



BOARD BRIEFS FOR JANUARY 16, 2025

At its first meeting of the new year, the MRH Board of Education discussed possible ballot measures to place before voters in the April 8, 2025 municipal election. The measures, a bond issue and/or a debt service transfer, would provide:

- Approximately \$2.2 million to support increases to salaries and benefits
- \$15 million to replace track and field, address facility needs, and to address deferred maintenance

Superintendent Dr. Bonita Jamison presented proposed ballot language for the bond and levy, to be known respectively and tentatively as Propositions B and E, as follows:

PROPOSITION B: Shall the Board of Education of the School District of Maplewood Richmond Heights, St. Louis County, Missouri borrow money in the amount of \$15,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and related facilities, including facilities upkeep, safety improvements and track and field renovations, and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof? If this proposition is approved, the current debt service levy of the school district is expected to decrease from \$1.35 to \$0.85 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.



PROPOSITION E: Shall the Board of Education of the School District of Maplewood Richmond Heights, St. Louis County, Missouri, be authorized to increase the operating tax levy of the District by \$0.50 per \$100 of assessed valuation for paying general operating expenses, including salaries and benefits to develop and retain teachers? If this proposition is approved, the total levy of the school district is expected to remain unchanged due to an expected decrease in the debt service levy of the school district that will offset the \$0.50 increase to the operating levy of the school district, resulting in the adjusted operating levy of the school district per \$100 of assessed valuation to be estimated at \$4.0173 for residential real property, \$4.4767 for commercial real property, and \$5.9658 for personal property.

Ballot language must be submitted to the St. Louis County Board of Elections by January 28, 2025. The Board will act on the two proposals at a special virtual meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21.

MRH Board of Education

Joshua Miller, President • Jenny Schmidt, Vice President • Linda Robinson, Secretary • Brian Matz, Treasurer
Christy Martinez, Director • Katie Kaufmann, Director • Trent Colbert, Director



Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

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Dr. Bonita Jamison, Superintendent • Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent • Dr. Chris McGee, Assistant Superintendent

In other matters, the Board approved tuition rate adjustments for Preschool and for Discover Club, MRH's before/after care program. A tuition increase for both would increase revenue to help meet program expenses:

- **Discover Club: 20%** increase for the 2025-2026 school year; registration fee increases from \$35 to \$50
- **PreSchool: 20%** increase for the 2025-2026 school year

Board members endorsed a number of other plans and projects appearing under the January Consent Agenda:

- MRH High School will move forward on an agreement with HUDL, a widely-used online platform by Missouri high schools to showcase their athletic and extracurricular activities. The platform enables students to create individual profiles for their chosen pursuits, allowing them to build a comprehensive portfolio of their achievements. District money will not be used to fund HUDL installation or annual subscription fees. All costs will be paid with proceeds from athletic gate receipts, student fundraising efforts and/or donations from sponsors and parents.
- The District recognizes the need for a comprehensive facilities audit to support long-term planning. After interviewing and reviewing presentations from three architectural firms, the District has chosen to recommend Cordogan Clark and Associates in partnership with Bureau Veritas, an industry leader in facility assessments. At a cost of just under \$28,000, this investment is expected to allow MRH to be more intentional with spending and make data-driven decisions, ultimately saving money in the long run by prioritizing maintenance and improvements more effectively.
- MRH is currently piloting Illustrative Math and exploring strategies to enhance small group instruction and meet the needs of all learners. Following a visit to Clayton School District, where Beast Academy was highlighted as a resource for enriching instruction for students performing above grade level, MRH held a meeting with Beast Academy representatives to assess its potential fit for MRH Elementary. Current data highlights that students performing above grade level would benefit from access to an acceleration resource for small group instruction, which is not currently available, to further expand their academic growth. This item poses no cost to the District.