



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

By John Rieping, Administrative Assistant V

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](#)). Official minutes listing board actions at each meeting are approved at the following meetings and can also be viewed online ([click here](#)).

Roll Call

Israel Cortes (Area 6), Gladys Diebert (Area 2), Joetta Fleak (Area 4), Ruben Mendoza (Area 3), Lucy Salazar (Area 5), Frank Jerik Santos (Alternative Education), Ray Seibert (Area 1), and Ingrid Sosa Ramirez (Torres High School)

Communications

[MADERA MINUTES](#) - Staff shared a video summarizing recent student and staff activities.

Information and Reports

VALDEZ EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - In January through December 2022, Valdez Educational Services provided 6,494.5 hours of one-on-one tutoring and mentoring for 134 students in foster care or experiencing homelessness. Of these, 59% were in 1st through 6th grades, staff said, and the rest were in grades 7th-12th. Attendance and grades improved for 46% of those tutored, and 25% showed significant improvement in behavior. No participants declined in attendance, behavior, or grades.

UNION TIME - David Holder, president of the Madera Unified Teachers Association, expressed concerns about "discrepancies on two probationaries and the conditions leading to their release" as well as "ongoing" disciplinary issues at schools.

Consent Agenda

1. **SERVICE WITH PRIDE** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved eight vendors to serve the district's Service with Pride dinner set for May 25. These include Pardini's Catering, Creative Copy, Elegant Occasions, Things Remembered, North Star Photography, Andy's Sports & Design, Madera South High School FFA-Floral, and In the Mix Events. The cost is not to exceed \$30,000 from district donations.



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2. **HUSEIN SCHOOL** - The Board unanimously okayed lease agreements with Harris Construction Co. for the King Husein School Project. (Under state law, a school district can lease property it owns to a developer, who then builds a school facility on the site before leasing it back to the district.) The approval of the lease-leaseback, site lease, and sublease agreements will enable Harris Construction to begin pre-construction services. The fee for those services is \$98,832.
3. **MOCK TRIAL TRIP** - The Board unanimously approved a trip by vans to the Mock Trial State Finals in Los Angeles for 17 Madera South High School students and two adults in mid-March. The costs will be \$2,000 for transportation and \$3,500 for lodging from MSHS general funds.
4. **RETIREE** - The Board unanimously accepted the retirement of [Arleen Alves](#), accounting technician I at Fiscal Services in the District Office, on March 31 after 14 years of service.
5. **NEW LEADER** - The Board unanimously approved Ara Keledjian as the new principal of Madera Adult School. Keledjian told the Board, “Thank you for the opportunity to lead the community by transforming lives.”
6. **STAFF CHANGES** - The Board unanimously approved the filling of 5 new teacher support mentor - secondary jobs, 4 vacant custodian jobs, 2 vacant paraprofessional aide jobs, 2 vacant cafeteria/playground aide jobs, 5 other classified jobs, and 4 other certificated jobs.
7. **SUMMER SCHOOL WAGES** - The Board unanimously okayed solemn yet non-binding agreements with the Madera Unified Teachers Association, Certificated Management Bargaining Association, and the California School Employees Association (local chapter #169) on summer school wages.
 - a. *MUTA* - The district will pay teachers \$60 per hour to assist in students’ learning and credit recovery during summer school.
 - b. *CMBA* - Administrators will receive stipends ranging from \$5,500-\$10,500 for summer school administration.
 - c. *CSEA* - Classified staff who normally work less than 12 months out of the year will earn 135% of their hourly rate if they work during this summer.
8. **THERAPY DOG** - The Board unanimously approved a solemn yet non-binding agreement with the California School Employees Association (local chapter #169) on annual stipends totaling \$4,570 to oversee a therapy dog. The purpose of the dog, which will be trained by Valley State Prison, is to comfort students in distress. Safety officers who oversee a dog will receive a \$2,000 annual stipend for its care, a \$150 annual stipend for its certification, a \$1,200 annual stipend for its food, a \$720 annual stipend for pet insurance, and a \$500 annual stipend for its equipment.



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New Business

2ND INTERIM REPORT - The Board of Trustees approved the 2022-23 Second Interim Report, which covers the financial and budgetary status of the district for the period from July 1, 2022, to Jan. 31, 2023. District enrollment grew slightly from 20,126 in 2021-2022 to 20,151 in the first half of 2022-2023. In contrast, the average daily attendance continued to be lower at 18,720 (92% of enrollment). Revenue is estimated to be \$455.8 million for 2022-2023, and expenses are estimated to be \$468.8 million – resulting in a projected deficit of \$12.3 million.

The “second interim,” staff said, is a time to adjust the district’s budget based on the 2023-2024 state budget proposed by the governor on Jan. 10. Amidst low state revenues and a slow economy, the governor’s proposal would pull back about \$1.2 billion from the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Block grant. But it would support the second year of the transitional kindergarten expansion, expand participation in Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialist Program, provide high school seniors with cultural enrichment experiences, and more. The proposed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2023-2024 would be 8.13% – an increase compared to the 2022-2023 COLA of 6.56%. All of this, however, is subject to change. The governor’s revised proposal is expected around May 20. The actual budget will be decided by the state legislature this summer.

Announcements

1. [SELPA](#) - The Governance Council for the Madera-Mariposa Special Education Local Plan Area will meet on Wednesday, March 15.
2. **DELAC** - The District English Language Advisory Committee will meet on Monday evening, March 27. DELAC is a bilingual group that develops recommendations on teaching students whose primary language is not English
3. [CABE](#) - The 48th annual conference for the California Association for Bilingual Education will be March 22-25 at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, March 28, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held in person and virtually.