



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, July 21, 2020

*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 ([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](#)).

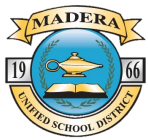
### Information and Reports

1. **EDUCATIONAL BROADBAND SPECTRUM** - Staff offered a tentative report to trustees on how Madera Unified School District could potentially set up its own wireless network for its students across the city of Madera and in parts of rural Madera County.

For now, MUSD has a free license to use part of the local Educational Broadband Spectrum, which is a range of electromagnetic frequencies usable for wireless communication and set aside for education. However, the Federal Communications Commission voted on July 10, 2019, to no longer limit that part of the spectrum for educational uses only and to auction off unused mid-band spectrum to wireless carriers, which will use it to expand 5G networks. MUSD has to start broadcasting on its spectrum by October or the Federal Communications Commission will likely auction it off, staff said. MUSD would not be recompensed.

Staff proposed a pilot program at one or more school sites "where a high percentage of students might benefit from access to free broadband." Such a project could connect about 900 students to the internet and may cost around \$500,000-\$600,000. Beyond the pilot project, the federal E-Rate program could discount up to 85% of the cost to lay a leased fiber-optic network. However, staff said it lacks the expertise to properly research and plan such a network without the aid of consultants.

Outreach efforts in February through March found that 22 percent of MUSD households didn't have home access to broadband internet, which limits the use of digital curriculum and distance learning. The district purchased and distributed "a little over 540" hotspots, which leaves 1,564 students without internet access. Trustees expressed concern about slowness in finding a solution to immediate needs for student internet access. Staff recommended a short-term goal of buying more hotspots for students and, in the longer-term, exploring how the district can best use its broadband license.



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2. **VIRTUAL DESKTOP INFRASTRUCTURE** - Staff proposed replacing Career Technical Education computer labs with virtualization software that can be used anywhere. This Virtual Desktop Infrastructure would allow students with Chromebooks and the internet to access a simulated desktop computer operating system featuring Career Technical Education programs. To offer virtual desktops, MUSD would need to upgrade the bandwidth of core network equipment, which also would be necessary if MUSD created a community broadband network. Virtual Desktop Infrastructure would cost \$2,215,000-\$2,655,000 and include five years of support and licensing. It could be ready for use in the spring semester.
3. **UNION TIME** - Speaking briefly, David Holder, president of the Madera Unified Teachers' Association, said that, despite challenges, "as long as we work together we can get through this situation."

### Superintendent's Time

1. **MADERA'S COLLEGE** - Superintendent Todd Lile offered public congratulations to the state's newest community college - [Madera Community College](#). It is the 116th campus in the state's system.
2. **ADMINISTRATOR ACADEMY** - The superintendent noted that the Academy 2020 for the district's principals would be held virtually this week from Wednesday through Friday.
3. **FORUM ON REOPENING** - Superintendent Lile shared that more than 600 people participated via Zoom and Facebook Live in an MUSD Informational Meeting on the reopening of schools. Several thousand more watched a recording of it. "People are hungry for information," he said, noting that 220 parents who attended virtually completed surveys as well.
4. **CORONAVIRUS** - The superintendent thanked the Madera County Public Health Department and Valley Children's Hospital for being "incredibly" helpful, and noted that "the surge (in Coronavirus cases) we've been seeing with parents is now being mirrored with children." In the previous week, 7-10 MUSD students a day tested positive for COVID-19, he said. While he believes it "best to have our students in school," it is also "best to have healthy staff" who inspires them. Ultimately, the only way to get off the state's Coronavirus watch list is "for us all to do our parts. I'm hoping you'll see masks as a sign of solidarity and not a sign of anything else ... Please ... let's bring our kids back to school."



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### Consent Agenda

1. **MADERA ADULT SCHOOL** - The Board of Trustees approved 38 courses to be taught at Madera Adult School for the 2020-2021 school year. These include Career Exploration, Economics, Government, Spanish, U.S. History, World History, and various math, English, science, computer, art, and English as a Second Language classes.
2. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board of Trustees okayed filling 7 vacant positions, including 2 Child Nutrition assistants, a District Advisory Committee representative (secondary), a dual-language immersion teacher, and others. Trustees also approved a list of 44 fall season athletics coaches, of which 19 involve football.
3. **REVISED CALENDAR** - The Board of Trustees approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Madera Unified Teachers Association on extending the contractual duty calendar of teachers by eight additional days. Staff said the added days will be used to help teachers prepare for the many challenges imposed by new public health guidelines. The cost of the longer calendar will be \$4 million.
4. **SAFETY SERVICES** - The Board of Trustees okayed a services contract with a nonprofit unit of Salesforce, which will provide software that, staff said, will help MUSD better manage the safe reopening of schools. The Board of Trustees also approved a related consulting contract with Servio, which will set up and configure the Salesforce software. The combined cost of both contracts is not to exceed \$130,000 of COVID-19 funding.
5. **RE-OPENING VIDEOS** - The Board of Trustees okayed hiring Windsong Productions to create videos to teach staff, students, and the community about MUSD, the racial makeup and lives of its students, alumni stories, and COVID-19 safety. The cost is not to exceed \$85,000 in COVID-19 funding.

### Old Business

**POLICY REVISION** - The Board of Trustees approved a revision of the district's Repeating a Course Policy (AR 5121). The new policy allows students to repeat courses, such as choir class or those they received a D grade in, without depriving them of credits they need for graduation.

### New Business

1. **REOPENING PLAN** - The Board of Trustees okayed a resolution to adopt the 2020-2021 School Reopening Plan but to delegate further authority to the superintendent to carry out



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the plan and modify the teaching method used (distance, independent study, hybrid, or traditional schoolhouse) as deemed best during the COVID-19 pandemic. This authority also includes any proper actions to respond to the Coronavirus situation, such as modifying school and work schedules, or modifying or canceling any MUSD activities, programs, or courses.

2. **FIRST READINGS** - The Board of Trustees listened to the first reading of several proposals. These include a restructuring of the Information Technology Department, a resolution declaring the district's full commitment to racial equity, a new Board policy on distance learning, and another one on working remotely. Details can be found in [the meeting's agenda packet](#).

### Advanced Planning

1. **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING** - A special Board Meeting will be Wednesday, August 5, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting may be held virtually.
2. **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 11, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting may be held virtually.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees adjourned at midnight. About 300 people participated virtually.