



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, October 12, 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](#)).

Information and Reports

LOCAL CONTROL & ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN - Staff presented an update on the district's self-reported "[local indicators](#)" for 2021-22 -- most of which showed improvement. The district also self-rated well in the "Parent Engagement" indicator. (These results will be submitted to the state at a later date.) Nonetheless, the district scored low nationally on the topics of "School Climate," "School Belonging," and "School Engagement" in a Panorama Student Survey of 6th through 12th graders, though scoring high nationally in "School Safety." Staff also felt improvements based on local student feedback could be made in basic areas, such as for "emergent multilingual students." For example, such students could be assessed in their native language and not just in English so they can more truly demonstrate and recognize their intelligence. For another example, the district could do better at offering interpretation for parent-teacher conferences when parents are not fluent in English.

Consent Agenda

- 1. LITERACY & WELLNESS** - The Board unanimously okayed an agreement between Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and the [California State University, Fresno Foundation](#) to provide classes for parents for the current school year. The classes will be Digital Literacy I and Social and Emotional Wellness, and both will be offered in English and Spanish. Each course will consist of eight two-hour sessions, and must have a minimum number of 15 parents participating. The hope is to help parents better support student achievement, staff said. The cost will be \$6,000 from the school's [Comprehensive Support & Improvement](#) funds.
- 2. STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board unanimously approved the filling of 6 vacant Paraprofessional Aide jobs, 4 new Behavioral Health Clinician I jobs, 2 vacant teacher positions, a vacant leadership post, 5 new classified jobs, and 8 other vacant classified jobs as well as the hiring of an itinerant elementary art teacher and a counselor.
- 3. NEW LEADER** - The Board unanimously confirmed the appointment of [Marcie Osier](#) as a new vice principal of Lincoln Elementary School.
- 4. JOB DESCRIPTIONS** - The Board unanimously okayed preschool-related revisions of two certificated job descriptions: the Principal K-6/K-8 and Preschool Teacher - Classroom. The



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principal's job description now includes acting as site supervisor for on-site state preschool programs as one of the job duties, and the teacher's description includes the same duty if the principal is absent. The changes were made as part of an effort to complete the state's licensing process for all of the district classrooms serving preschool-aged children. Doing so will enable them to serve children ages 3-5 years, staff said. Currently, only La Vina Elementary School's preschool classroom has finished the process.

5. **COVID-19 LEAVE** - The Board unanimously approved an extension of [the state's COVID-19 sick leave](#), which expired on Sept. 30, and additional leave for staff exposed at work for the current school year. The expense will be paid from COVID-19 Relief funds. Currently, the state requires unvaccinated staff who are exposed to COVID-19 to quarantine for 10 days, and all staff with COVID-19 symptoms to quarantine until free of symptoms for 24 hours and tested negative for COVID-19.
6. **SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING** - The Board unanimously okayed a contract with Merced-based [Knowledge Saves Lives, Inc.](#) to train school safety officers between July 2021 through June 30, 2024. The cost is not to exceed \$36,051 for three years (\$12,017 per year) in General Funds. [As of July, the state requires](#) school security officers to train annually with a course developed by state agencies in consultation with the state's [Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training](#). Previously, this training was only required once every two years.

New Business

1. **NEW POSITION** - The Board unanimously approved a new certificated management position of Early Childhood Education Specialist, which will report to the Early Childhood Education Director and provide leadership and guidance as the district looks to expand its services in state preschool programs and early childhood education. The salary cost will be \$93,474 (Step 1) to \$104,859 (Step 7) annually from the state preschool budget.
2. **SUBSTITUTE PAY** - The Board okayed a daily pay rate increase for substitute teachers for the rest of this school year. The district will pay substitutes \$220 per day for short-term coverage and \$250 per day for long-term help. Previously, the respective rates were \$150 and \$160. The cost will be paid from COVID-19 funds. The temporary pay boost is meant to attract more substitute teachers amid a pandemic-related shortage of them, staff said. MUSD has had to rely on district academic coaches, teacher support mentors, and [S.T.E.M.](#), art, and music teachers to fill in as substitutes.
3. **OFFICE ASSISTANTS** - The Board unanimously approved the temporary hiring of 30 full-time Office Assistants for up to two school years. The staff will reduce the workload of district health staff and administrators by assisting with COVID-19 testing, contact tracing,



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communication, data entry, and system registration support for students and parents. The cost will be \$3,468,000 for two years (\$1,734,000 annually) from COVID-19 funds.

4. **EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT** - The Board narrowly approved the amending of an agreement with the [National Center on Education and the Economy](#). The change will add 16 participants to an [Executive Development Program](#) for a total of 42 district administrators. The program is meant to improve instructional leadership to ensure high school graduates are ready to succeed in college and beyond, staff said. The cost will be an additional \$168,000 (\$10,500 per participant) for a total of \$441,000 from [Supplemental](#) grant funds.

Announcements

1. **EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION** - The [Madera County Excellence in Education Awards program](#) began in 2007 and recognizes achievements of local teachers, school administrators, and school staff. This year's awards reception has been planned for Thursday, Oct. 14, at 5:30 p.m.
2. **STATE OF THE DISTRICT** - The Linkage Foundation's [State of the District Address](#) is set for Tuesday, Oct. 19, with a 4 p.m. reception and 5 p.m. program at Torres High School, 16645 Road 26.
3. **CTE COMMITTEE** - The Career Technical Education (CTE) District Advisory Committee will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m. Appointed by the Board of Trustees, members of this group develop recommendations on the CTE program and act as a liaison between the district and potential employers.
4. **SAFETY COMMITTEE** - The Safety Advisory Committee will meet via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 5 p.m. This group advises the Board of Trustees on safety issues and concerns, including trainings, materials, and programs to promote school safety.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 26, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.