



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, May 9, 2023

*By John Rieping, Administrative Assistant V*

Below is a brief summary of a regular meeting of the [MUSD school board](#). It is not comprehensive and is for informational purposes only. Official minutes for the meeting are approved at later meetings and can then be viewed online ([click here](#)). Meeting videos can also be found 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), Ray Seibert (Area 1), Ingrid Sosa Ramirez (Torres High School), and Sebastian Zavalza (Madera High School)

### Communications

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

### Information and Reports

**UNION TIME** - David Holder, newly re-elected president of the Madera Unified Teachers Association, thanked teachers and nurses for their service, and announced MUTA's recently elected officers: Vice President Sean Kelly, Treasurer Cheryl Sullivan, Secretary Sara Gelenaw, and Representatives at Large Cynthia Ragsdale and Chianta Houghton.

### Consent Agenda

1. **MSHS VENTILATOR** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved “piggybacking” on a contract originally put out to bid [by another agency](#) to replace a 1992 unit ventilator at Madera South High School. Unit ventilators provide heating and cooling, and have a typical life span of about 20 years, staff said. The cost will be \$672,771 from deferred maintenance funds.
2. **HVAC REPLACEMENTS** - The Board unanimously okayed an agreement with [Net Positive Consulting Engineers](#) for engineering services to replace heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems at Lincoln Elementary, Desmond Middle, Martin Luther King Middle, Madera High, and Madera South High schools. The proposed “fixed fee” is \$372,667.90 from routine restricted maintenance funds. (A fixed fee may be adjusted if the work to be done is changed.)



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3. **AFTER SCHOOL ARTS** - The Board unanimously approved a revised agreement with the nonprofit [Madera County Arts Council](#) for Arts Enrichment lessons during 2022-2023 after-school programs at all elementary and middle schools. The revised agreement includes more schools and an increase in material costs for the current school year. The cost of art materials has risen by more than 10% compared to before the COVID pandemic. The total increase in material and administrative costs is not to exceed \$78,000.
4. **AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS** - The Board unanimously okayed data sharing and a solemn, non-binding agreement with [University of California, Merced](#), so the MUSD high school students can participate in the [Merced Automatic Admissions Program](#). Juniors who apply to the program will be prioritized in the application review process and notified of their admission no later than Feb. 28th, staff said. Even if admitted, the students will remain free to apply to and attend elsewhere.
5. **FAIR CAMP** - The Board unanimously approved an agreement with the [Madera District Fair](#) to provide [Fair Camp](#) for 50 elementary school students per day as a summer school enrichment program on June 20-23. The activities will offer agricultural education. The cost is not to exceed \$5,000 from [Expanded Learning Opportunities Program](#) funds.
6. **COLORING STORY MATS** - The Board unanimously okayed the purchase of [Write Brain](#) products, including Coloring Story Mats, Social Emotional Learning programs for 7th-8th grade students, and in-person training to [California Teaching Fellows Foundation](#) students. The story mats will be used as an option for transitional kindergarten through 6th grade students participating in the Summer Squad After School Program. Illustrated Improv, Rap It Up, and Poets Play programs will be included at no charge for grades 7th-8th. The total cost will be \$31,818.53 from [Expanded Learning Opportunities Program](#) funds.
7. **STAFF CONFERENCE** - The Board unanimously approved a potential reimbursement request for a trip to Tacoma, Washington, in late July for seven district employees to attend the [Character Strong National Conference](#). The total cost will be \$16,800 from [California Community Schools Partnership Program](#) grant funds.
8. **NEW LEADER** - The Board unanimously sanctioned the hiring of Director James Gambrell of Athletics and Community Activities.
9. **STAFF CHANGES** - The Board unanimously okayed the filling of 7 vacant teaching positions, 2 vacant paraprofessional aide (special needs) positions, 4 other classified staff jobs, and 3 other certificated staff jobs.
10. **REVISED JOB** - The Board unanimously approved a revised job title and description for Assessment Technician, formerly known as the Curriculum and Assessment Technician. The technician (\$50,467-\$66,315) assists with the testing and evaluation of students and supports the staff of the Assessment, Accountability and School Improvement Department, which has



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expanded in recent years to meet rising needs. The number of state assessments handled by the district has grown from five to nine in the past three years.

