



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

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

Nadeem Ahmad (Area 7), Gladys Diebert (Area 2), Joetta Fleak (Area 4), Ruben Mendoza (Area 3), Lucy Salazar (Area 5), and Ray Seibert (Area 1)

Board Reorganization Items

STUDENT TRUSTEES - Seven MUSD high school students swore an oath Tuesday to support and defend the U.S. and California constitutions following their appointment as 2024-2025 advisory members of the Board of Trustees. The new members are:

- ★ **Alternative Education:** Camila Campos-Gutierrez
- ★ **Madera High School:** Angelica Castillo and alternate Aiden Delacruz
- ★ **Madera South High School:** Angelica Cervantes-Hernandez and alternate Julian Martinez-Rodriguez
- ★ **Matilda Torres High School:** Emmely Duque Martinez and alternate Kaypree Adams

Only two students will be officially seated as trustees on the dais at any regular Board meeting, and they will exit around 9:30 p.m. Student trustees can make motions, serve on subcommittees, and vote on agenda items, but those “preferential votes” won’t affect whether items pass or fail. Each student will also lead a Student Voice forum with peers and will meet periodically with the superintendent.

Communications

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

Consent Agenda (6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent - 0 preferential)

1. **MHS CONCRETE** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a change to polished concrete projects by [Expert Paintings & Coatings](#) of Fresno that began in June at multiple sites. While removing floor tile from Building 800 at Madera High School, the contract



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uncovered large cracks and abandoned piping system that sat flush with the existing concrete, staff said. In the past, the piping circulated hot water from a boiler that provided radiant heating in the rooms. The contract will cut out and fill the areas – as well as any cracks larger than an eighth of an inch – with self-leveling concrete. The change cost \$9,751.30, and so the total project cost will increase by \$3,751.30.

2. **CHILD NUTRITION RETIREE** - The Board unanimously accepted the retirement of Child Nutrition assistant *Rhoda Black* on Sept. 2 after 21 years of service.
3. **NEW LEADERS** - The Board unanimously sanctioned the hiring of the following leaders.
 - a. Program Specialist *Amber Kalustion* of Special Education
Formerly of Clovis Unified
 - b. Program Specialist *Katie Shea* of Special Education
4. **STAFF CHANGES** - The Board unanimously okayed the filling of 35 teaching positions, 12 Paraprofessional Aide jobs, seven Classroom Aide Preschool - Level II jobs, three Intervention Specialist jobs, 10 other classified positions, and four other certificated positions.
5. **MHS VOLLEYBALL** - The Board unanimously approved a Madera High School field trip to Santa Maria for a girls volleyball scrimmage. Vans will carry 12 students and two adults there in mid-August. The transportation cost will be \$1,465.60 from MHS Athletics and Girls Volleyball Boosters funds.
6. **ARTS TRAINING** - The Board unanimously okayed an agreement with Assistant Theatre Professor [Gina Sandi-Diaz](#) of Fresno State University. She would serve as a mentor and advisor to teachers and staff who will be guiding 7th grade students in Madison School's new arts elective course. The cost will be \$3,000.
7. **COSTUMES** - The Board unanimously approved an agreement with [Cantu's Creations](#) to gather, launder, catalog, and organize clothing and costumes currently scattered about the district. The items will be stored at 345 S. Schnoor St. for Madera Unified Theatre Programs. The cost will be \$10,000 from Arts Music Instructional Materials Grant funds.
8. **BSU DRUMMING** - The Board unanimously okayed an agreement with [African Drum Interactive](#) to teach high school students about African culture through interactive music as part of the Black Student Union's Welcome Back Week. The group drumming will occur around midday at Madrea, Madera South, and Torres high schools in mid to late August. The cost will be \$3,500 from Student Leadership Development/Equity Funds.
9. **MHS STAFF TRAINING** - The Board unanimously approved an agreement with [Bureau of Education & Research](#) for training special education staff at Madera High School in co-teaching strategies. The cost will be \$5,130 from [Title I](#) grant funds.



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Information and Reports

DISCIPLINE DATA - Staff presented district suspension and expulsion rates for 2021-2024.

- **SUSPENSIONS** - Suspensions, which had grown in 2022-2023 (4.7%), dropped to 2021-2022 levels in 2023-2024 (3.7%). There were 791 suspensions in 2023-2024, 1,003 in 2022-2023, and 789 in 2021-2022.
- **EXPULSIONS** - Expulsion rates were stable (0.3%) from 2021-2024 – with 62 students expelled in 2023-2024, 69 in 2022-2023, and 57 in 2021-2022.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 27, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held in person and virtually.