



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 22, 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 when available ([click 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](#)).

Board Organizational 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 advisory members of the Board of Trustees. The new members are:

- ★ **Alternative Education:** Aaliyah Basques and alternate Miguelina Mendoza-Cruz
- ★ **Madera High School:** Kiyana Granados and alternate Abigail Poore
- ★ **Madera South High School:** Jeremiah Goodman and alternate Gladys Torres
- ★ **Matilda Torres High School:** Annelise Stephens

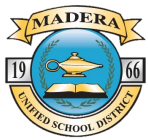
They are the first student trustees in Madera County history, according to Superintendent Todd Lile. While most of the trustees are seniors or juniors, the trustee from Matilda Torres High School is a freshman. MTHS, the district's newest high school, only has first and second-year students.

Only two of those students at a time will represent their schools as trustees at any regular Board meeting, and they will exit around 9:30 p.m. even if it isn't finished. Student trustees can submit items to the Board meeting agenda and can vote on agenda items, but those "preferential votes" won't affect whether items pass or fail. Outside of Board meetings, each student will lead a Student Voice forum with classmates for their school and will also meet quarterly with the superintendent.

During a special training meeting on Sept. 17, the students learned about the role of the School Board in defining the district's beliefs, visions, and priorities. Their training also highlighted the procedures for and the limits to what the Board can do, such as the meeting restrictions in the state's Brown Act, which is meant to promote transparency and public participation in government decision-making.

Information and Reports

UNION TIME - David Holder, president of the Madera Unified Teachers Association, referred to an earlier series of public comments to the Board from MUSD teachers asking to be able to work from home. "What you heard this evening is just a small slice of what has been building in the district," he



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

said, and he clarified that “what educators are asking for is not a blanket work-for-home (order) but the option” to do so if they wish.

Consent Agenda

1. **PRESCHOOL SOFTWARE** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a three-year agreement with software maker Learning Genie to provide its online app services and to train MUSD State Preschool staff as needed. Staff said the software will reduce the time needed to enter student data, feature early literacy resources, and offer a way to communicate with parents. The cost will be \$22,250.
2. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board of Trustees unanimously okayed the filling of 4 new positions (two K-8 Independent Study Teachers and two Migrant Student Advocates) and the filling of 4 vacant positions (two Relief Bus Drivers, a Paraprofessional Aide at Washington School, and a Migrant Liaison). Trustees also approved a new job description for Independent Study Program Teacher (K-8th Grade). The position supports students who are struggling with other forms of schooling offered by MUSD.

Old Business

1. **VIRTUAL COMPUTERS** - The Board of Trustees unanimously okayed a Data Center Refresh project that will replace Career Technical Education computer labs with virtualization software that can be used anywhere. This will allow students with internet-connected devices such as a Chromebook, MacBook, or phone to access simulated desktop computer operating systems featuring Career Technical Education programs. The project will cost \$2,237,964.70 from COVID-19 Relief Funds plus the price of back-up power and cooling for the data center that will run the virtualization software. The data center will be a computer server room in the main district office. The equipment will be ordered at the end of this month with installation and testing to follow in December. Trustees will consider whether to approve cooling and power upgrades in the fall of 2021.
2. **SOLAR POWER** - The Board of Trustees approved a document by consultant [ARC Alternatives](#) that will ask for competitive proposals and bids to set up solar power systems across MUSD. ARC Alternatives analyzed the utility usage for 30 sites and concluded that MUSD uses about 10.6 million kilowatt-hours per year at a cost of roughly \$2.04 million. The biggest energy users were Madera and Madera South high schools, which used nearly a third of the district’s electricity. To offset the entire electric load for MUSD, ARC Alternatives



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

estimates the district would need to install a roughly 6.3 Megawatt (Direct Current) of solar photovoltaic cells, which convert light into electricity. Financially, MUSD would break even for the project in the first year of operation, according to ARC Alternatives, and would save about \$54 million gross (or \$13.6 million after deducting costs) over the project's 25-year life cycle.

3. **HARASSMENT POLICY** - The Board of Trustees okayed a revised Board Policy and Administrative Regulation (5145.7) on sexual harassment. The revisions feature changes required by two 2019 California education laws on harassment (Assembly Bills 34 and 543). These include the display of the district's sexual harassment rules on the district's website and on posters visible to students. A copy of the rules must also be provided to new and returning students as part of any orientation programs.
4. **LEARNING CONTINUITY & ATTENDANCE PLAN** - The Board of Trustees approved the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan required by the state for the 2020-21 school year. The plan outlines how MUSD will educate during the COVID-19 pandemic, including how gaps in learning, students with unique needs, devices and internet access, school meals, and mental and social-emotional health needs of students and staff will be handled. It has temporarily replaced the Local Control and Accountability Plan.

New Business

1. **INTERNET ESSENTIALS** - The Board of Trustees okayed an agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management to enter the Internet Essential Partnership Program. The program offers "low-cost, broadband internet service for a nominal monthly fee to the district, which is less than" hotspots currently in use, according to staff. MUSD will sponsor up to 2,000 households that qualify for the program. A family whose student can receive free school lunches would be eligible, staff said. The cost will be up to \$238,800 between October 2020 through July 2022 (about \$11 monthly for each household).
2. **FIRST READINGS** - The Board of Trustees listened to first readings of proposed updates to the district's policies and regulations on sexual harassment, on suspensions and expulsions, and on the Migrant Education Program.
 - a. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** - The update on sexual harassment rules is "an adjustment of what was presented previously on the sexual harassment and Title IX policies that we have to review," according to staff.



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

- b. **MIGRANT EDUCATION** - The new Board Policy and Administrative Regulation on the Migrant Education Program (6175) will house all the district's program rules in one place instead of scattered elsewhere, staff said.
- c. **STUDENT SUSPENSIONS** - The revised rules on student suspensions, expulsions, and due process would extend immunity to suspension for willful defiance to 8th grade. Previously students couldn't be suspended for defying valid staff authority from kindergarten through 3rd grade. This change obeys a 2019 amendment to state law ([Senate Bill 419](#)).

Announcements

- 1. **COUNTY ARTS** - The multiagency Madera County Arts Authority, to which MUSD belongs, will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28, at the Madera County Board of Supervisors chambers. The arts authority was formed to advance the arts in the county and to develop a Madera Cultural and Performing Arts Center.
- 2. **DELAC** - The District English Language Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29.
- 3. **MCSBA** - The Madera County School Boards Association will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Matilda Torres High School with tours of the school starting at 5:30 p.m., the Executive Committee meeting at 6 p.m., and the general meeting at 7 p.m. Guest speakers will talk about "epidemic/pandemic preparation" and "trauma informed practices."

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.