



BOARD BRIEFS FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2024



At its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 21, the MRH Board of Education opened with its annual recognition of Indigenous People's Heritage Month, acknowledging that the school community is living and learning on the traditional land of several indigenous peoples both past and present. The recognition states: "We honor with gratitude the land itself, the people of these indigenous communities, and the relationship that exists between the people and the land. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced

occupation of their territory. We respect the many diverse indigenous people connected to this land on which we gather." High School student Enzo Gilbonio, a descendant of indigenous South Americans, addressed the Board to thank them for this recognition.

Operations Director Dr. Michael Dittrich delivered a [draft audit of facilities needs](#) across the District. The audit compiled by Navigate Building Solutions totals just over \$16.2 million and includes updates and renovations to the track and field, parking lots, playgrounds, kitchens and roofs. Also included are video surveillance cameras, HVAC upgrades, groundskeeping equipment, new fleet vehicles, furniture, door access controls and locks, and weapons detectors at all schools.

The Board received a clean audit report of MRH books from Brittany Wolfram of the KEB auditing firm. The audit covered the year which ended on June 30, 2024. MRH received what's called an "unmodified opinion" on its financial statements. Simply put, this designation is the highest level of assurance issued by auditors and indicates that the District's financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Additionally, the District received an unmodified opinion on its state and federal reporting package, signifying compliance with all applicable regulations. The Board voted to approve the audited financial statements.

The Board heard and will act later on a proposal to create new technology courses for MRH Middle School. Background: in 2023, the Board approved the addition of a new Project Lead the Way (PLTW) computer science course called Creativity in Technology. The Middle School wants to split the current course into two separate courses as semester-long options. The proposed change aims to increase instructional time in core content areas. This adjustment will also allow for more dedicated time for students to engage in the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum, further developing foundational skills.

Student Services Director Vince Estrada presented the latest [school enrollment data](#). The purpose is to examine trends as a way to ensure the proper utilization of resources. School enrollment is directly connected to state funding and per pupil expenditures.

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



Board President Josh Miller issued a reminder that the filing period for seats on the Board of Education opens on December 10. The terms of Linda Robinson and Brian Matz expire in April 2025. [Instructions for interested candidates can be found on the MRH website.](#)

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