



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

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

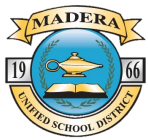
Below is a brief summary of this week's regular meeting of the MUSD school board. It is not comprehensive and is for informational purposes only. Meeting recordings will be uploaded online ([click here for video](#) or [here for audio](#)). Official minutes listing board actions at each meeting are approved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

Student Reports

1. **TORO REPORT** - Associated Student Body president Giovanni Manzo of Torres High School shared about the school's many recent pursuits. These included:
 - a. A variety of activities for **Black History Month**, such as trivia on Instagram, regular videos, a weekly event, and an art competition.
 - b. A **Staff Buddy Program** in which ASB members connect with teachers and support them during distance learning.
 - c. The **Art Club** designing stickers that will be printed and sold in shops.
 - d. A contest in progress to officially name the **THS yearbook**.
2. **STUDENT TRUSTEE** - Trustee Kiyana Granados said she has met with video producer [Windsong Productions](#) and other members of Torres, Madera South, and Madera high schools to discuss how to provide the Class of 2021 with senior events, such as graduation, "while still keeping safe." She and others have also looked for ways to reach out to all students instead of focusing on one group. One idea is to have students complete an online survey during class on how they feel, what we need to know, and anything they want us to change or keep. Granados hopes this would help student leaders work on fixing things not just "for us but also for other students."

Superintendent's Time

1. **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** - Superintendent Todd Lile thanked teachers and administrators for "innovative and meaningful work" creating a "much improved" [Black History Month](#).
2. **SPORTS & ACTIVITIES** - The superintendent likewise thanked coaches and activities directors for offering a "tiny slice of normalcy." He expressed gratitude for [Teaching Fellows](#) partners and MUSD staff for working to get small student cohorts back.
3. **SCHOOL REOPENING** - Superintendent Lile said the district is working "really diligently behind the scenes" to reopen schools and thanked Human Resources for "an amazing job" with contact tracing.



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The Madera County adjusted COVID-19 case rate is down to 30 cases per 100,000 residents, according to the superintendent. “That is about half the rate of two weeks ago and we are slowly beginning to fall even farther,” he said. “This is still three times the rate needed” to qualify for the less restrictive [“red” tier](#). The superintendent said the news “gives us great hope about reopening in the near future. But ... we are not yet there.”

Superintendent Lile invited staff, whether classified or certificated, back to their school sites and workstations in the future as rates continue to fall but said his invitation was not mandatory. He noted that “quality” studies in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania had given the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confidence that K-6 schools are safer than their surroundings when precautions are in place and the community spread of the virus is at relatively safe levels.

The superintendent shared that MUSD had 53 positive COVID-19 cases in the last five weeks and “only one of these was confirmed to have happened in the workplace.” If the infected staff had interacted at work, the number of infections would have been “much greater,” he said. He shared that last week COVID-19 claimed the lives of three “exemplary” MUSD employees “who loved the community and district and poured their life into it.” This “causes a great deal of sadness and anxiety. Vaccinations are a glimmer of hope, but only 200” have been administered to MUSD staff thus far, which is less than 10 percent of total staff.

Superintendent Lile reaffirmed the district’s desire to reopen schools but “pledged that safety will be our top priority.” He said, “We are on the path to opening and that is why our students with greatest needs are coming back in cohorts and why our high school athletes are participating in outdoor pods again. We hear our parents and we hear our employees.”

Consent Agenda

1. **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** - The Board of Trustees approved the filling of three vacancies in the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee with applicants Mark Beveridge, Bruce Norton, and Leticia Ceballos. Two other vacancies remain unfilled. The vacancies exist because of member terms expiring.
2. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board of Trustees okayed filling three vacant positions: Human Resource Specialist for the Personnel Commission, Custodian at Madera High School, and Bilingual Paraprofessional Aide at Madison Elementary School.



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The Board also accepted the following retirement requests.

