will end on Nov. 30, 2021. The district’s cost will be \$9,000 from COVID-19 funds. Some trustees said an option to buy food in person with cash should remain.

Announcements

1. **VETERANS DAY** - Tomorrow will honor all who have served our country in war or peace.
2. **BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** - The next Bond Oversight Committee meeting will be in person at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the Matilda Torres High School library.
3. **THANKSGIVING** - Superintendent Todd Lile said, “I would also like to wish you, our staff, students, parents, and community in general a very happy and safe Thanksgiving. I know it is a bit early but I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be safe as they gather with loved ones. I am thankful for this community, our students and the wonderful staff I work with.”

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.