



# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, November 9, 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

**NEW STUDENT TRUSTEE** - Madera High School senior Victoria Medrano swore an oath Tuesday to support and defend the U.S. and California constitutions before her appointment as an advisory member of the Board of Trustees. At her assigned public meetings of the board, Medrano may make motions, question witnesses, and vote on agenda items, but her "preferential votes" won't affect whether items pass or fail, though they may influence the votes of other trustees. She will also lead Student Voice forums for her school, meet with the superintendent, and may serve on Board subcommittees. Student trustees serve a one-year term.

### Student and Staff Recognition

**FFA SUCCESSES** - Two FFA officers gave a brief report on the successes and goals of the Madera FFA chapter for 2021-22, including results from the 94th [National FFA Convention & Expo](#) on Oct. 27-30. [The group's veterinary science team won first place](#) as the chapter's first national champions in the long history of Madera FFA, which has its origins in 1919 (well before the actual founding of Future Farmers of America in 1928). The team outperformed 50 other teams from across the country as well as the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. The Madera FFA chapter also was named a National FFA 3-Star Chapter, the highest star award possible for chapters that actively carry out the mission and strategies of the organization.

### Information and Reports

1. **REDISTRICTING** - Principal Planner Scott Odell of Oakhurst-based [Odell Planning & Research](#) discussed the process of adjusting the district's trustee area boundaries, which is required by state law following any decennial census. When redistricting, areas should be compact and share a common border, the boundaries should be easily identifiable, and communities with shared social and economic interests should be maintained and respected if possible, he said.



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Between 2010 and 2020, the total district population rose by 5,003 people (5.4%) to a total of 92,844. Trustee areas 1 (rural Madera) and 7 (central Madera) shrank by 2.6% and 5.1% respectively. Meanwhile, other trustee areas grew by about 2% to 15% with the greatest population growth in southern Madera (areas 2 and 4). After redistricting, each trustee area should become nearly equal in population.

Ethnically, 79% of the district's population in 2020 was Hispanic or Latino, 14% white, 2% black, 2% Asian, 1% Native American or Native Alaskan, 1% mixed ethnicity, and 1% of another ancestry. Hispanics or Latinos are the voting majority in all trustee areas, and redistricting will not change that.

At a later date, draft maps of adjusted trustee areas will be posted on the district website for public comment. After revisions, a final adjusted map will be adopted by the Board of Trustees in January or February.

2. **MIDDLE SCHOOL SCORES** - Staff presented a review of baseline data from [the most recent math and reading assessment](#) of middle schools by the [Northwest Evaluation Association](#) (NWEA). [The slideshow presentation can be viewed online.](#)
3. **WILLIAMS REPORT** - Madera County Superintendent of Schools staff presented the results of site visits to monitor the adequacy of educational tools, facilities, and teachers at 10 elementary, three middle, and one high school in the district. The annual report is required by a [2004 lawsuit settlement by the state](#). All district sites “fared very well on their visits” and were found to be adequate with the exception of a missing floor electrical outlet cover in the library of James Monroe Elementary School, which was expected to be corrected sometime this month.

### Consent Agenda

1. **VIRTUAL MEETINGS** - The Board of Trustees approved continuing to hold its public meetings virtually via Zoom in December to safeguard attendee health amid the pandemic.
2. **STAFFING CHANGES** - The Board approved increased hours for 35 Paraprofessional Aide positions and the filling of 4 new Student Advocate positions, 4 other new classified jobs, 4 vacant Cafeteria/Playground Aide positions, 3 other vacant classified jobs, and 2 vacant certificated positions.
3. **MINIMUM WAGE** - The Board okayed a revision in the Classified Salary Schedule to reflect the new minimum wage increase of \$1 per hour as of January 1, 2022. The hourly rate for the



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following ranges will rise to \$15 per hour: Cafeteria/Playground Aide (4), Child Nutrition Assistant I (8), Classroom Aide (9), and Paraprofessional Aide (11).

4. **REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION** - The Board approved a new job title and updated “essential functions” for the job description of the Personnel Specialist, formerly known as a Human Resource Specialist.
5. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - The Board okayed Spanish talk radio host [Grover Bravo](#), a marriage and family therapist, to be a keynote speaker for the 5th annual Madera Unified Parent and Community Engagement Conference scheduled via Zoom and Facebook Live for the second week of December. The cost is not to exceed \$500 from General Funds for Community Services & Parent Resource Centers. ([The previous conference’s workshops can be viewed online.](#))

### New Business

1. **TUTORING & MENTORING** - The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with San Bernardino-based [Valdez Educational Services](#) to provide tutoring and mentoring services to foster and [homeless](#) students through June 30, 2022. Experienced tutors will be recruited from local colleges, staff said. Services will be provided Monday through Friday, either at the school for middle and high school students or at city-managed sites for elementary school students. The cost is not to exceed \$450,000 from [Expanded Learning Opportunities grant](#) funds.
2. **PUBLIC HEALTH AGREEMENT** - The Board okayed an agreement with the Madera County Department of Public Health to provide COVID-19 testing support, contact tracing, and outbreak investigation for district staff and students through August 24, 2022. Public Health staff will also help notify students, guardians, and employees who test positive for or are exposed to COVID-19 and discuss next steps. Costs are not to exceed \$917,555.99 of Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity Reopening Schools Award funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Advanced Planning

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