- a. **BERENDA SCHOOL** - Teachers Donna Grant (39 years of service), Lori Ann Combs (38 years of service), Julia A. Lara (37 years of service), and Patricia Rozek (16 years of service) will retire on June 11.
 - b. **LINCOLN SCHOOL** - Teacher Suzanne Dinubilo (23 years of service) will retire on June 11.
 - c. **MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS** - Pierre Etcheverry, a groundsperson III with 19 years of service, will retire on Feb. 26.
 - d. **NISHIMOTO SCHOOL** - Professional aide Donna Genseal (41 years of service) will retire on June 11.
 - e. **PARKWOOD SCHOOL** - Teachers Debora Lazar (36 years of service) and Maria Luisa Hernandez (30 years of service) will retire on June 14.
3. **NEW POSITIONS** - The Board of Trustees approved three new classified positions, their job descriptions, and salary recommendations: Information Security Analyst, Educational Information Systems Manager, and Network Support Specialist. All three full-time positions are part of a reorganization of the Information and Technology Support department.
 4. **CLASSIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE** - The Board of Trustees okayed a new Classified Salary Schedule, which now reflects a \$1 minimum wage increase to \$14 per hour that took effect on the first of this year.
 5. **MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER** - The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with Dr. Chike Akua, assistant professor of Educational Leadership at [Clark Atlanta University](#) in Georgia. Akua will be a keynote speaker at an event for K-12 students set for Wednesday, Feb. 24, and entitled, "Honoring Our Ancestral Obligations: 7 Steps to Black Student Success." The cost will be \$8,000 from a SUCCESS grant.

Old Business

1. **SOLAR ENERGY** - The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution as well as agreed to an energy services agreement with [ForeFront Power](#). On Jan. 26, the Board of Trustees accepted the company's proposal to design, install, operate, and maintain solar photovoltaic systems for the district. The resolution and agreement allow the design process to begin immediately and for installation to start this summer.
2. **STUDENT ENROLLMENT** - The Board of Trustees okayed staff's annual projections on student enrollment and staffing for the 2021-22 school year. Total enrollment is expected to rise by 109 students over 2020-21 and total staffing to drop by one employee. No attendance area adjustments are expected.



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New Business

1. **AUDIT REPORT** - The Board of Trustees approved the 2019-20 Audit Report prepared by accounting firm [Eide Bailly](#). The company positively evaluated the district's financial statements on their accuracy and fairness. A representative praised the district's fiscal records and said MUSD's report is among the first five audits they were able to issue for that fiscal year. In all, only 20 have been issued by Eide Bailly for that year.
2. **DIXIELAND PORTABLES** - The Board of Trustees discussed a staff recommendation that two new portable buildings be purchased and placed at Dixieland Elementary School to meet increasing demands for space. The "portables" would house classes and the school's speech pathologist, psychologist, and counselor, who currently work in a little room off of the cafeteria. All three offer small group instruction or support, which is difficult due to their current lack of space. The cost would be \$540,610. Trustee response was mixed.
3. **FIRST READINGS** - The Board of Trustees listened to a first reading of an administrative regulation on hate-motivated behavior and a board policy on the Open Enrollment and Intradistrict Transfer Permit.
 - a. **HATE CRIMES** - The updated regulation redefines hate-motivated behavior and adds sections on "School Site Protective Measures," "District Coordinated Preventive Measures," and "Investigation of Hate Related Complaints at School."
 - b. **ENROLLMENT & TRANSFERS** - 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.
4. **SAFETY PLANS** - The Board of Trustees okayed 2020-21 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for the district's schools. Tailored for each school, the plans offer guidance and direction to principals, faculty, and staff on preparing for and responding to school emergencies.

Announcements

1. **WELLNESS COMMITTEE** - The Wellness Committee will meet virtually via the Zoom video conferencing service at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10.
2. **LCAP** - The first LCAP Community meeting will be via Zoom at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16.
3. **DISTRICT SYSTEM DESIGN PARTNERSHIP** - The staff and community supporters taking part in the District System Design Partnership will meet virtually at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18. It will be a "special board meeting" if a majority of trustees attend.



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4. **SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - The Safety Advisory Committee will meet virtually at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, February 23, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.