

In accordance with Executive Order [N-29-20](#) and Executive Order [N-33-20](#), this Board meeting will be an online video conference in which Board members, staff and the public can join through the link listed below, or via telephone as listed at the end of the agenda. It is advisable to test your devices prior to the meeting to ensure you can access the link. If you have concerns or issues accessing the link, email [gladysdiebert@maderausd.org](mailto:gladysdiebert@maderausd.org) by no later than 8:30 a.m. on Monday, December 7, 2020.

## **MADERA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **Madera: Unified For Student Success**

#### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

#### **AGENDA**

#### **Special Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

1902 Howard Road, Madera CA 93637

#### **8:00 AM - Public Meeting**

Meeting will be held via Zoom, a cloud-based video communication that holds virtual meetings.

Click [here](#) to access the link to the Zoom meeting or from the link included in page 2.

#### **OUR MISSION**

We are committed to creating and sustaining a culture enabling Madera Unified students to experience an unparalleled educational journey that is intellectually, socially, and personally transformative.

The public is welcome to comment on the item listed on the agenda at the time the item is addressed during the meeting. Fifteen minutes have been allocated for comments for each agenda item.

**If you wish to comment on agenda items available for public comment, you may do so as indicated below:**

- Prior to the meeting: email your comment to [gladysdiebert@maderausd.org](mailto:gladysdiebert@maderausd.org) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Include your full name and city of residence and the name of the agenda item you want to comment on. Written comments must contain no more than 390 words. Your comment will be read during this portion of the meeting.
- In the Zoom meeting, and when the agenda item is open for public comment:  
Click on the **Participants** icon located at the bottom of the screen.  
On the new window, click on the **Raise Hand** icon and wait for your name to be called. Speakers will address the Board in the order this feature is used. State your name and city of residence prior to your comment.

**1. 8:00 AM: Call to Order of Public Meeting**

**2. Roll call and Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. [Request Adoption of Resolution No. 20-2020/21 on Student Grading During COVID-19 School Closure and Distance Learning Instruction](#)**

**4. Board Workshop**

- A. District System Design Partnership (DSDP) Return** - Facilitated by Edward V. Chevallier, National Center on Education and the Economy

## 5. Adjournment

Board Room Accessibility: The Madera Unified School District encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact [gladysdiebert@maderausd.org](mailto:gladysdiebert@maderausd.org) at least 48 hours before the scheduled Board of Trustees meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code 54954.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 202 (42 U.S.C. 12132).]

**To participate in the virtual meeting, click on the link below.**  
**Para conectarse a la reunión virtual, seleccione el enlace abajo.**

<https://zoom.us/j/95775905054>

**To participate in the meeting via telephone, dial one of the numbers below. At the prompt, enter the meeting ID listed below. / Para unirse a la reunión por teléfono, marque uno de los números de abajo. Cuando se le indique, ingrese el número de identificación (Meeting ID) enumerado abajo.**

**Meeting ID/ID de la reunión: 957 7590 5054**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**Find your local number/Encuentre su número local: <https://zoom.us/u/aeB6p4sjpz>**

## **AGENDA ITEM COVER PAGE**

**Meeting Date:** December 8, 2020

**Agenda Item:** Request Adoption of Resolution No. 20-2020/21 on Student Grading During COVID-19 School Closure and Distance Learning Instruction

**Responsible Staff:** Todd Lile, Superintendent  
Sheryl Sisil, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

**Effective Date:** 12/9/2020

### **Background:**

On March 13, 2020, Madera Unified School District closed schools and moved to a Distance Learning model to protect students and staff against the spread of COVID-19 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Subsequently, the Board of Trustees approved Resolution No. 39-2019/20 on June 23, 2020 to reflect an adjustment in grading practices that were instituted by the district to reflect the interrupted education that students experienced due to the emergency school closure. The flexibility in grading practices outlined in the resolution ended at the conclusion of the summer session in 2020.

Commencing with the 2020-2021 school year, Madera Unified School District is committed to ensuring that the expectations and direction outlined in Board Policy 5121 and Administrative Regulation 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement regarding the measurement of student achievement and the issuance of grades are adhered to by district staff.

### **Rationale:**

The Governing Board believes that grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping students and parents/guardians understand performance expectations and identify the student's areas of strength and those areas needing improvement. Parents/guardians and students have the right to receive course grades that represent an accurate evaluation of the student's achievement. Achievement is determined by a body of evidence which demonstrates mastery related to a standard indicating growth over time.

