

Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, August 11, 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 can be seen 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

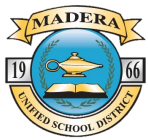
1. **SPECIAL SERVICES** - Staff summarized a plan for how students with disabilities will be taught using distance and hybrid teaching methods.
 - In the **distance learning model**, Special Education will follow the same instructional minutes as General Education. Resource Specialist Program teachers may join the General Education teachers' online lessons and provide small group instruction in a virtual breakout room.
 - In the **hybrid learning model**, the Resource Specialist Program and students covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will follow the General Education schedule and may receive services virtually and/or in person. Special Day Class students who need a higher level of support will attend school every weekday except Wednesday.

This will be the first year MUSD oversees speech and language services, which were previously handled by Madera County. The district has hired 17 Speech and Language Pathologists, who will provide services virtually. They may also join the virtual classrooms of General Education, Resource Specialist Program and/or Special Day Class teachers to see how students are doing and may teach small groups in breakout sessions.

Assessments halted when Coronavirus measures began in March. About 100 open assessments remain and will be resolved in chronological order. Assessments will be made in-person and one-on-one with appropriate personal protective equipment worn.

About 500 Individualized Education Program meetings will be held virtually.

2. **UNION TIME** - David Holder, president of the Madera Unified Teachers' Association, said the union had sent in updated information on the state of learning in California and the roster of school districts that will offer distance learning with choice in the workplace. "We understand this is a difficult decision," he said.



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Superintendent's Time

1. **MADERA FFA ALUMNI** - Superintendent Todd Lile shared that two MUSD alumni have been selected as finalists for California Future Farmers of America's Stars Over America program. Madera High School alumnus Raul Morales will compete in Ag Placement, and Madera South High School alumna Kimberlina Santos will contend in Agriscience.
2. **COLLABORATION KUDOS** - The superintendent thanked MUTA leadership, Chief Human Resources Officer Kent Albertson, and Assistant Superintendent Sheryl Sisil "for their constant collaboration and dialogue to support" MUSD students and teachers. Lile commended his cabinet for developing nearly 100 pages of pandemic guidance in the district's "Preparing to Educate" document. He praised Educational Services for its Instructional Continuity Plan 2.0, teachers for helping their fellow teachers develop professionally this week, and the Area Assistant Superintendents for collaborating with site leaders to prepare for this school year.
3. **STAFF CONFIDENCE** - Superintendent Todd Lile shared that 85 percent of surveyed MUSD staff affirmed they'd received personal protective equipment, and 68 percent said they'd feel confident about the safety of loved ones if they too worked at MUSD. The results were encouraging yet showed space for improvement.

Consent Agenda

1. **EXAM WAIVER** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a one-time, temporary waiver of the Pre-participation Physical Examination for student athletes. The waiver will allow students to take part in athletics for a maximum of 30 calendar days from the school's first day of practice for that CIF sanctioned Fall 2020 sport. The waiver is in response to pandemic-related delays in getting appointments for physical exams.
2. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board of Trustees unanimously okayed the filling of 10 custodian positions, 4 vacant paraprofessional aide jobs, 3 vacant teaching positions, and 9 other vacant positions as well as hiring a new speech and language pathologist and a new licensed vocational nurse.
3. **NEW & REVISED JOBS** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the creation or revision of four classified positions: Assistant Director of Child Nutrition, Migrant Student



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Advocate (7th-12th Grades), Student Mentor-Robotics, and CASAS Technician (CASAS stands for Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System).

4. **NURSES CALENDAR** - The Board of Trustees unanimously okayed extending the duty calendar of MUSD nurses by five additional days (Oct. 5, March 15, and June 9-11). The cost of the longer calendar will be \$41,000 from COVID-19 Relief Funds.
5. **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a services agreement with National Educators for Restorative Practices to train teachers in strategies to build relationships and a deeper understanding of their students. The cost will be \$20,00 from a state grant through the Learning Communities for School Success Program.

Old Business

1. **DISTANCE LEARNING** - The Board of Trustees okayed a new Board policy on how distance learning should be provided to students, including availability to students, use of district equipment, grading, and teacher training and support.
2. **WORKING REMOTELY** - The Board of Trustees approved a new Board policy for staff that MUSD decides may work from home due to temporary workplace disruptions. Approval of remote work will not in itself change expectations of communication, pay, benefits, work hours, breaks, access to supplies and equipment, and confidentiality, according to the policy. In response to a trustee question, staff noted that those who wish to work at home should already have internet access there. If not, staff should stay at their normal worksite.

New Business

1. **COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN** - The Board of Trustees listened to a first reading of a proposed temporary Board policy meant for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy would supersede conflicting parts of other policies. After the pandemic, the proposed policy would be removed. The policy covers issues such as grading, student health screening, social distancing, attendance, personal protective equipment, hygiene, sanitization, food services, contact tracing, and nondiscrimination against those infected by COVID-19.
2. **CHARTER SCHOOLS** - The Board of Trustees heard a first reading of five Board policies, two administrative regulations, and an exhibit that must be revised in response to new state laws on charter schools. The changes add new requirements to charter schools and extend timelines within the process of getting a charter school authorized.
3. **REVISED BUDGET** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a revised 2020-21 budget for the district. On June 29, Gov. Newsom signed the state's 2020 Budget Act, which is



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balanced partly by deferring \$12 billion in payments to school districts and eliminating a proposed 2.3% cost-of-living adjustment. The state will still require at least 180 instructional days. But instructional minutes will be more flexible, ranging from three hours for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten to four hours for Grades 4-12. MUSD is receiving \$31 million in COVID-19 Relief Funds. These restricted funds are to be used for distance learning and the safe reopening of schools. The state will defer \$49 million in cash payments to MUSD from February through June 2021, so the district will use its reserve funds to cover its financial obligations, such as staff paychecks. Looking ahead, staff projects a deficit of \$13,708,857 for 2020-21, \$17,782,174 for 2021-22, and \$25,114,287 for 2022-23. During those years, the projected General Fund Reserve will be somewhat stable with an average of less than 21 percent.

Announcements

1. **SPANISH INFORMATIONAL MEETING** - A public MUSD informational meeting in Spanish was set for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, to offer an update on community health, internet connectivity and devices, and parent communication.
2. **FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL** - A public MUSD informational meeting was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, on the first two weeks of school.
3. **PARENT RESOURCES** - A third informational meeting has been planned for 4:30 p.m. on Monday, August 17 on services and resources available from MUSD, including those offered by our Parent Resource Centers.

Advanced Planning

1. **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 25, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting may be held virtually.