



Board of Trustees Meeting Synopsis

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

By John Rieping, Administrative Assistant V

Below is a brief summary of a regular meeting of the [MUSD school board](#). It is not comprehensive and is for informational purposes only. Official minutes for the meeting are approved at later meetings and can then be viewed online ([click here](#)). Meeting videos can also be found online ([click here](#)).

Roll Call

Nadeem Ahmad (Area 7), Israel Cortes (Area 6), Gladys Diebert (Area 2), Emmely Duque-Martinez (Torres High School), Joetta Fleak (Area 4), Ruben Mendoza (Area 3), Lucy Salazar (Area 5), Ray Seibert (Area 1), and Suad Taha (Madera High School)

Communications

[MADERA MINUTES](#) - Staff shared a video summarizing recent student and staff activities.

Consent Agenda

1. **DONATION TO HOWARD** - The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a donation of \$22,678 from investment firm [Silverado Nuveen Natural Capital](#) for Howard School. The funds are to enlarge and enhance its outdoor garden and help to create an outdoor classroom. Outdoor seating, tables, umbrellas, fencing, and storage will be added to the garden and outdoor space. The donor recently bought property across the street from the school.
2. **WALK-IN FREEZER** - The Board unanimously okayed awarding a project bid to J.I. Garcia Construction for the installation of a new walk-in freezer at Child Nutrition, 769 South Pine Street. Staff said the freezer will support the department's existing practice of purchasing food directly from suppliers, which reduces expenses. The cost will be \$2,807,956 from Child Nutrition Department funds.
3. **SURPLUS VEHICLES** - The Board unanimously approved the disposal or dismantling of four buses, three trucks, and three vans that are obsolete, too costly to repair, or unusable. Staff said parts desired as scrap metal will be sold and any money gained by the Transportation Department will be deposited in the district's General Fund. Half of the vehicles are Fords and three are [Thomas Built Buses](#).
4. **NEW MSHS CLUBS** - The Board unanimously okayed the Chicano Youth Empowerment Club and the CastMasters Club for Madera South High School. The empowerment club seeks "to



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empower young minds” and share about “local and regional” [Chicano](#) culture and issues. The CastMasters Club will teach correct and efficient fishing techniques.

5. **RALLIES & ASSEMBLIES** - The Board unanimously approved an agreement with [Fun Works-Karen Gaines](#) for morale-boosting rallies and assemblies throughout the current school year at various schools. The cost will be \$450 per assembly from individual school funds.
6. **FIELD TRIPS** - The Board unanimously okayed 11 high school field trips involving more than 100 students and about 40 adults. The largest trip will bring 32 Madera South High School students and 6 adults by van to the [Leadership Development Institute](#) being held in Santa Clare by the California [Future Business Leaders of America](#). The farthest trip will fly 20 Madtown Robotics students and 6 adults to Houston, Texas, for the [2024 FIRST Championship](#) in April 2024. FIRST signifies “[For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology](#),” an international youth organization that organizes engineering and technology competitions. The total costs will be \$25,130 for transportation and \$25,700 for lodging from Athletics, Athletic Boosters, Associated Student Body, and [Perkins](#) and [Career Technical Education Incentive](#) grants.
7. **EMPLOYEE TRAVEL** - The Board unanimously approved potential reimbursement requests for two trips for a total of 7 district staff and 3 school board trustees. The trustees will attend the [California Latinos School Board Association](#)’s Unity Conference 2023 in Long Beach around the end of September. Staff will fly to Las Vegas, Nevada, for the [Mathematics in a PLC at Work Summit](#) in early December. The total cost will be \$14,400 from the General Fund, [Title I](#), and department funds.
8. **RETIREE** - The Board unanimously accepted the retirement of Travis Ann Griffin, director of Transportation, set for December 30, 2023, after 33 years of service.
9. **STAFF CHANGES** - The Board unanimously okayed the filling of 5 vacant paraprofessional aide positions, 2 vacant child welfare and attendance liaison positions, 6 other classified jobs, and 2 vacant teaching positions and 5 other certificated jobs.
10. **SAP STIPENDS** - The Board unanimously approved a solemn nonbinding agreement with the Madera Unified Teachers Association on the 2023-2025 stipends for leaders of Strategic Action Planning (SAP) days, meetings, and preparation time as well as stipends for principal-invited teachers who take part in leadership collaboration days. SAP leads will receive a \$5,000 stipend and a teacher invited to collaborate will receive the “prevailing hourly rate of \$45.”
11. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - The Board unanimously accepted a Madera County [Community Economic Resilience Fund](#) (CERF) grant award of \$10,000 from the [United Way Fresno and Madera Counties](#). Madera County CERF is a group of local organizations and leaders seeking “inclusive economic development planning” for the central San Joaquin Valley. Those who accept the grant must take part in monthly CERF meetings. The grant will fund community outreach and engagement activities by MUSD on behalf of CERF.



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12. **WORKABILITY** - The Board unanimously okayed the district taking responsibility for the state's [WorkAbility I](#) competitive grant training program for MUSD Adult Transition Program students who have disabilities and active Individualized Education Plans. Previously Madera County Superintendent of Schools managed the program for local districts. The cost will be \$20,000 in WorkAbility I grant funds.
13. **TEACHER TRAINING** - The Board unanimously approved agreements with Kagan Publishing & Professional Development and with Felipe Mercado.
 - a. [Kagan Publishing](#) will offer “[Cooperative Learning](#) - STEAM Talking Points” training this school year for elementary school specialist teachers in science, technology, engineering, math, dramatic literacy, and arts. The cost will be \$20,940 in [California Community Schools Partnership Program](#) grant funds.
 - b. [Felipe Mercado](#) will provide a customized course at Ripperdan Community Day School this school year on “Championing Compassion and Optimizing Mental Health.” The cost will be \$12,000 from a [Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant](#).

Announcements

1. **CLSBA CONFERENCE** -The [California Latinos School Board Association](#)'s Unity Conference 2023 will be held in Long Beach from Thursday, Sept. 28, through Sunday, Oct. 1.
2. **SAP DAY** - A Strategic Action Planning Day will be Monday, Oct. 2, at Madera High School, 200 South L Street. Students will not attend school.
3. **STUDENT CHAMPION COURSE** - The new Classified Student Champion Course will start at 8 a.m. (check in at 7:30 a.m.) on Monday, Oct. 2, at Torres High School, 16645 Road 26.
4. **RESCUE MISSION BANQUET** - The [Madera Rescue Mission](#) will hold its annual banquet on Oct. 5 in Hatfield Hall, 1850 W. Cleveland Ave.
5. **COLLABORATION DAY** - Oct. 9 will be a Collaboration Team Day for teachers. Students will not attend school on that Monday.
6. **GUELAGUETZA** - The [Comité Guelaguetza Madera](#) will host its first [Guelaguetza](#) in Madera at the Madera Sunrise Rotary Sports Complex. This is an Mexican indigenous cultural event that normally occurs in the capital of the Mexican state of Oaxaca and nearby villages. It traditionally features costumed dancing, parades, food, and artisanal crafts.



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Advanced Planning

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 10, in the Madera Unified School District Boardroom at 1902 Howard Road. The meeting will be held in person and virtually.