The adoption of this resolution serves as a declaration by the Madera Unified School Board of Trustees of its commitment to the expectations and direction regarding the measurement of student achievement and the issuance of grades as outlined in Board Policy 5121 and Administrative Regulation 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None.

### **This item complies with the following Board Policy(ies) and Board Bylaw(s):**

BP 6157

### **This items fulfills/complies with Board Policy through the following ways:**

Grading of distance learning assignments and assessments of end-of-course knowledge and understanding of the subject matter shall be consistent with district policy.

**Superintendent's Recommendation to the MUSD Governing Board of Trustees:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board adopt Resolution No. 20-2020/202 on Student Grading During COVID-19 School Closure and Distance Learning Instruction

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 20-2020/21](#)

**MADERA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 20-2020/2021 ON STUDENT GRADING DURING COVID-19  
SCHOOL CLOSURE AND DISTANCE LEARNING INSTRUCTION**

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of California declared a State of Emergency due to the outbreak and spread of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Madera Unified School District closed schools and transitioned to a Distance Learning model to protect students and staff against the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Distance Learning model has created inherent challenges for students and the ability of students to academically perform under a traditional grading system is compromised; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing Board Policy 5121 and Administrative Regulation 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement, include standards and flexibility available to teachers regarding measuring student achievement and issuing grades; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, to the greatest extent possible, while maintaining the health and safety of the students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is committed to continued teaching and learning, including assessment and evaluation, through alternative means during this prolonged period of school closure; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the Superintendent ensure the educational needs of all students are being addressed through the virtual learning environments of Distance Learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of grades is integral to our education system, determining whether students advance to the next grade, earn a place on the honor roll, meet college preparation and entrance requirements or graduate at the top of their class; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative to create an opportunity for students to be able to improve their grades in the current environment; and

**WHEREAS**, grades should reflect students' learning and mastery of academic material and not for punitive purposes for non-compliance; and

**WHEREAS**, giving zeros for incomplete or missing assignments has a devastating effect on student grades and often zeros are not even related to learning or achievement but to nonacademic factors like behavior, attendance, participation, compliance, and effort; and

**WHEREAS**, to assign zeros to punish students for inadequate effort or poor performance are more likely to discourage students and lead to their withdrawal than encourage them to make greater efforts.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Governing Board hereby affirms the existing Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5121 - Grades and Evaluation of Student Achievement, and recognizes the following related grading principles and flexibility:

- The grading and reporting policies and practices of the District will support the learning process and encourage student success.
- The purposes for grading and reporting student learning are as follows:
  - Measure what a student knows and is able to do;
  - Communicate student progress and achievement to students and parents;
  - Encourage student growth and progress in learning
  - Provide parents the opportunity to be involved in the educational process;
  - Ensure evaluation of achievement is fair, accurate, specific and timely.
- Parents/Guardians and students have the right to receive course grades that represent an accurate evaluation of the student's achievement. Achievement is determined by a body of evidence which demonstrates mastery related to a standard.
- A teacher shall base a student's grades on impartial, consistent observation of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods inclusive of, but not limited to, classroom assignments, projects, presentations, tests, and portfolios.
- Grades for achievement shall be reported each marking period. Grades shall be based solely on the achievement of established standards. Students shall be provided multiple opportunities to demonstrate what they understand and how they can use and apply their knowledge.
- In lieu of an automatic "zero" or "F", each school shall establish alternatives to allow opportunities for students to improve or make up assignments and/or grades for:
  - Missing/Incomplete assignments;
  - Poor performance ("zero" or "F").
- Behavior, effort, and attendance shall be communicated through teacher comments, and they shall not be calculated into the course grade.
- Teachers may consider trends when evaluating the quality of student learning. When determining grades, a teacher shall consider the "body of evidence" and use the most consistent level of achievement, with an emphasis on the most recent performance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Governing Board strongly encourages District administration, school sites, and teaching staff to exercise flexibility and to utilize appropriate alternatives in measuring student performance and issuing grades to students who are struggling due to the Distance Learning model and its inherent challenges.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the following vote of the Governing Board of the Madera Unified School District, County of Madera, State of California on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
Board of Education

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk  
Board of Education

I, Todd Lile, Superintendent of the Madera Unified School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the District's Board of Education at a duly scheduled meeting thereof.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent