



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, March 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](#)).

### Superintendent's Time

1. **UPCOMING RETIREES** - Superintendent Todd Lile lauded the latest group of aspiring retirees presented to the Board of Trustees by Human Resources. He wished them "all the best" with "bittersweet" feelings as "there is no replacing your friendship and service."
2. **AWARD WINNERS** - The superintendent recognized Student Trustee Jeremiah Goodman of Madera South High School (4.0 Recognition Night honoree), agriculture teacher Julie Luxon of MSHS ([Golden Owl Award winner](#)), MSHS alumnus Lalo Herrera ([PAC 12 Cross Country Championships winner](#)), and MUSD communications analyst George Garnica (California School Public Relations Association award winner).
3. **BOARDROOM UPDATE** - Superintendent Lile praised the work of Maintenance and Operations in updating the paint, carpentry, and electrical system in the District Office's Boardroom. [FastSigns](#) and [EKC Enterprises](#) assisted as well. The dais and seating has been extended, the countertop and carpet replaced, outlets added, dimmable LED lights and signage installed, audio-visual equipment upgraded, and reclaimed wood fastened to two sections of wall.
4. **SCHOOL REOPENING** - The superintendent presented many updates on progress made by MUSD's team on reopening schools to students. These include the following:
  - a. **COVID-19 TESTING** - A "wide range of testing options" and contact tracing will be available thanks to the work of Health and Wellness Director Christine Doss and Health Services Coordinator Caitlin Pendley. They have rapid antigen testing at various schools and can deploy the new mobile health unit as needed around the district.
  - b. **VACCINATIONS** - About 60 percent of staff have been vaccinated with at least one dose and only 156 employees are waiting to be vaccinated, which should happen this week. "We hope other employees will change their minds," he said. MUSD is working with Camarena Health to set up a community vaccination clinic at MSHS.
  - c. **REOPENING SCHEDULE** - At our county's current COVID-19 case rate, [California Senate Bill 86](#) requires MUSD to open transitional kindergarten through 2nd grade. Parent survey results reveal that no single schedule will meet all the in-person enrollment requests at all MUSD schools or classrooms, so different schedules will



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, March 9, 2021

have to be developed. Schools west of State Route 99 have somewhat higher in-person enrollment requests than schools to the east. Due to all this, “a bit more time” will be needed for scheduling primary education. A survey for parents with children at secondary schools will be sent out this week and a similar process will follow.

### Consent Agenda

1. **THS CLUBS** - The Board approved Yearbook and Art Club for students at Matilda Torres High School. Yearbook will allow students to explore photography, design, and creative writing to capture the memories of the school year, staff said, and Art Club gathers students to enjoy, create, share, discuss, and learn about various arts.
2. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board okayed the filling of three vacant paraprofessional positions, a bus driver job, and two cafeteria/playground aide roles as well as hiring 19 spring sport coaches, a Torres High School teacher, and an Accountability & Communications communications technician. The Board also accepted 82 retirement requests (a summary of which can be viewed [online](#) organized by school site or department). The Board listed aloud each retiree by name and years of service during the meeting.
3. **COVID-19 TESTING** - The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Valencia Branch State Public Health Laboratory to test staff and students for COVID-19 through June 30. The cost is not to surpass \$50,000 of COVID-19 Funds.

### Old Business

1. **BP & AR 1312.3** - The Board okayed revisions to MUSD board policy and administrative regulations on procedures for reporting and responding to alleged sexual harassment. The rules now feature a narrower definition of “sexual harassment,” an explicit definition of the scope of schools’ responsibilities, and additional procedural requirements, according to staff. The new rules also include a process for persons to submit their sexual harassment complaints to the Board of Trustees. The changes were made to comply with U.S. Department of Education regulations that took effect on August 14, 2020.
2. **AR 5145.9** - The Board approved a revision to Administrative Regulation 5145.9 (“Hate Motivated Behavior”). The new rules have updated definitions, feature changes recommended by trustees, and clarify behavior expectations and the responsibilities of the district and each school, including prevention efforts. Student Trustee Jeremiah Goodman said he and others had discussed - during a Student Voice forum- how these rules can be brought to the attention



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, March 9, 2021

of students and staff. Board Clerk Joetta Fleak asked that a copy of the regulations be made available to every staff member in the district and that a copy be placed at each school site.

### New Business

**2ND INTERIM REPORT** - The Board okayed a report on the financial and budgetary status of MUSD for the period ending January 31. A staff summary of the report can currently be viewed [online](#).

Compared to the prior school year, enrollment has dropped by 178 students to 19,941 for 2020-21, staff said. Average daily attendance is also down versus 2019-20, but - due to the COVID-19 pandemic - the approved state budget will not reduce revenue for such declines this school year and the next. Enrollment is expected to be flat at least through 2022-23.

MUSD has spent or encumbered \$21.2 million for various programs and projects to deal with the pandemic and its challenges. The state has given the district \$31.5 million in restricted COVID-19 Relief Funds. An additional \$30 million for budget stabilization will begin to arrive in May from an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II grant. The ESSER II money will be invaluable as cash deferrals of state funds for 2020-21 will happen from February through June.

### Announcements

1. **LCAP FEEDBACK** - An LCAP webinar will be held next Tuesday, March 16, at 5:30 p.m. The goal of the virtual meeting is to collect feedback from parents, students, staff, and community members on the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan.
2. **BOND OVERSIGHT** - The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee will meet Wednesday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the library at Torres High School. This group of community members reviews financial audits of all bond projects and informs the public on project progress. They meet four times a year.
3. **BUDGET & FINANCE** - The Budget and Finance Committee will meet Thursday, March 18, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing service. The group reviews the district's recommendations for its budgets including financial management strategies, goals, and long-term planning.

### Advanced Planning

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