



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, March 23, 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](#)).

Information and Reports

David Holder, president of the Madera Unified Teachers Association, said he hopes the ongoing school reopening continues to move forward "in a smooth and safe manner for all."

Consent Agenda

1. **VIRTUAL REALITY** - The Board approved the purchase of seven Virtual Reality Welding Training Simulators from Praxair Distribution for Madera Technical Exploration Center. Previously, Madera South High School had bought three welding simulators, which staff said improved the techniques used by students yet didn't require special facilities or consumables. The new simulators will be used in the Agriculture and Manufacturing laboratories at MTEC. The cost will be \$429,266.28 in New Market Tax Credits.
2. **EDUCATIONAL BROADBAND** - The Board okayed a 10-year agreement with the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools involving the local Educational Broadband Spectrum. That spectrum is a range of electromagnetic frequencies usable for wireless communication and set aside for education. For now, MUSD has a free license to use part of it locally, but its license would be forfeited if it doesn't broadcast on its spectrum by March 27. So it negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Tulare County Office of Education, which will use MUSD's part of the spectrum within Tulare County. This will help Tulare County improve its existing network services and allow MUSD to keep its license as it plans its own mobile broadband network. The agreement will have no fiscal impact.
3. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board approved filling 17 vacant teaching positions, 4 vacant aide positions, a vacant Maintenance Journeyman position, and a Child Welfare and Attendance Liaison position. The Board okayed hiring 3 new teachers and the elimination of the Chief Human Resources Officer position. The Board also accepted the March 15th retirement of Sylvia Rubio, an office technician at Desmond School for 28 years.
4. **JOB DESCRIPTIONS** - The Board okayed a new certificated management job description and three revised certificated job descriptions: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources



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(new), Director of Visual and Performing Arts, Elementary Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, and Director of Language and Literacy. The new job description replaces the eliminated position of Chief Human Resources Officer.

5. **COVID-19 TESTING** - The Board approved an agreement with laboratory [DiaCarta](#), which will provide COVID-19 diagnostic testing through June 30, 2022. DiaCarta will bill the private healthcare insurance of those tested, but MUSD will pay \$60 per test if an insurance claim is denied. The cost to MUSD is not to exceed \$50,000 in COVID-19 Funds.

Old Business

SOLAR SUPPORT - The Board approved a contract with [ARC Alternatives](#) for solar design and project management support. MUSD has begun a 27-site, two-year solar program project with vendor [Forefront Power](#) that will establish solar power systems around the district. ARC Alternatives will provide expert oversight during the design and construction phase through the closeout of the project. The cost will be \$174,571 from the General Fund.

New Business

STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS - The Board okayed a resolution proclaiming a Student Bill of Rights. Students in MUSD had rights prior to now, staff noted, but the Bill of Rights explicitly lists and defines them and thereby helps to make them more concrete for students and staff. Below are the student rights as listed in the resolution, but without the accompanying definitions of each right.

1. Students have the right to have a socially, emotionally, and physically safe positive school environment.
2. Students have the right to be treated with respect and valued by the school community.
3. Students have the right to inclusive teaching and learning environments in our classrooms.
4. Students have the right to effective teachers that are both knowledgeable and supportive.
5. Students have the right to equitable quality education that prepares them for life beyond high school.
6. Students have the right to Freedom of Expression within an educational context that has clear guidelines and expectations.
7. Students have the right to equitable school disciplinary policies and practices that focus on correction, not punishment.
8. Students have the right to shape decisions that affect their education.



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The Student Bill of Rights proclamation was molded by contributions from 63 student volunteers from 6th through 12th grade. The students participated in seven conversational Student Voice forums late in the 2020 fall semester. Multiple individual drafts were compiled into a single draft that was presented to the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet by Board trustees Kiyana Granados of Madera High School and Jeremiah Goodman of Madera South High School along with MHS Associated Student Body president Giovanni Prudente.

At the meeting, trustees praised the Student Bill of Rights but expressed a desire for a better presentation of the staff and student responsibilities that accompany each right and for a process to safeguard accountability. Staff said the Student Bill of Rights will be more fleshed out in time. "There isn't anything new here. It's already enshrined in Board policy," civil law, judicial decisions, and so on, Superintendent Todd Lile said, "The difference is kids haven't known."

Announcements

1. **PAC** - The Parent Advisory Committee will meet virtually via the Zoom video conferencing service at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24. This group advises MUSD on its finances and consults, reviews, and comments on the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan.
2. **MTEC TOUR** - Superintendent Todd Lile, Trustee Joetta Fleak, and others will tour the Madera Technical Exploration Center at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, during an official school site visitation.
3. **DAAC** - The District Athletics Advisory Committee will meet virtually via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25. This group advises MUSD and its Board of Trustees on athletic programs including updates, trainings, and support.
4. **SPRING BREAK** - Spring break is set for Monday, March 29, through Monday, April 5, for students as well as staff not contracted to work on those dates.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom video conferencing service.