



# Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

2650 S. Hanley Road • Maplewood, MO 63144 • (314) 644-4400 • [www.mrhschools.net](http://www.mrhschools.net)  
Dr. Bonita Jamison, Superintendent • Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent • Dr. Chris McGee, Assistant Superintendent

Board Briefs, October 19, 2023

The October meeting of the MRH Board of Education featured a presentation on student attendance statistics by Rachel Ward, Coordinator of Assessment, Data and Accountability. Attendance is one of the factors considered under the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP), the state’s accountability system for reviewing, accrediting, and making classification decisions for school districts. Ms. Ward reported that, preliminarily, Districtwide attendance in the 2022-2023 school year was 82.1%, up from 78.7% in the previous year. As of October 1, 2023, attendance is also up from last year, at 85.3%.

The multi-story addition to the High School/Middle School campus, known as Building “A,” is slated for completion on November 30, as reported by MRH Chief Financial Officer Chris Hoelzer. Current work which is near completion includes window framing, drywalling, glazing, electrical rough-in, plumbing, sprinkler installation, bricking and roofing. In the courtyard, pavers will be installed upon completion of concrete work on the north side.

In a span of 16 years, K-12 enrollment at MRH has increased 44%. Enrollment trends were the topic of a presentation by Student Services Director Vince Estrada, who pointed out that the largest percentage increases since 2007 were recorded in the Pre-K and Early Childhood age groups.

**Enrollment Trends (2008-2023)**

School Year	PreK	ECC K-1/2	MRHE	MS (7-8)	HS (9-12)	K-12
2007-2008	87	166	298	157	353	974
2017 - 2018	154	375*	435*	202	328	1340
2018 - 2019	148	356	471	211	348	1386
2019 - 2020	150	361	480	222	378	1441
2020 – 2021	NA	344	445	237	393	1419
2021 – 2022	140	344	422	240	401	1407
2022 – 2023	135	326	417	220	413	1376
2023 – 2024	177	338	411	215	432	1396
<b>% Increase</b>	<b>103%</b>	<b>104%</b>	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>44%</b>

Board members were treated to the first presentation of the year by members of the [Principal’s Advisory Leadership Board](#), who will act as student advisors to the Board of Education. President Abraham Blue and Vice President Odessa Javier lead a nine-student panel responsible for representing the MRH student body in Board matters. While they are non-voting members, the students are expected to regularly attend Board meetings and may also participate in the policy process.

### MRH Board of Education

Amber Withycombe, President • Brandi Herndon-Miller, Vice-President • Katie Kaufmann, Secretary • Rachel Goltzman, Treasurer • Linda Robinson, Director • Joshua Miller, Director • Christy Martinez, Director

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Board members had the bittersweet task of approving the resignation of Board Vice President Brandi Herndon-Miller, who must step down from the post after being appointed a St. Louis County Court Commissioner. Ms. Herndon-Miller, a lifelong District resident with two daughters in MRH schools, was serving a term which would expire in April of 2025. Her resignation letter read, in part: *“When I first joined the Board several years ago, I just wanted to be of assistance to the students, staff and community I loved so much. I had no idea how much those students, staff and community would pour into me and make me grow. I had no idea that I would get to serve with some of the most amazing and selfless human beings I would ever meet. We are not a perfect district, we still have room for growth, but I am proud of how we never stop aspiring to be a better version of ourselves and how we never give up or forget what we are here to do and who we are here to serve.”*

The Board is launching an application process for interested appointees to the vacancy. At its November meeting, the Board is expected to select a successor who will serve until the April 2024 municipal election. Details of the process will be posted soon under the [Public Notices section of the MRH website](#).

Also under action items, the Board approved creation of a new coaching position. An opening for a girls assistant junior varsity soccer coach will be posted immediately. Currently, the coach to student ratio for girls soccer is beyond capacity making it challenging to offer additional JV sporting competition to students outside of the District's current conference and limits the level of training provided to the program.

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