



Board Briefs, January 18, 2024

At its January monthly business meeting, the MRH Board of Education selected current treasurer Rachel Goltzman to serve the dual role of Board President through April. The presidency became open with the resignation of Amber Withycombe in December.

Superintendent Dr. Bonita Jamison provided an update on proposed collective bargaining for MRH teachers who are members of the Missouri National Education Association (MNEA). As a part of the bargaining process, the Board of Education would need to approve policies around the District's approach to negotiating with teachers, the composition of the negotiating teams and the wording of the ballot which teachers would use to vote on the collective bargaining proposal. Policies HA and HH-1 were presented as study items (no action by the Board at this time). The teacher group is working with the League of Women Voters to identify an election date.

Following the findings presented in December by auditing firm KEB, MRH Chief Financial Officer Chris Hoelzer delivered an action plan outlining how the District will address the findings and improve fiscal practices. The KEB audit found that in fiscal year 2023, actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures in the Special Revenue, Debt Service, and Capital Projects funds. Expenditures exceeded the budget but were not in excess of available cash and no misallocation or misappropriation of funds occurred. The District will monitor expenditures throughout the year by fund and request budget amendments as needed to ensure expenditures do not exceed the approved budget. Amendments will occur at least two times per fiscal year or as needed. [The full action plan can be found on the MRH website.](#)

Mr. Hoelzer also provided an update on facilities upgrades under Proposition E. The new gym lobby is awaiting minor completion items; it opened to the public on January 8. Landscaping in the courtyard has begun, but winter weather has stalled the installation of pavers. Gymnasium flooring is delayed due to leveling issues which are currently being addressed. In the new "Building A," drywalling and painting are nearly complete and furniture has been delivered.

The Board approved two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for services by BJC Behavioral Health and Super Social Workers, LLC. The District recently received a grant to provide mental health and social work services at MRH Elementary. BJC Behavioral Health will provide a mental health professional to work at MRHE two days a week. Super Social Workers, LLC will place a social worker at the school three days a week.

Operations Director Dr. Michael Dittrich presented a report on the results of recent water quality tests, required under Missouri's "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water" statute. Some results:

- Early Childhood Center: no remediation required
- Elementary School: 1 of 61 water sources requires remediation

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Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

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Dr. Bonita Jamison, Superintendent • Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent • Dr. Chris McGee, Assistant Superintendent

- Middle School/High School: 10 of 145 water sources require remediation. All of the sources identified were either not used for drinking or were used for handwashing only.

Rachel Ward, Coordinator of Data, Assessment & Accountability, reported the results of the 2023 Annual Performance Report (APR) from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). APRs are issued as part of the ongoing Missouri School Improvement Plan (MSIP-6). The 2023 APR includes points (weighted) for both performance and continuous improvement standards. MRH earned approximately 80% of the possible points in the performance category, and 96% of the possible points in the continuous improvement area, for a final weighted average of 84.3%. [The full reports, including the District response plan, can be found on the MRH website.](#)

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