

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS 061

Minutes of MADEIRA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
Held September 21, 2026

The Regular meeting of the Madeira Board of Education was held on Monday, September 21, 2026 at 7pm respectively in accordance with written notices sent to each member. The meeting was called to order by President Mr. Ryan Lex.

Present: Mr. Steve Bernicke, Mr. Brad Cunningham, Mr. Dave Eberly, Mr. Ryan Lex, Mrs. Ann Ramos. Also present at the meeting were Kenji Matsudo, Emily Hauser and Dave Bergan.

AGENDA (115-26) – Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos that the Board approve the agenda for the September 21, 2026 meeting of the Board of Education.

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC – There were no public comments provided at this time.

PRESENTATION

School District Report Card Update

Mr. Bergan and Mr. Matsudo provided an update on the School District report card released last week. Mr. Bergan noted that Ohio's public school report card has undergone several iterations over the year, but Madeira has consistently been recognized as a high-performing district.

For the fifth year, districts were rated using a five-star system, and Madeira has received an overall rating of five stars every year. Madeira also received five stars in each of the indicators: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation, and Early Literacy, and received 4 stars on College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness. Mr. Bergan noted that this is the first year that any district in Southwest Ohio has scored higher than 4 stars on that component.

Mr. Matsudo stated that this is an indicator that some districts are “chasing” by requiring kids to go through specific credentialing programs. Madeira has not required students to jump through additional hoops solely for the purpose of improving the district's report card rating.

Of the 607 districts rated statewide, only 61 received an overall rating of five stars. Madeira has received an overall five-star rating in each of the five years under the current rating system. Mr. Bergan also noted that Madeira's Performance Index increased to 109.5, which he described as a strong indicator of continued student achievement and growth.

Mr. Bergan emphasized that there are always areas for continued improvement and that the district carefully reviews the data to identify opportunities to grow. He also noted that Madeira's enrollment has continued to increase and now exceeds Mariemont's enrollment. Comparative data for neighboring districts and Cincinnati Classical Academy was also provided.

Mr. Bergan finished by emphasizing that this is just one piece of data on one day but a valuable piece of the overall picture and something that our students and staff should be proud of.

CONSENT CALENDAR (116-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to approve the consent calendar.

A. Minutes

1. August 10, 2026 (Exhibit-1)

B. Resignations – Classified/Support

1. Makenzie Greathouse – MMS Cheer Coach

C. Employment – Classified Support, *dependent upon valid license and background checks.*

1. Virginia Cutshall – Preschool Educational Aide

2. Kristen Dennis – Preschool Educational Aide

D. Supplemental Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year unless otherwise specified (*pending background checks and appropriate licensure*)

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Funded with General Funds – Certified

Name	Assignment	Amount
Morgan Hatfield	Summer Transition	Up to 1 (additional) Hour @ \$40/Hour
Mari Cisney	MMS – Assistant Theatre Director (SPLIT)	\$650.00
Leah McCain	MMS – Assistant Theatre Director (SPLIT)	\$650.00
Courtney Swillinger	Preschool Itinerant Services	Up to 120 Hours @ Per Diem

Funded with Non-General Funds – Certified

Name	Assignment	Amount
Rick Adams	MMS Theatre – Audio Director	\$400.00
Kristen Evans	MHS – AP Test Coordinator	\$430.00

Funded with General Funds – Classified

Name	Assignment	Amount
Lisa Egan	OPPEP Training	Up to 20 Hours @ Per Diem
Susan Bell	OPPEP Training	Up to 20 Hours @ Per Diem
Melissa Stringer	OPPEP Training	Up to 20 Hours @ Per Diem
Lisa Egan	Extracurricular Special Education Support (Band)	Up to 62 Hours @ Per Diem
Jill Watson	Extracurricular Special Education Support (Band)	Up to 12 Hours @ Per Diem
Angela Pointer	Extracurricular Special Education Support (Band)	Up to 45 Hours @ Per Diem

E. Treasurers Report

1. General Fund Financial Report for August, 2026 and warrant payments for all funds in the amount of **\$636,453.** (Exhibit-2)

	Aug. 1- Aug. 31	FY27 FYTD	FY26 FYTD
Revenues	\$4,149,632	\$10,016,293	\$10,834,172
Expenditures	\$4,382,254	\$4,382,254	\$4,217,567
Ending Cash	\$18,293,358	\$18,293,358	\$18,139,913

