

# Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

## Tuesday, July 19, 2022

*By John Rieping, Administrative Assistant V*

Below is a brief summary of this week's special 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](#)).

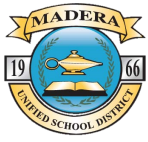
### Roll Call

Nadeem Ahmad (Area 7), Israel Cortes (Area 6), Joetta Fleak (Area 4), Ed McIntyre (Area 2), Ruben Mendoza (Area 3), Lucy Salazar (Area 5), and Ray Seibert (Area 1)

### Facilities Update Workshop

During the two-hour workshop, staff summarized the past, present, and future of the district's facilities and building projects for the district's Board of Education trustees, who asked questions and discussed what they learned.

1. **[LONG BEACH QUAKE](#)** - On March 10, 1933, an earthquake centered at Long Beach killed 120 people, injured 500, and damaged more than 120 schools (destroying 70), staff explained. In response, the state enacted a series of earthquake safety building codes and set up the [Division of the State Architect](#) to oversee design and construction for schools and state projects. Ultimately this led to the demolition of Madera's brick high school building in 1975.
2. **FACILITY AGES** - All of the district's current school were built after 1933 and the main buildings of the oldest - Washington and Ripperdan - were erected in 1937. The newest - Torres High School and Madera Technical Exploration Center - were built in 2020. The ones most in need of modernization are Washington Elementary, Madera High, and Thomas Jefferson Middle schools, staff said. (Writer's note: The "functional" age of school buildings is often dated in the U.S. from the year of their last renovation.)
3. **PAST PROJECTS** - Nearly all of the schools have had additions and/or [portable buildings](#) added over the years. Other projects include field lighting at Madera South and Madera High schools (2015), a Cal-SAFE building at MSHS (2016), Adult Education space (2016), restroom added at Monroe School (2016), climate control modernization at MHS (2016), parking lot at Sierra Vista School (2016), baseball stadium modernization at MHS (2016), maintenance building and weight room at MSHS (2017), Camarena Health Clinic at MHS (2017), Rose School (2017), stadium at MSHS (2019), career technical education modernization at MHS (2019), and a climate control retrofit at Lincoln School and MSHS (2020).



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4. **2014 FACILITY MASTER PLAN** - The district worked with [Darden Architects](#) to complete a facility master plan in 2014. The planning involved assessing all facilities on sites, identifying improvements and needs unique to each facility, and developing professional, 3-dimensional designs for proposed upgrades. Master plans are meant to be a starting point for future modernizations, staff said, and at this point the district needs to update the 2014 plan.
5. **STATE FACILITY BOND** - In 2016, California voters passed a California Public School Facility Bonds Initiative. Among other things, the measure set aside \$3 billion in bond funds for the construction of new schools and \$3 billion for modernizing school facilities. Most of these funds have been committed. The state has also devoted \$1.3 billion from its 2022-2023 general fund budget for new construction and modernization, staff said.
6. **FUNDING ELIGIBILITY** - Based on current and projected enrollment, the district is not eligible for state funding of new school facility construction. But MUSD could qualify for up to \$67 million in state matching funds to modernize 17 eligible schools if the district contributed more than \$43 million. However, modernization funds are not set up to rebuild or tear down schools, staff explained, but rather for new interior surfaces and such. The funds cannot be used to increase the size of a facility. Another “problem with modernization is that it maxes out at a fairly low number” of state funds to assist a project, so if more money is needed to properly modernize a facility the district will have to cover the additional costs. The state’s contribution won’t increase. Another difficulty is the [skyrocketing cost](#) of construction and shipping of construction materials due to high demand, the global supply chain crisis, etc.
7. **UNIVERSAL TK** - The state has decided that “universal” transitional kindergarten (TK) will be fully put in place by the start of the 2025-2026 school year and there will be one teacher for every 10 students. (Writer’s note: The term “universal” in this case means that - by 2025-2026 - every child whose 4th birthday occurs by September 1st will be eligible for it.) Enrollment and staffing in TK is expected to grow from 236 students and 16 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in the 2021-2022 school year to 1,001 students and 58 FTE staff in 2025-2026. Staff noted that lack of parking at schools will be even more of a problem with higher staffing, and bus transportation poses unique challenges with TK students.
  - a. **TK FACILITIES** - The state will be offering one-time matching grants to increase the number of full-day kindergarten and transitional kindergarten classrooms by building new rooms or retrofitting existing ones. The district will have to match the grant by paying for 25% of the costs or more. The rooms, which must be 1,350 square feet or larger, need to include restrooms, storage, a teacher preparation area, and wet and dry areas. The district has developed a Universal TK Early Learning Master Plan to guide future construction, and has applied with the state for TK facilities grant funding for Alpha, Lincoln, Pershing and Rose schools.



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8. **FUTURE NEEDS** - Staff presented a list of future needs for district facilities and the estimated cost for each. Unless noted, these are potential projects rather than actual budgeted ones.
- a. Universal Transitional Kindergarten classrooms (\$30-63 million)
  - b. *King Husein School (\$45 million budgeted)*
  - c. New Mt. Vista campus (\$20 million) - Highlighted by Superintendent Todd Lile during the meeting as “essential” to our graduation rate and the “success of our students”
  - d. Second elementary school on east side of State Route 99 (\$45 million)
  - e. Second technical exploration center (\$40 million)
  - f. Modernization of Washington School (up to \$30 million)
  - g. Modernization of Madera High School (more than \$100 million)
  - h. Modernization of Thomas Jefferson School (up to \$40 million)
  - i. *Bus loading zone at Berenda School on Road 27 (\$450,000 budgeted)*
  - j. Loading zone at Adams School on 3rd Street (\$450,000)
  - k. *Torres High School stadium project (\$30 million budgeted)*
  - l. Memorial Stadium turf (\$650,000)
  - m. Memorial Stadium track resurfacing (\$250,000)
  - n. Women’s Field House/snack bar/restrooms (\$10 million)
  - o. Memorial Stadium modernization - bleachers/press box (\$8 million)
  - p. Madera High School Event Center/locker rooms (\$35 million)
  - q. Overpass across Olive Avenue (no cost estimate)
  - r. New District Office (\$60 million)

The superintendent also noted that a planned future construction of the [Village D](#) residential development west of Madera would, if completed and occupied, necessitate the building of another high school on the west side of the city. Improved parking at Memorial Stadium is another future need, he said.

9. **AVAILABLE FUNDS** - As of June 30, 2022, the district has \$75 million in Capital Facilities, County School Facilities, and Special Reserve funds available for construction and modernization of facilities. Estimated income for 2022-2023 could add \$14.5 million.