



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 14, 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 Madera Unified School District 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](#)).

Student and Staff Recognition

POSTER CONTEST - Past president Alex Garcia of the Association of Mexican American Educators presented the winners of this year's [Hispanic Heritage Month Poster Contest](#): Madera High School students Jacquelin Jimenez, Gabriela Velarde, Miriam Jimenez, and MHS graduate Diego Gutierrez. The contest accepts submissions from local 7th-12th grade students.

Consent Agenda

- 1. INTERNET ACCESS** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved continued use of Comcast's [Internet Essential Partnership Program](#) and AT&T's Mobility Services. The Comcast program helps connect low-income K-12 students to the internet at home at a cost of \$9.95 per month plus taxes and fees for each sponsored household, which numbered 59 last school year. The AT&T service relies on [mobile hotspots](#) bought from the company to connect homes where Comcast is unavailable. The annual cost is \$288,000 (\$24,000 per month). Both will be paid through COVID-19 Relief Funds, though staff said the federal [Emergency Connectivity Fund](#) may cover up to \$273,000 of the AT&T costs.
- 2. TRAVEL REQUESTS** - The Board unanimously okayed a professional development trip to Louisiana for three MUSD administrators and a journey to Southern California for 22 Madera South High School students and adults. The chaperoned cross country students will compete at the [Woodbridge Invitational](#) in Norco on Sept. 18-19. The transportation and lodging cost will be \$2,763 from the MSHS Athletics Team Boosters account. Meanwhile, the trio of district leaders will attend the [Association for Career & Technical Education](#)'s Career Tech Vision 2021 conference in New Orleans on Nov. 30-Dec. 4. The cost will be \$6,189 from the General Fund and [Supplemental and Concentration grant](#) funds.
- 3. STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board unanimously approved the filling of 5 vacant school safety officer jobs, 4 vacant teaching jobs, 4 vacant aide jobs, 4 vacant custodian jobs, and 10 other vacant classified jobs as well as 3 new teaching positions and 1 new custodial supervisor



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position. The Board also unanimously accepted the choice of educator Jennifer Burns-Sauceda to serve as vice principal of Madera South High School.

4. **NEW POSITIONS** - The Board unanimously okayed 6 new classified supplemental help positions for the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, and the revision of an existing Personnel Commission job to create a new one. These are the Acting, Choreography and Vocal/Musical Coach, the Costume and Makeup Design Coach, the Lighting or Sound Design Coach, the Production and Business Management Coach, the Production Construction and Operations Coach, the Scenic Design Coach, and the Personnel Specialist - Lead.

New Business

1. **SOFTBALL FIELD** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the bid of Fresno-based [Ardent General](#) construction company to undertake the Madera High School Softball Modernization Project (Phases 1-3). The first phase will include relocating the varsity fields to the east side and installing bleachers, a press box, dugouts, field lighting, batting cages, a bullpen, scoreboard, ticket booth, and a Walk of Fame area. The estimated cost is \$3,903,944 from the General Fund and the Capital Facilities Fund.
2. **WIRELESS NETWORK** - The Board unanimously okayed the bid of [Tilson Technology Management](#)/ENA Services to provide installation and operation services for a ready-to-use private [Long-Term Evolution \(LTE\)](#) network. The proposed network would provide 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download speeds and 3-4 Mbps upload speeds for at least 1,500 district students who would not otherwise have regular internet access, whether due to their rural location or to household finances. About 1,600 such students received internet access through district-issued [mobile hotspots](#) (which rely on cellular data service) at a cost of \$660,000 during the 2020/2021 school year, staff said. The proposed network would cost an estimated \$1,285,284.79 to \$2,814,868.15 in COVID-19 Relief Funds depending on the options chosen, and would include five years of maintenance and support. The proposed network could potentially be expanded later on, if desired, to serve up to 30,000 users.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 28, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.