



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 24, 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), Angelica Castillo (Madera High School), Israel Cortes (Area 6), Gladys Diebert (Area 2), Emmely Duque-Martinez (Torres High School), Joetta Fleak (Area 4), Ruben Mendoza (Area 3), Lucy Salazar (Area 5), and Ray Seibert (Area 1)

Communications

1. **THERAPY DOGS** - Staff introduced two [therapy dogs](#) (Roe and Jericho) assigned to the blue and purple pyramids. A third dog (Umi) will be assigned to the red pyramid. The dogs will work to reduce student stress, improve mental health, and create a positive learning environment.
2. **[MADERA MINUTES](#)** - Staff shared a video summarizing recent student and staff activities.

Consent Agenda

1. **IMPROVEMENT PLANS** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved 2024-2025 [Comprehensive Support and Improvement](#) Plans for King Jr. Middle School Furman Independent Study, and Ripperdan Community Day School. The state requires the development of such plans when Title I-funded schools have a low graduation rate or are among the lowest performing. Qualifying for CSI plans makes schools eligible for special grant funding, which are \$174,382 for Furman, \$174,382 for King, and \$174,382 for Ripperdan.
2. **STAFF TRAINING** - The Board unanimously okayed a proposal by [Vista Higher Learning](#) to train teachers and academic coaches who work with English learners at secondary schools. The training will involve the company's [Get Ready!](#) curriculum. The cost will be \$8,000 from Newcomer Funds.
3. **DESMOND RETIREE** - The Board unanimously accepted the retirement of teacher Michelle Omland of Desmond Middle School planned for June 6, 2025, after 22 years of service.
4. **STAFF CHANGES** - The Board unanimously approved the filling of five vacant School Safety Officer positions, three vacant Child Nutrition assistant II positions, three paraprofessional



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aide jobs, and six other classified jobs as well as the reclassification of 10 employees as Student Advocate - Social Emotional/Behavioral.

5. **CLASSIFIED PROGRAM** - The Board unanimously okayed an agreement with the [Kremen School of Education and Human Development](#) for the 2024-2025 Classified Employee Grant Program. The school's staff will collaborate with MUSD on the program to enable classified staff to finish degrees and requirements to become teachers. The cost will be \$38,200 for the collaboration and student financial support.
6. **NEW JOB** - The Board unanimously approved a new job description and salary, which will be used to reclassify two existing employees of Madera Adult School. The *Adult Education Data / Exam Technician* (\$43,806-\$57,316 per year) will fulfill the state's assessment and reporting requirements. The cost will be \$17,777 from the Adult Education Fund.
7. **FIELD TRIPS** - The Board unanimously okayed four high school field trips involving about 14 students and three adults. The largest trip will carry 12 Madera High School Girls Basketball athletes and two adults by van to Santa Maria for a scrimmage in mid-November. The farthest trip will bring two [Family, Career and Community Leaders of America](#) members from Torres High School and one adult to Riverside in southern California for a conference in late April. The total costs will be \$1,528 for travel and \$4,380 for lodging from Career Technical Education, MHS Athletics, and MHS Girls Basketball Boosters funds.
8. **TRAUMA INTERVENTION** - The Board unanimously approved an agreement with [Wise Soul LLC](#) to support teachers in recognizing and addressing trauma among students as early as possible. Consultant Felipe Mercado will develop training materials and resources, visit sites, offer regular coaching, train teachers in self-compassion, collect and evaluate data, and engage with the community. The cost will be \$90,000 from [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative](#) grant funds.
9. **STAFF TRAINING** - The Board unanimously okayed an agreement with [Global Impact](#) for six principals to receive nine months of virtual training and coaching on family engagement. The cost will be \$70,000 from [California Community Schools Partnership Program](#) grant funds.
10. **ATTORNEY** - The Board unanimously approved an agreement with consulting attorney [Kidd Crawford](#) for a range of legal services from Sept. 25, 2024, through June 30, 2026. The cost will be \$300,000 from Special Services funds.

Old Business

SCHOOL PLANS - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved 2024-2025 [School Plans for Student Achievement](#), which are required by the state.



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New Business

RED PYRAMID GROWTH - Staff reviewed [math and reading assessments](#) by the [Northwest Evaluation Association](#) (NWEA) and the [state](#) for schools in the district's Red Pyramid. The 2024 results for reading (fall to spring) showed varied rates of academic growth by school and, within the same school, by grade level. The fastest progress in reading across grade levels could be seen at Pershing Elementary School. Results for math (fall to spring) were also varied but mostly strong. The fastest progress in math across grade levels could be seen at Pershing School. Staff noted, however, that Red Pyramid's Monroe Elementary School is projected to have the highest math scores in the district and ranks number one in the state when compared to schools with similar demographics.

In response to trustee questions, Supt. Todd Lile commented that the growth results are not a measure of academic achievement. The results are diagnostic tools for the district's teachers so they can see "where are our kids struggling and how we can fix it." Staff spoke similarly.

Announcements

1. **CAC MEETING** - The Community Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 5 p.m. in the Madera County Superintendent of Schools conference room.
2. **EDUCATION AWARDS** - The [Excellence in Education Awards](#) ceremony will be Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5:30-8:30 PM at Madera County Superintendent of Schools.
3. **PARENT CONFERENCE** - The MUSD Parent and Community Engagement Conference will be Friday, Sept. 27, from 5:30-7:30 PM at Torres High School.
4. **TEACHING FELLOWS** - [California Teaching Fellows Foundation](#) will host its annual gala Friday, Sept. 27, from 6-9 PM at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club.
5. **RESCUE MISSION** - [Madera Rescue Mission](#) will host its annual banquet on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 6-8 PM at Hatfield Hall on the Madera District Fairgrounds.
6. **STUDENT CHAMPIONS** - The Classified [Student Champion Course](#) will be Monday, Oct. 7, from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM in the Desmond Middle School cafeteria.
7. **MHS HOMECOMING** - The Madera High School homecoming parade and football game will be Friday, Oct. 4.



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Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held in person and virtually.