October 9, 2026 Website WOB

Superintendent

This week, I was able to visit Cruickshank Middle School for Walk, Ride, and Roll to School Day. Thank you to all of our first responders and community members and MCSD team members who participated in support of student safety. I was also able to visit Rivera Middle School and visit all classrooms to see instructional practices taking place. In addition, I was able to check in with the Rivera Elementary School Principal and visited Joe Stefani Elementary Principal. Thursday, I was also able to visit Chenoweth Elementary SDC Class. Interviews for this classroom take place on Tuesday and we are hopeful that we will be able to fill the position. Last, I was able to visit Fremont Elementary, which hosted an engaging STEAM cardboard box challenge, of which students designed various games inspired by the documentary, Caine's Arcade.

We are excited to announce the first anti-bullying video that was posted today on our social media outlets and will also be shared via ParentSquare. This is the beginning of a series of video segments that will be posted throughout the school year and support of our anti-bullying handbook and commitment to student safety.

The MCSD literacy committee also met to begin the plans and development of the updated MCSD literacy plan focusing on the next steps of literacy in grades TK through two, three through five, and six through eight.

Board/Trustee Requests	
Inquiry: Certificated Evaluation Handbook	**Response:** As requested by Trustee Brooks, the certificated evaluation handbook. This is also located on our website under the Human Resources Department.

Board Information Update

Educational Services

- The Pupil Services Department is taking active measures to strengthen drug prevention, education, and campus safety across our schools. With school counselors and site administration implementing targeted classroom presentations to educate students on the severe legal, educational, and health consequences of controlled substance sales and possession. We are ensuring referral pathways for students in need of substance use counseling while maintaining strict enforcement of board policies regarding safety.

  The success the district is seeing can be witnessed with data from Tenaya Middle School. While the student population has doubled from around 550 students last year to about 1150 students this school year, they have seen a decrease in the number of total suspensions. The TMS administration and staff have established firm expectations around student behavior and accountability early this school year and this is having a positive impact on the campus.

- **ABRE:** MCSD has contracted with ABRE - a third party that connects vendors with specific student data so that they can better understand student achievement, attendance, and social-emotional needs upon parent authorization. Parents maintain the right to opt out of sharing their student''s data from the vendor at any time.

- **MCSD Contracted Vendors:** District staff is meeting 1:1 with its contracted vendors to review the data from students who participated in their program from the year prior. Data includes: Average Daily Attendance,

Chronic Absenteeism Rates, Suspension Rates, CAASPP ELA, CAASPP Math, ELPAC, and mClass. Afterwards, vendors are asked to create a SMART goal (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound) for their program for the 2026-27 school year.
District staff will also have met with vendors for the fourth time on Friday, October 9, 2026 from 9:00 - 10:00 am on Zoom. District priorities and goals will be reviewed, as well as strategies to create a SMART goal.

- **M.A.R.S./Afterschool Partners:** Throughout the month of October, all school sites across the district will be conducting scheduled lockdown drills for afterschool programs as part of our ongoing commitment to school safety and emergency preparedness.

Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation

1. Franklin Elementary Irrigation

- **Planter Bed Irrigation:** We investigated the lack of water and dead plants in the planter beds, finding that gophers damaged the irrigation wiring along with issues in the existing sprinklers and drip system. Staff are pinpointing the damaged areas to develop a repair plan. The contractor who installed the landscaping and irrigation near the new marquee will repair the damaged system at that location.

2. Transportation & Community Connections Initiative Following up on last week's update, Dr. Kenneth Cooper connected with the Sergeant overseeing the MCSD School Resource Officers (SROs) regarding the new Community Connections initiative, and she fully supports the idea.

3. Tenaya Board Item

- This item awards the fall maintenance work committed by staff for the exteriors of Portable Rooms 28 and 29 (which received interior improvements before the start of the school year).
- Scope includes replacing damaged siding and vents, painting, and minor maintenance.
- All work will be completed during non-instructional hours.
- Weekly work order status.

Work order from 9/25 thru 10/2		
School Site	In progress	Completed
Burbank	0	1
Chenoweth	2	1
Cruickshank	3	6
Franklin	0	11
Fremont	2	1
Clark Pre-school	1	4
Givens	0	7
Gracey	0	1

Hoover	0	4
Muir	2	6
Peterson	3	2
Reyes	2	1
Rivera Elementary	4	4
Rivera Middle	5	13
Sheehy	3	9
Stefani	2	7
Stowell	1	1
Tenaya	1	5
Wright	2	4
Total	55	114

Facilities

- **Stowell Elementary 5-Year Plan:** Architectural firms have until 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, to submit qualification packets for the 5-Year Plan Development for Stowell Elementary School. The District's review team will notify top candidates by October 22 to advance to interviews in mid-November. MCSD will bring a recommendation to the Board of Education in December to select a firm.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Meeting:** The Facilities Department will host a Stakeholder Engagement meeting on October 28 for local service providers to discuss the facility use process, program impacts from the City of Merced's cancellation of the Joint-Use MOU, and future plans for MCSD facilities to benefit the community.
- **Regional Growth & Planning Meeting:** On Friday, November 13, MCSD will host a meeting with local school districts, developers, and municipal planners to discuss future area growth. The goal is to maintain open communication, anticipate growth, align services, and ensure no agency is left uninformed. This is the second meeting for this group, with a commitment to gather twice annually.
- **Board Items for 10/13:**
    - MO&T/Facilities Board Update / Report
    - Notice of Completion for Hoover Middle School Fencing Project
    - **Approval of Change Orders:**
        - **Engagement Center:** PG&E engineering costs (Revision #1), equipment supplier change, and cabinetry locks to protect supplies/equipment
        - **RMS Roofing Project:** Dry rot replacement
        - **Fremont Roofing Project:** Dry rot replacement
        - **CDS:** Added fencing, plumbing repairs/replacements, and wall footing adjustments
        - **Muir Fencing:** Electrical repairs due to line damage (unmarked MCSD-owned lines)
    - **Playground Equipment:** Approve the Park Planet quote for new playground equipment at Joe Stefani Elementary School—the only site that did not receive new equipment through COVID-19 (ESSER) funds. An installation contract will be presented at a future Board meeting.

Communications: Events Calendar