2. Donations

Donor	Item/Recipient	Amount
MMS PTO	MMS – Camp Kern	\$1,520.00
MMS PTO	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$500.00
Anonymous	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$800.00
Anonymous	Boys Golf Program	\$100.00
Christa Hager	MMS – Chess Club	\$80.00
Leigh Merten	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$26.25
Carlos Quiles	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$51.99
Molly Ironmonger	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$50.00
Stephen Wick	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$51.99
Kate Junger	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$25.00
Jessica Grisak	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$103.48
Morgan Lohbeck	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$150.00
Michael Homm	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$51.99

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Tom Christoff	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$500.00
Jeff Hitchcock	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$206.46
Cory Cevasco	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$15.00
Kasey Underwood	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$103.48
Nicole Cloran	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$100.00
Joseph Neff	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$50.00
Alissa Stedronsky	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
Patricia Gavigan	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$50.00
Maria Kretchik	MMS – DC Trip Scholarship Fund	\$103.48

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

ATHLETIC CONSENT CALENDAR (117-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to approve the consent calendar.

A. LIMITED CONTRACTS FOR NON-TEACHING PUPIL ACTIVITY DUTIES – Moved the Board resolve that a vacancy exists in the positions listed below, that the position was offered to current district or out of district licensed employees and no such qualified person applied for or accepted the position. The following non-licensed person/s applied for and is qualified for the position. ***Contract will be dependent upon person/s obtaining a valid pupil activity program permit issued by the State Board of Education per 3319.303.***

Name	Assignment	Amount
Amy Prugh	MHS – Cross Country Coach	\$1,500.00
John Kirby	MMS – Cross Country Coach (amended)	\$1,424.00
Melissa Costigan	MMS – Fall Cheer Coach	\$1,754.00

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, abstain; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

PERSONNEL

Resignation for Purpose of Retirement (118-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham that the Board accept with great appreciation the resignation for purpose of retirement of **Lora Graziani** effective January 1, 2027.

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Resignation for Purpose of Retirement (119-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly that the Board accept with great appreciation the resignation for purpose of retirement of **Amy Friedman** effective at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Resignation for Purpose of Retirement (120-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham that the Board accept with great appreciation the resignation for purpose of retirement of **Jennifer Ulland** effective at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

FINANCE

First Permanent Appropriation Resolution (121-26) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos that the board approve the 2026-2027 first Permanent Appropriation. (Exhibit-3)

001	General Fund	29,410,819.00
002	Debt Retirement	2,600,000.00
003	Permanent Improvement	1,300,000.00
004	Building	0.00
007	Special Trusts	0.00
009	Uniform Supply Fee's	140,000.00
012	Adult Education	0.00
014	Rotary Funds	12,338.19

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018	Public School Support/Unrestricted	190,000.00
019	Other Local Grants/Restricted	50,000.00
020	Tuition Programs-Preschool/OKEP	1,200,000.00
022	OHSAA tournament fund	8,000.00
029	Education Foundation Fund	45,000.00
035	Termination Benefits Fund	475,000.00
200	Student Activities	275,000.00
300	Athletic Activities	400,000.00
401	Auxiliary Services	390,000.00
451	School Net Connectivity	6,500.00
499	School Psych Intern / Safety Grant	38,000.00
516	Special Education IDEA B	470,000.00
551	Title III	8,000.00
572	Title 1	15,000.00
584	Title IVA Student Support/Acad.	600.00
587	Preschool Handicapped	5,500.00
590	Title IIA Improvement Services	25,000.00
599	School Safety Grant	0.00
		\$37,064,757.19

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

Resolution Designating Depositories of Public Monies (122-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to resolve that depositories of active monies from September 21, 2026 through September 20, 2031, subject to control of the Board, be deposited into Fifth Third Bank, first \$25,000, and any amount in excess may be deposited in Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank, and US Bank. (Exhibit-4)

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

IRS mileage rate (123-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly that the Board approve the amended 2026 IRS mileage reimbursement rate (**\$.76/mile as of 7/1/26**) for professional leave and district business approved within the course of assigned district positions.

