



Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

2531 S. Big Bend Blvd. • Maplewood, MO 63144 • (314) 644-4400 • www.mrhschools.net
 Dr. Bonita Jamison, Superintendent • Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent • Dr. Chris McGee, Assistant Superintendent

BOARD BRIEFS FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2024



At the first of two meetings on Thursday, September 19, the MRH Board of Education approved [\(in the form of a resolution\)](#) the tax rates for the 2024 tax year. Each year by October 1, MRH is required to set the property tax rates required for the operation of the school district. The rates were set as:

- \$3.5173 for Residential Real Estate
- \$3.9767 for Commercial Real Estate
- \$5.4658 for Personal Property
- \$1.3500 for Debt Service

Updated information from the State Auditor's Office required a minor adjustment to the previously published rates. The original and updated rates along with the financial impact are as follows:

	2024 Updated	2024 Original	Variance	
			Amount	Pct.
Residential	3.5173	3.5179	(0.0006)	-0.02%
Commercial	3.9767	3.9768	(0.0001)	0.00%
Personal Property	5.4658	5.4658	0.0000	0.00%
Blended	3.8669	3.8673	(0.0004)	-0.01%
Debt Service	1.3500	1.3500	0.0000	0.00%

Estimated Revenue

	Operations	Debt Service	Total
*Estimated Tax Revenue			
2024 (FY25) Original	\$ 17,183,000	\$ 5,997,000	\$ 23,180,000
Updated Estimated Revenue	\$ 17,181,000	\$ 5,997,000	\$ 23,180,000
	-\$2,000	\$1,000	-\$1,000

[The full 2024 tax rate hearing presentation by Chief Financial Officer Chris Hoelzer is available on our website.](#)

MRH Board of Education

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 Christy Martinez, Director • Katie Kaufmann, Director • Trent Colbert, Director



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To kick off the Board's regular monthly business meeting, members of the Principals' Advisory Leadership (PAL) Boards were introduced and officers sworn in. For the second year, PAL members will actually sit among elected Board members at monthly meetings, in a non-voting advisory capacity. The District aims to ensure that student advisors represent the diverse voices and interests of the student body, promote equity and inclusion, and provide valuable input to the Board's decision-making processes.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips presented a proposed tuition reimbursement agreement which specifically targets critical shortage areas, identified by District needs, and includes a repayment agreement contingent on a service requirement. This program will allow staff to pursue further education and training through an approval process with the financial support of the District, under the condition that they remain employed by the District for a specified period after completing their coursework. If the staff member leaves the District before fulfilling this service requirement, they will be required to repay the reimbursement. The Board requested during its August meeting that a tiered repayment schedule for a special tuition agreement, with repayment structured based on graduated years of service, be brought back for comparison. A vote is forthcoming.

The Board will also vote later on a request by Operations Director Dr. Michael Dittrich to declare two properties currently owned by the District as surplus, allowing for their public sale. MRH currently owns four homes for various uses. The Alternative Education program used two of the houses for delivering services to students. These programs are now housed in the new high school Student Services building, making the physical structures surplus. Dr. Dittrich explained that a sale would be a financial benefit to the District and add much-needed housing stock back to the community.



2555 Oakland

2556 Oakland

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Consolidation of Earned Leave to PTO is now official, by Board action. Staff at the middle school and elementary school participate in Capstone trips and expeditions throughout the year. As a result of their participation outside the scope of the school day, they earn personal leave. The current earned personal leave procedure requires teachers to either use their time before the conclusion of the school year or be paid out at the District's sub rate. Because of the timing of varying events, if teachers take off at the end of the year, it places a strain on the District to identify substitute teachers to cover the vacancy. By consolidating to PTO, teachers will now roll days to be added to their PTO balance.

Board members okayed a request for a minor academic calendar change for the current school year. January 3, 2025, will now become a work day for teachers rather than a professional development day. Either way, there will be no attendance for students.