



Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

2531 S. Big Bend Blvd. • Maplewood, MO 63144 • (314) 644-4400 • www.mrhschools.net
Dr. Bonita Jamison, Superintendent • Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent • Dr. Chris McGee, Assistant Superintendent

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BOARD BRIEFS FOR AUGUST 15, 2024

At its regular monthly business meeting, the MRH Board of Education approved the [bus routes](#) for the 2024-2025 school year. As required by Missouri law, this is the first of three approvals for the bus routes to be presented to the Board for the academic year.

The Board also ok'd an extension of the District's agreement with Chartwells. In 2022, MRH selected Chartwells as the District's food and nutrition provider. Over the past two years, Chartwells has integrated into the MRH community, offering a variety of nutritious meal options to students while maintaining compliance with federal and state nutrition guidelines. The decision to continue MRH's partnership with Chartwells is driven by both financial and operational needs. The reduction in financial loss from the first to the second year of their service reflects Chartwells' commitment to efficient and cost-effective operations.

A proposed partnership with a leading school transportation provider will move ahead with the Board's blessing. In response to ongoing transportation staffing challenges, MRH has identified a collaborative opportunity with First Student, a reputable and experienced transportation provider. This collaboration would involve First Student supplying the drivers, while MRH would provide its own buses that are already under lease. This approach is projected to save the District a considerable amount of money compared to previous contracts with independent bus companies. The current proposal includes the addition of two new drivers.

District administrators requested the Board approve participation in a pilot program by Savaas (formerly Pearson) called SuccessMaker Reading to address a critical need for personalized and adaptive reading instruction. The goal is to accelerate student progress by providing targeted support for students who require additional assistance. Savaas reached out to MRH to be a part of their study, stating that participation would result in MRH receiving the program free for three years. MRH has identified a persistent gap in student reading achievement, particularly among those requiring additional support. The Board gave a green light to the pilot participation but requested the District obtain additional information about a clause in the contract allowing Savaas to terminate the collaboration at any time.

The Board heard details of, and will vote at a future session, on:

- A request to alter the academic calendar to reflect that January 3, 2025 will become a work day for teachers rather than a professional development day. The request comes as a result of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with teachers, adopted in June.
- Approving the consolidation of earned personal leave to paid time off (PTO). Staff at the middle school and elementary school participate in capstone trips and expeditions

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throughout the year. As a result of their participation outside the scope of the school day, they earn personal leave. The current earned personal leave procedure requires teachers to either use their time before the conclusion of the school year or be paid out at the District's sub rate. Because of the timing of the varying events, if teachers take off at the end of the year, it places a strain on the District to identify substitute teachers to cover the vacancy. By consolidating to PTO, teachers would be allowed to roll days to be added to their PTO balance.

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