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

GOVERNANCE

Declaring Transportation Impractical (124-26) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos that the Board approve the resolution declaring transportation Impractical for the 2026-2027 school year. (Exhibit-5)

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

Calendar 2026-2027 (125-26) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly that the Board approve the amended school calendar for 2026-2027 school year. (Exhibit-6)

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Resignation (126-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Bernicke that the Board accept the resignation of the following person on the Planning Commission.

1. Charlie Ritchie

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

Appointment (127-26) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos that the Board approve the appointment of the following person to the Planning Commission for the term indicated.

1. Leah McCain - Term ending 7/31/29

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

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SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance – Mrs. Hauser reported that the Finance Committee primarily discussed items already included on the Board agenda for approval. The Committee also discussed the addition of a middle school swim program, which would have an estimated net cost of approximately \$1,800. The Committee discussed the need to move two educational aides to full-time status due to additional student needs. Mrs. Hauser also reported that several years ago, Larry Sheakley donated funds to support Madeira's strength and conditioning coach. Those funds are projected to be depleted midway through the 2027-2028 school year, at which time the expense will need to be funded through the General Fund unless additional donations are received.
- Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Bergan thanked Nancy and the bus drivers for doing an incredible job managing the current transportation challenges in Madeira. Mr. Matsudo provided an update on the baseball project and reported that the project is progressing very well. The Madeira Schools Foundation has raised approximately \$250,000, and a number of volunteers have generously contributed their time and labor to the project. The district anticipates completion around November. Mr. Matsudo also noted Andrew Benetendi's generous donation to the project. Mr. Bergan stated that an update to the P.I. plan will be provided next month.
- Community Relations – Mr. Matsudo reported that the homecoming parade was a success and Jay and Mary Ann Adrick were honored guests. He also shared that the district recently hosted a Senior Citizen Coffee. Mr. Matsudo highlighted a recent article in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* featuring Madeira and the Made in Madeira Scholarship. He noted that Jennie Key chose the scholarship as the subject of her final article as a meaningful way to highlight the community. Mr. Matsudo also shared that two alumni groups held reunions over the weekend. Approximately 35 members of the Class of 1976 gathered for their 50th reunion, and members of the Class of 1950 gathered for their 76th reunion. Lastly, the next Community Leaders Meeting is scheduled for October 8.
- Policy – No formal update provided at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE/LIASION REPORTS

- Planning Commission – Mr. Matsudo thanked Ryan and Stef for hosting the planning commission reception.
- Great Oaks – Mr. Matsudo reported that he did not touch base with Chief this week.
- Legislation – No formal update provided at this time.
- Student Achievement Liaison – Mr. Matsudo reported that there are two National Merit Semifinalist, Luke Pease and Maya Parker and two National Merit Commended Scholars, Jack Harrison and Caden Otto.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Legislative Update/Property Taxes
Mrs. Hauser shared slides from a property tax reform workshop presented by BASA. She reported that several bills have been enacted as part of ongoing efforts to address property tax reform. While the changes are substantial for public schools, Madeira School District has been minimally impacted.

Mrs. Hauser explained that Madeira's tax structure is relatively straightforward because the District is above the 20-mill floor and does not have emergency levies. As a result, the District's tax structure generally operates as originally intended under House Bill 920. As property values increase, tax rates are reduced so the District does not receive additional revenue from voted levies. Madeira's primary exposure to recent legislation is House Bill 335, which limits growth in inside millage revenue to the GDP deflator inflation rate.

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Mrs. Hauser noted that property tax reform continues to be a significant topic at the state level and has been a consistent message in the Ohio Governor race. The two candidates have shared different ways they plan to address it, if elected. She also reviewed Madeira's overall property tax story. The local taxpayers carry most of the funding burden, as the State currently provides only approximately 18% of the cost to operate Madeira Schools. Madeira voters have approved approximately 110 mills; however, the district currently collects less than 42 mills due to the effects of House Bill 920. This prevents revenue growth and is the primary reason for the need of a 3 to 5 year levy cycle. The property tax reform measures that have been enacted at this point do not change how Madeira operates in a steady and disciplined way that is predictable for our community members.

Mrs. Hauser concluded that property tax reform remains an ongoing issue but to date the legislative changes have not had a significant impact on Madeira Schools' revenue. She stated that they would continue to monitor property tax reform initiatives and keep the board informed.

ADJOURNMENT (128-26) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Bernicke that the September 21, 2026 regular meeting of the Madeira Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Mr. Eberly, aye; Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex; aye.

Board President

Treasurer