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Madeira's Planning Commission Turns Seventy-Five

An idea, born 75 years ago in Madeira City Schools is alive and well, still performing a vital function today. In a world that has seen rapid change since 1950, it's actually still OK to stick with the things that work and provide value within an excellent school district. That idea was, and is, the Madeira City Schools Planning Commission, and its uniqueness lies not only in its longevity but in the valuable contributions it makes to keep the district moving forward, on the cutting edge, and always working to improve. The Madeira Planning Commission quietly and efficiently acts as a research arm of the Board of Education, studying and identifying needs that the school district should focus on, making recommendations to the Board while doing so independently in an environment of mutual respect. This open relationship is perhaps the biggest factor in its vitality to the district, as more eyes and more perspectives can be shared with the school board through studies the board of education wants support or help with. On November 27, 1950, the organization of the Planning Commission and its purposes remain the same today with a singular focus of helping our students, teachers, and school community to be the very best.

The Planning Commission is a group of volunteer Madeira residents and teachers who routinely research, report, and make recommendations to the Board of Education on a variety of topics assigned by the Board of Education. The board is not obligated to implement the recommendations but many times it does. Members are assigned to groups best suited to their talents and interests, and committee chairmen are selected for each group that then produce a comprehensive report. The Planning Commission's early topics in the 1950's were providing for the anticipated growth in enrollment, studying land available to build an elementary school, and consolidation with Indian Hill, Terrace Park, and Newtown. More recent reports have ranged the gamut of topics over the years from student recognition, to facility needs, to energy conservation, to communication ... and everything in between.

"The Planning Commission serves a vital role for our school district and in many ways helps to make us to be better," said Ryan Lex, Madeira Board of Education President. "Having served on the Planning Commission years ago, it allowed me to see all the various things that go into making a high-quality school district. The topics that are researched and the recommendations that are made are woven throughout the district goals each year." Research topics for the 2025-2026 school year are Specials and Elective Offerings in K-8, Capturing Student Voice (how students experience school life - academically, socially, and emotionally), and School to Home Communication Strategies. The Planning Commission also does an annual Salary & Benefits Study including a complete review of schools in the area.

The Madeira City Schools Planning Commission is in its 75th year this year and has stood the test of time as an invaluable asset to the district as it brings in new ideas, perspectives, and directions that the Madeira City Schools Board of Education should consider. "The Planning Commission is invaluable as a resource that is sincerely appreciated by the Board and administration," said Superintendent Kenji Matsudo. "It's a healthy idea that continues to work for us and makes us better."

Madeira's Planning Commission has been meeting the needs of the district for 75 years.