



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

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

Below is a brief summary of yesterday's 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](#) or [here for audio](#)). Official minutes listing board actions at each meeting are approved at the following meetings and can also be viewed online ([click here](#)).

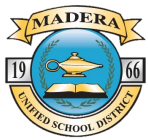
Superintendent's Time

1. **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** - Superintendent Todd Lile presented [a video featuring staff](#) in honor of Black History Month. He also said MUSD would host a student conference Wednesday, Feb. 24, entitled "From History to Destiny: What It Means to Be Black."
2. **ACADEMIC DECATHLON** - The superintendent congratulated Madera South High School for winning back-to-back county championships in Academic Decathlon, a high school competition consisting of seven multiple choice tests, two performance events, and an essay.
3. **REOPENING SCHOOLS** - Superintendent Lile shared about the district's first ever Associations Presidents Collaborative Meeting on Feb. 12 with labor partners and several members of the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet. MUSD heard "helpful" feedback on how to best reopen safely.

He noted that Madera County infection rates for COVID-19 had drastically declined - now on the edge of both the ["purple" and "red" tiers](#). This "incredibly good news" raises hopes that MUSD might reopen its early grades before Spring Break. He said athletic team practices were in "full swing" with some "purple" tier competitions planned in upcoming weeks. Each school in the district has opened for one or more small student cohorts in greatest need, such as those in foster care, homeless, with poor Internet connectivity, chronic absenteeism, and some with special needs. On March 3, employees will return to their offices and classrooms.

MUSD has surveyed parents on whether they prefer distance learning or a hybrid learning model that maintains social distancing. The district will have to support both options with existing staffing. The number of students who enroll in hybrid learning will impact planning from everything from transportation to student-to-teacher ratios in the classroom. MUSD plans to host an informational webinar for parents so they can plan ahead for their own households.

Superintendent Lile said 7 percent of MUSD staff received COVID-19 vaccinations in January but as of Tuesday those vaccinated rose to 20 percent of total employees. If this rate



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continues, all staff who desire the vaccine will have it in the next few weeks. More information will be communicated in the coming days by email, Parent Square, webinars, and social media, he said - “We see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Consent Agenda

1. **TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION** - The Board approved of MUSD joining the Educational Technology Joint Power Authority as an associate member. Doing so, staff said, allows MUSD to use contracts put out to bid by Educational Technology, which saves on “administrative costs and overhead.” Joining the joint power authority has no cost and savings are anticipated on multiple technology contracts, such as with Aeries Student Information System.
2. **SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY** - The Board okayed the 2019-2020 School Accountability Report Cards for district schools with the exception of Torres High School, which opened this school year. California requires state-funded schools to prepare and distribute the annual reports on each school for the benefit of parents and the community, who can use them - the state says - to evaluate and compare schools.
3. **AGRICULTURE GRANT** - The Board ratified the acceptance of a \$2,500 [State Farm Teacher Assist grant](#), which is to be used for an innovative educational project proposed by the winner. Grant-winning teacher Julie Luxon of Madera South High School will use it to create science laboratory kits for her Agricultural Chemistry classes. Unable to attend in-person due to COVID-19, her students will use the kits at home to study soil chemistry.
4. **MHS COLOR GUARD** - The Board ratified an agreement with Donatelli Ventures to arrange choreography to the Madera High School Color Guard for this school year. The agreement was accidentally left out of the 2020-2021 Bundle Contract approved by the Board previously. Students in the color guard use dance and equipment, such as flags and “rifles,” to visually express the music of a marching band show. The cost is \$2,000 to the MHS General Fund.
5. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board approved the creation of three new full-time positions and removal of two others for the Department of Information Technology and Support Services. The Board okayed filling 17 coaching positions, four vacant Paraprofessional Aide positions and a vacant Student Advocate position. The Board also accepted the retirement of Donna L. Seward, a teacher at Dixieland School for four years, on July 30, 2021.
6. **KEEPSAKE VIDEOS** - The Board okayed the hiring of video producer [Windsong Productions](#) to plan high school graduation videos with the input of MUSD students. The cost is not to exceed \$165,000, which will include the filming and editing of two videos for each high school and for the Alternative Education high school programs.



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Old Business

1. **EARLY RETIREMENT** - The Board approved a Supplementary Retirement plan for 90 employees who wish to retire early. The plan was developed in cooperation with Public Agency Retirement Services. The goal was to encourage early retirement and thereby save MUSD funds - or at least “create no cost.” Ninety of the 384 certificated and classified employees eligible for early retirement chose to apply for it (23.44 percent). The district would save money if not all of those vacancies are filled. Cheri Giddens, president of the California School Employees Association Chapter 169, urged trustees to okay the plan. In answer to trustee concerns, staff said all of the retiring teachers would be replaced and even more added.
2. **ENROLLMENTS & TRANSFERS** - The Board okayed a revised board policy on the Open Enrollment and Intradistrict Transfer Permit. The revised policy prioritizes an MUSD employee who asks for a school site for their child that the parent works at over another employee who makes the same request for other reasons.

Announcements

1. **PAC** - The Parent Advisory Committee will meet virtually via the Zoom video conferencing service at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24. This group advises MUSD on its finances and consults, reviews, and comments on the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan.
2. **DISTRICT SYSTEM DESIGN PARTNERSHIP** - Staff and community partners taking part in the District System Design Partnership will meet virtually at 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 26. It will be considered a “special board meeting” if a majority of trustees attend.
3. **DELAC** - The District English Language Advisory Committee will meet virtually via the Zoom video conferencing service at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1. This bilingual group develops recommendations on teaching students whose primary language is not English.
4. **LCAP** - An LCAP Community meeting will take place via the Zoom video conferencing service at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.