



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 28, 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

UNION TIME - President David Holder of the Madera Unified Teachers Association shared the union's request for transitional kindergarten through kindergarten (TK-K) aides in every classroom.

Consent Agenda

1. **TRAVEL REQUESTS** - The Board unanimously approved the following travel requests for students and/or employees.
 - a. **DRAMA CLUB** - Nine Madera High School students and two adults will journey in school district vans to Folsom, near Sacramento, for a festival Feb. 4-6, 2022. A cost of \$1,400 for lodging will be covered by MHS Drama and Associated Student Body.
 - b. **MHS FCCLA** - Sixteen MHS students and two adults will be carried by district vans to the 2022 FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Riverside from April 22-26, 2022. [FCCLA](#) is a career and technical student organization. The acronym stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. A [Perkins](#) grant for career technical education will fund \$350 for transportation and the MHS Associated Student Body will cover \$3,000 for lodging.
 - c. **CONFERENCE** - A district employee will fly to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for the 2021 National Federation Section Conference. There will be no cost to the district.
2. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board unanimously okayed the filling of 9 vacant classified jobs, 2 vacant certificated jobs, a new Personnel Specialist Lead job for the Personnel Commission, and a new Community Support Specialist job at Health & Wellness as well as an increase in hours for a school office technician at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.
3. **COVID-19 TESTING** - The Board unanimously approved a side letter agreement with the local chapter #169 of the California School Employees Association related to COVID-19 testing. The union agreed that the district may offer more COVID-19 testing duties and hours to part-time staff on a voluntary basis, but those staff will not qualify for health and welfare benefits due to



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those temporary extra hours. The agreement expires on June 30, 2022, or whenever the district determines the additional duties are no longer needed.

4. **NEW LEADER** - The Board unanimously okayed a waiver allowing Maria Isabel-Lorenzo to serve as the coordinator of Secondary Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for the Educational Services department. The “variable term” waiver is an option for school districts if an applicant lacks the proper credential for an assignment, staff said. The new coordinator is enrolled in a program to earn her Administrative Service Credential.

New Business

1. **VIRTUAL MEETINGS** - The Board unanimously approved the continued use of teleconferencing for its public meetings through the month of October. This is enabled by state [Assembly Bill 361](#), which became law on Sept. 16. The law allows virtual government meetings during a state of emergency to protect the health or safety of attendees, but requires the board to publicly justify and okay such measures monthly. Unless renewed, the law will expire on Jan. 1, 2024.
2. **REFINANCE BONDS** - The Board unanimously okayed the issuing and sale of general obligation bonds to “refund” (refinance) part of the district’s General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012. The sale would reduce current debt service payments for the existing 2012 bonds, staff said. Local payers of property taxes would benefit from the refunding. There would be no financial impact to the district or its general fund.
3. **6TH GRADE CAMP** - The Board unanimously approved having the district significantly help fund overnight camp for 6th grade students at all school sites for the current school year. The cost for entry fees is not to exceed \$500,000 and for transportation is not to exceed \$100,000. In the past, school sites who sent students to camp raised funds year-round to cover the costs, staff said. Meanwhile, some sites chose lower cost alternatives due in part to the finances of student families while other schools did not offer the option of camp at all. In total, only about a third of sixth graders would attend camp.
4. **457(B) SAVINGS PLAN** - The Board unanimously approved the offering of a Voluntary Retirement Savings Plan to eligible staff under Section 457(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. A [457\(B\) plan](#) is an employer sponsored retirement savings plan. Participating staff will contribute pre-tax dollars from paychecks, and the savings won’t be taxed until withdrawn. Those age 50 and older may increase their tax-deferred contributions to try to catch up. Trusted Capital Group ([TCG](#)) Administrators will manage the plans. There will be no fiscal impact on the district.
5. **HEALTH STAFF** - After lengthy discussion, the Board unanimously okayed a temporary increase in hours for five Health Services Assistant positions from part-time to full-time for



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the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. The change will help the district meet expected demand for COVID-19 testing of staff and students. The total cost will be \$250,000 from COVID-19 funds.

6. **EMPLOYEE WELLNESS** - The Board unanimously okayed an agreement with [The Teaching Well](#) to offer adult wellness and [social-emotional learning](#) classes to district staff from Sept. 29, 2021, to June 30, 2022. The consultant will offer five hour-long courses (20 sessions each) every quarter. The courses will be taught live online but recorded for later viewing, and will be available to all staff at the website Learn.MaderaUSD.org. The cost is not to exceed \$40,000 from Cowell Foundation Grant funds.

Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 12, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held virtually.