

Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, April 27, 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 and Staff Recognition

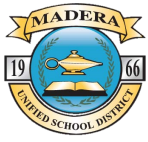
1. **HEALTH LEADERSHIP** - The Board of Trustees recognized Jaime Brown, who is the recipient of the Dairy Council of California's 2020 [Let's Eat Healthy](#) Leadership Award. Brown is a Teacher on Special Assignment - Physical Education, Health, and Nutrition.
2. **STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS** - Trustees honored 25 staff and 53 students who took part in the recent successful effort to create a Board-approved Student Bill of Rights. Trustee Jeremiah Goodman presented trustees with a printed copy of the bill of rights, which will be hung on a wall inside the District Office boardroom. It was framed by the father of one of the student participants.

Information and Reports

UNION TIME - David Holder, president of the Madera Unified Teachers Association, announced eight recipients of 2021 MUTA scholarships of \$500, which were given to the children of MUTA members who attend MUSD schools. Winners are Avery Cordero, Dylan and Ryan Cosgrove, Sarah Benitez, Darren Hatfield, Hunter Holton, Scott Martinez, and Rhett Noblett. Certificates and checks were presented to winners at Madera High School on Monday, April 26, and would be given out on Wednesday, April 28, for winners at Madera South High School.

Consent Agenda

1. **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** - The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of parent Janet Aguilar to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, which reviews financial audits of all bond projects and informs the public on project progress. The committee consists of community members and meets four times a year. After this appointment, one vacancy on the seven-person committee will remain due to the expiration of the terms of two former members, staff said.



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2. **PAINT PROJECTS** - The Board okayed the awarding of bids for exterior paint projects at multiple schools to European Style Painting (for Dixieland and Lincoln elementary schools) and Polychrome Construction (for Desmond Middle School). The projects will benefit from the state's Deferred Maintenance Program, which offers matching funds to help school districts with major repairs or replacements. The total cost will be \$196,200.
3. **STAFF CHANGES** - The Board approved the filling of six vacant teacher positions, three vacant Accounting Technician IV positions, two administrative assistant positions, two new teacher positions, and a new Lead Information Systems Specialist position.
4. **NEW JOBS** - The Board okayed the job descriptions and salaries of two new positions. The Teacher on Special Assignment - Teacher Support Mentor (K-12) will offer expertise and support to teachers in implementing specific core and intervention content (starting pay of \$34,840 per year). The Pool Maintenance Technician oversees, maintains, cleans, and repairs a site's swimming pool, associated equipment, and storage (starting wage of \$19.57 per hour).
5. **SALARY BUMP** - The Board approved a 2% salary increase (retroactive to July 1, 2019) for members of the California State Employees Association (Chapter #169) and non-represented employees (classified management, supervisors, and confidential staff). The total cost for the past and current fiscal year will be \$13,740,778.
6. **COVID-19 EXPENSES** - The Board okayed a nonbinding yet serious agreement with Madera Unified Teachers Association on COVID-19 related expenses for the current school year. These include: \$50 per hour for summer school teachers to help mitigate the learning loss of students and a \$1,000 stipend to a nurse to act as a lead nurse to help with contact tracing during the school reopening process. The wage increase and stipend are only for the 2020-21 school year. The total cost depends on the number of summer school teachers.

Old Business

SOFTBALL MODERNIZATION - The Board approved a three-phase varsity softball field modernization project for Madera High School. In the first phase, the varsity field will be relocated eastward and bleachers, a press box, dugouts, field lighting, batting cages, a bullpen, scoreboard, parking lot, and more will be installed. Construction would begin this fall. In the second phase, a new field house will be built. In the third phase, the bleachers, track surfacing, and artificial turf at Memorial Stadium will be replaced. The costs are estimated to be \$5.2 million for Phase 1, \$7.0 million for Phase 2, and \$9.0 million for Phase 3.



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New Business

1. **BOARD VACANCY** - The Board approved a decision to fill its imminent vacancy with a provisional appointment. The day after the previous Board of Trustees meeting, Trustee Brent Fernandes of Area 7 submitted his resignation, which will take effect on June 13. MUSD will now advertise in local media to ask for candidate applications or nominations for [Area 7](#), which stretches across central Madera. Candidates will be interviewed at a public meeting and selected by a majority vote.
2. **FIRST READINGS** - The Board listened to a first reading of two items: a revision of the 3000 series of Board Bylaws and the 2021-22 core staffing proposal.

The 3000 series of Board Bylaws covers “business and noninstructional operations,” including topics such as budgets, funds, travel expenses, equipment, safety, security, transportation, and nutrition.

The core staffing proposal would assign additional staff to Matilda Torres High School for its second year as well as elsewhere due to enrollment growth and program expansion. Three support staff positions would be added (two for Maintenance & Operations and one for Fiscal Services). Staff would also be added as part of initial steps in a [systemic redesign of MUSD](#). Phase 1 will focus on four “building blocks” of the redesign effort, staff said.

- a. “Provide strong support for children and their families before students arrive at school.” (preschool teachers, paraprofessionals, and an office assistant to be added)
- b. “Provide more resources for at-risk students than for others.” (Special Education, reading intervention teachers, elementary literacy support, registered nurses, psychologists, behavior clinicians, and other staff to be added)
- c. “Assure an abundant supply of highly qualified teachers.” (40 specialist teachers to be added and more)
- d. “Redesign schools to be places in which teachers will be treated as professionals, with incentives and support to continuously improve professional practice and student performance.” (14 teacher support mentors and more staff to be added)

In total, the estimated impact is 135 more full-time equivalent staff and a \$12.2 million increase in spending. COVID-19 Funds would be used for two or three years then effectiveness will be evaluated and funds re-allocated.



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Announcements

1. **DELAC** - The last meeting of the District English Language Advisory Committee this school year will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 3. DELAC is a bilingual group that develops recommendations on teaching students whose primary language is not English.
2. **GOVERNANCE TRAINING** - The Board of Trustees will hold a Special Board Meeting at 3 p.m. on May 5 to train the 2021-2022 student trustees in governance.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, May 11, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.