



Board Briefs, May 16, 2024

The MRH Board of Education opened its May meeting by bestowing three Distinguished Awards. The Maplewood Fire Department received the Above & Beyond Award for its ongoing support of District safety programs and community engagement events. Family of the Year went to The Wards (Rachel, Dustin, Izzy, Abby and Olivia) for their deep involvement in activities at various schools. And Citizens of the Year are the student members of the Principals' Advisory Leadership (PAL) boards for their willingness to step up as leaders and bring student voice to the forefront.

Operations Director Dr. Michael Dittrich presented a proposal for increased school meal prices. For primary grades, the full breakfast price would increase by a dime to \$2.35. The same increase would apply to a full lunch, \$3.20. For the secondary grades, a full breakfast would cost \$2.35, up ten cents, and a full lunch would cost \$3.25, up 15 cents. Dr. Dittrich explained that MRH food service continues to operate at a deficit. While the option to increase lunch prices to a higher rate is available, it is advised to maintain them at a respectful level of the community and to the averages of surrounding districts that also do not qualify to offer free meals. The Board will act on the recommendations at a subsequent meeting.

The Board approved entering into a contract with Simbli, a division of Diligent Communities. Simbli is a board meeting software management system allowing public access to records and providing warehousing for meeting materials as required by law. MRH currently uses BoardDocs for such services, but BoardDocs clients are undergoing a forced migration within the next two years.

Athletics and Activities Director Rashaad Davenport pitched the addition of girls golf to the MRH sports roster, announcing that five girls have committed to the prospective team and more than a dozen others are interested. With coach salary, range fees and other costs, the projected budget impact would be approximately \$5,200. The Board will act on the recommendation at a subsequent meeting.

The head of Human Resources, Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, provided a brief staffing update. For the year to date, MRH has seen 17 resignations or retirements, three internal transfers and has eight unfilled positions.

Chief Financial Officer Chris Hoelzer reported that his latest projections will necessitate an amended FY24 budget. Mr. Hoelzer is anticipating a decrease in operating revenue of \$11,365 and an increase in operating expenses of \$98,326. The Board approved the budget amendment.



Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

2650 S. Hanley Road • Maplewood, MO 63144 • (314) 644-4400 • www.mrhschools.net

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

Also gaining Board approval was a proposed resolution for MRH to fully participate in the System Design Zone (SDZ) created by the Success-Ready Students Network (SRSN). As a member of the SDZ, MRH would:

- Share examples of how a competency-based mindset is used to create personalized learning experiences, digital (e.g. text, video, etc.) examples of which can be used for professional learning by other districts.
- Create real-world learning opportunities for students in collaboration with identified partners (e.g. businesses, industry, entrepreneurial opportunities, higher ed. etc.).
- Engage in study and research which inform instructional practice and system design that help identify important qualities of an assessment for learning and reimagined accreditation system.

scholarship • leadership • citizenship • stewardship • citizenship • citizenship

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