



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, August 27, 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), Israel Cortes (Area 6), Gladys Diebert (Area 2), Joetta Fleak (Area 4), Lucy Salazar (Area 5), Ray Seibert (Area 1), Angelica Castillo (Madera High School), and Angelica Cervantes-Hernandez (Madera South High School)

### Communications

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

### Consent Agenda

1. **NCEE COACHING** - The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with the not-for-profit [National Center on Education and the Economy](#) for help in developing the district's learning model and career ladder for educators. The cost will be \$185,000 from [Supplemental and Concentration grant](#) funds from the state.
2. **'GOOD HUMANS'** - The Board okayed an agreement with videography company [Windsong Productions](#) to record a series of 20 informational videos in English and Spanish. The goal of the "Good Humans" series, which is intended for parents of new and returning MUSD students, is to promote universal decency and respect between people. The cost will be \$310,650 from [Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant](#) funds.
3. **HUSEIN SCHOOL** - The Board approved an agreement with James D.Doll, who would serve as a certified project inspector for the King Husein School Project. A project inspector is required by the [Division of State Architect](#), which oversees construction of state-owned or state-leased facilities. The cost will be \$1,480,900 from Building Fund-Bond Proceeds 2003 money.
4. **MADISON SCHOOL** - The Board okayed an agreement an agreement with [RMA GeoScience](#) for materials testing and special inspection of the academic building project at Madison School. The cost will be \$63,450 from Building Fund money.
5. **AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS** - The Board approved an agreement with [High Performance Academy](#) to offer after-school sports activities and curriculum at all 18 elementary school and



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three middle schools for this school year. In 2023-2024, the city's Parks and Community Services offered such services but chose not to do so again this year. The cost will be \$553,800 from [Expanded Learning Opportunities Program](#) funds.

6. **RETIREES** - The Board accepted the retirement of the following staff.
  - a. *Leticia Ruelas*, a teacher at La Vina School, retired on Aug. 21 after 33 years of service.
  - b. *Jaquetta Marley*, an operations supervisor at Child Nutrition, will retire on Sept. 6 after 32 years of service.
  - c. *Janet Beene*, a teacher at Pershing School, retired on June 6 after 22 years of service.
7. **STAFF CHANGES** - The Board approved the filling of 35 [Madera Unified League of Elementary Schools](#) wrestling coach jobs, eight teaching positions, four middle school football coach jobs, three Child Nutrition technician jobs, three paraprofessional aide positions, nine other classified jobs, eight other coaching positions, and one counselor job.
8. **FIELD TRIPS** - The Board okayed five high school field trips involving more than 90 students and 10 adults. The largest and farthest trip will carry 55 Madera, Madera South, and Torres high school students and 7 adults by bus and van to a theater festival in early October at Ashland, Oregon. The total costs will be \$16,844 for transportation and \$17,585 for lodging from MHS Athletics, MHS Cross Country Boosters, Associated Student Body, Future Farmers of America funds, [Agricultural Career Technical Education Incentive Grant](#), [Perkins](#), and Career Technical Education and Arts Education [Arts, Music & Instructional Materials Block Grant](#) funds.
9. **TEXTING PARENTS**- The Board approved an agreement with [ParentPowered Public Benefit Corp.](#) for its Trauma-Informed and Attendance curricula, which is sent to families via text messages. Parents of up to 3,000 elementary school students will receive facts and tips in English or Spanish. The texts are meant to inspire the family to support their child's learning and help them build skills to do so. The cost will be \$30,000 from [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act - Stronger Connections Grant](#) funds.
10. **TEACHER TRAINING** - The Board okayed an agreement with Kierschnick and Associates for training on building bonds and trust between staff and students. Teacher and author [Weston Kierschnick](#) worked with Madera South High School staff and 20 teachers in 2023-2024, and will work with 30 more teachers in 2024-2025. The cost will be \$49,450 from [California Community Schools Partnership Program](#) grant funds.

### New Business

1. **TK BUILDINGS** - The Board of Trustees approved awarding a bid to [BMY Construction Group](#) for the construction of universal transitional kindergarten buildings at Alpha, Pershing, and



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Rose elementary schools. The cost will be \$11,665,000 from the Building Fund. The district will receive \$1.8 million in state funds for the project at Rose School.

2. **BLUE PYRAMID GROWTH** - Staff reviewed [math and reading assessments](#) by the [Northwest Evaluation Association](#) (NWEA) and the [state](#) for schools in the district's Blue Pyramid. The "2024 NWEA results for English showed overall growth in a majority of grades at every school" and "great" growth in Lincoln School's 4th grade and Howard School's 8th grade, staff said. But "there were pockets of stagnant or decreasing growth at each site." The results for math "showed much better growth" with "just a handful of grade levels" at schools that "did not show growth" and pockets of "extremely high levels of growth" at half a dozen schools.

Overall, "elementary school sites showed much higher levels of growth" compared to middle and high schools. But staff noted that English Learners and Special Education students were still struggling. In response to trustee questions, staff suggested that "the spirit of collaboration is stronger at the elementary level" and that the district needed to better lead its teachers in "how to steal good ideas from each other" through teacher collaboration and a "[cycle of inquiry](#)" based on data and students needs at each school. There are also "practices of intervention we need to steal from the elementary level for secondary."

Staff project that the district's performance rating in the [California School Dashboard](#) will improve from orange in 2022-2023 to yellow in English for 2023-2024 and will stay at yellow in math.

### Announcements

1. **BOND OVERSIGHT** - The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee will meet Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 5:30 p.m. in the Torres High School library. This group of community members, which meet four times a year, reviews financial audits of all bond projects and informs the public on project progress.
2. **MCSBA** - The Madera County School Boards Association will meet Wednesday, Aug. 28, at Liberty High School. The group has a three-fold objective of advancing public schools, cooperating with all who wish to better the educational opportunities in Madera County, and promoting public education through other means.
3. **LABOR DAY** - Labor Day will be Monday, Sept. 2. The government holiday honors the achievements of U.S. workers.
4. **TEACHER AWARDS** - Distinguished Teacher Awards will be presented on Thursday, Sept. 5, at the Madera District Fairgrounds.



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### Advanced Planning

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING** - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held in person and virtually.