11. **CSEA AGREEMENT** - The Board unanimously okayed a side letter agreement with Madera Chapter #169 of the [California School Employees Association](#). The agreement covered increased hours (by 0.5-1 hours) or days (by 3-58 days) starting on July 1st for 16 positions, most of which are in the Child Nutrition and Transportation departments. The district requested the changes to support students due to the growth in the [Expanded Learning Opportunities Program](#). The total cost will be \$394,000 from the General Fund and Child Nutrition funds.
12. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** - The Board unanimously approved agreements with [Character Strong](#) and [Learning for Living](#) for professional development workshops for school staff on August 2nd. Character Strong will present workshops at Desmond, Martin Luther King Jr. and Thomas Jefferson middle schools, and Learning for Living will conduct a 4-hour workshop at Torres High School. Both will involve promoting stronger relationships, either with students or fellow staff. The total cost will be \$11,750 from [California Community Schools Partnership Program Grant](#) funds and \$10,500 from [School Climate Transformation Grant](#) funds.

### Old Business

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** - The Board of Trustees approved revised MUSD Board Policy 6146.1, which updates high school graduation requirements.

The policy now includes graduation credit requirements for alternative high schools and other changes. Previously, alternative high schools had the same graduation requirements (230 credits) as comprehensive high schools with the only difference being the number of required physical education and elective classes. The requirement for alternative high schools has been reduced to 180 credits, which is more competitive with nearby school districts according to staff.

The revised board policy also expands and strengthens exemptions from graduation requirements for “highly mobile” students, which refers to those who move six or more times between kindergarten through 12th grade. Newly set state law requires that districts report yearly on the number of students who qualified for such exemptions in the prior year. ([Note](#): Highly mobile students can include those living in high poverty, in foster care, in the juvenile justice system, under the care of military members, in homes troubled by domestic violence, or who are homeless, immigrants, or migrants.)

The new graduation requirements will take effect starting with the class of 2023.



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### New Business

1. **DIXIELAND PORTABLE** - The Board approved an agreement with Fresno-based D.H. Williams Construction to install a new portable classroom at Dixieland Elementary School. The district had requested bids from builders in March for the project, but none were received by an April 12th deadline. The cost will be \$696,000 from local developer fee funds.
2. **CLASSIFIED LAYOFFS** - The Board adopted resolution on the layoff of 10 full-time office assistants with notice to be given by May 14. This is the final layoff or reduction in hours of classified staff for this coming school year. Preliminary notices of layoff/reduction had been given to staff by March 15, but three for office assistants and two for student advocates were later rescinded due to [attrition](#) and grant funding.
3. **MULTIMEDIA FEEDBACK** - The Board approved an agreement with [Parsec](#) Reel to gather videos, audio, and text of survey responses from students, parents, and staff. The feedback would be used to improve district programs based on problems, themes, and other patterns identified by artificial intelligence in the survey responses. This would be a “[pilot project](#)” for the technology, according to the company at the board meeting. Parsec Reel would provide training and technical support during the licensing period. The cost will be \$93,310 from [Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant](#) funds.

### Announcements

1. **PAC MEETING** - The Parent Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, May 10. This group advises MUSD on its finances and consults, reviews, and comments on the district's [Local Control and Accountability Plan](#).
2. **MHS BILITERACY** - Madera High School's Seal of Biliteracy celebration will be Thursday, May 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. A [State Seal of Biliteracy](#) on a diploma or transcript indicates that the high school graduate is highly skilled in a language other than English.
3. **THS RECOGNITION** - Torres High School's Student Recognition Night will be Thursday, May 11, at 6 p.m. in the gym.
4. **ARTS FEST** - The Madera County ArtsFest 2023 will be Saturday, May 13, at 10 p.m. at the Madera County Superintendent of Schools office.



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### Advanced Planning

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