



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, August 24, 2021

*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 ([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 Reorganization Items

**STUDENT TRUSTEES** - Six 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:** Dayana Camacho-Cruz and alternate Ashley G. Gutierrez
- ★ **Madera South High School:** Sophia Nassar and alternate Gladys Torres-Carmona
- ★ **Matilda Torres High School:** Ingrid Sosa Ramirez and alternate Annelise Stephens

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 attend all public meetings of the board, make motions, serve on subcommittees, and 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.

### Information and Reports

**UNION TIME** - David Holder, president of Madera Unified Teachers Association, shared four topics the union had discussed with Superintendent Todd Lile. First, nurses were concerned about their workload and frustrations amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Second, teachers need Professional Learning Community time back in their schedule. Third, art, music, science, technology, and math teachers are temporarily being used as substitutes and other solutions were needed. Fourth, union members questioned why back-to-school events at one school may be online only, in-person at another, and hybrid at a third. He said a unified school district should have unified scheduling.



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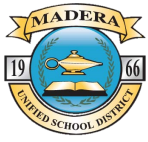
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### Superintendent's Time

1. **THANKS & PRAISE** - Superintendent Todd Lile praised the dedication of nurses and health care professionals as well as the work of Educational Services, Student & Family Support Services, Area Assistant Superintendents, and Accountability and Communications.
2. **PARTNERS AGAINST COVID-19** - Madera County's Public Health Department and Superintendent of Schools have continued to work together in the fight against the pandemic. Vaccine clinics at school sites have seen a 331% increase in turnout during the past two weeks. More than 600 people have been vaccinated at six clinics.
3. **INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS** - Virtual Town Hall meetings to update the public on COVID-19 and school safety would be held at 5 p.m. (English) and 6 p.m. (Spanish) on Friday, August 27.

### Consent Agenda

4. **ZOOM LICENSE** - The Board unanimously ratified an annual Education plan subscription to [Zoom Video Communications](#) for Aug. 1, 2021, through July 30, 2022. In April of 2020, MUSD purchased a district-wide Zoom account for staff and students to continue online instruction in the 2020/21 school year, staff said. The ability to host virtual webinars was added early in 2021 and the total plan cost was about \$127,000. For 2021/22, staff renegotiated the terms of the contract for "maximum flexibility" for schools at a "reduced cost." It will now be \$87,300 in COVID-19 relief funds with potential overage fees for cloud recording beyond 3 terrabytes.
5. **FIELD TRIPS** - The Board unanimously okayed eight overnight field trips for [Madera South High School FFA](#) for this school year, including one for nine students and three adults to the [94th National FFA Convention](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana, this October. All of the other trips are in California and are [FFA](#) conventions, field days, judging finals, or a leadership academy. The cost for transportation and lodging will be \$26,250 in FFA funds, \$7,500 in [Perkins](#) funds for career and technical education, and \$3,000 in American International Group's [Matching Grants Program](#) funds - for a total of \$36,750.
6. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board unanimously approved the filling of 8 vacant classified jobs, 4 vacant teaching positions, 3 vacant elementary physical education specialist jobs, and 1 vacant vice principalship. [Cindy Peña](#), a teacher at John Adams Elementary School, will be the new vice principal of Washington Elementary School. The Board also okayed an increase of hours for three Communications Technicians at Rain Creek.



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7. **NEW POSITIONS** - The Board unanimously approved the creation of new full-time positions: Art Teacher for Torres High School, Child Nutrition Assistant I, and Student Advocate for Student Services (3) and for Nishimoto Elementary School (1).

### New Business

1. **MHS KITCHEN** - The Board unanimously approved a contract with [Lawrence Engineering Group](#) for engineering, plumbing, electrical, and structural design services for a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) retrofit of the kitchen at Madera High School. The current HVAC system consists of a make-up air unit and four exhaust fans that are neither efficient nor well configured for the kitchen's heating appliances today, staff said. There is no air conditioning. On a typical day, the existing kitchen consistently reaches or exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit while staff prepares meals. The cost will be \$68,000 from Fund 40 (Capital Projects).
2. **DISTANCE LEARNING** - The Board okayed the deletion of Board Policy 6157 (Distance Learning) due to the expiration of emergency legislation that had waived normal funding requirements and thus made it financially feasible for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. **INDEPENDENT STUDY** - The Board approved a temporary revision to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6158 on Independent Study. State law requires all districts to offer independent study for those whose health would be at risk with in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. These independent study policies, agreements, and programs must be revised to be eligible for funding this fiscal year.

### Advanced Planning

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING** - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 14, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.