



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

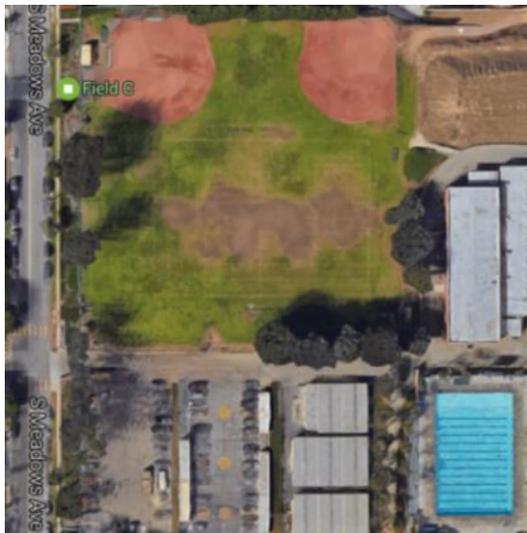
Superintendent's Newsletter

March 4, 2017

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent

Update on the Meadows Field

You may have seen a lot of work happening on the Meadows Avenue side of the Mira Costa campus. We have been discussing improving this field for nearly half a decade, and that work is finally underway! We will be adding a large full length practice field for soccer/lacrosse/marching band/football/rugby and a new JV Baseball field. It will be artificial turf and should be a great community asset for decades to come. Thanks to MBX for raising significant dollars to share the cost of this field.



Architect Selection Process for the New Gym at Mira Costa

On November 8, 2016, voters approved Measure EE, a \$39 million bond measure which will provide funding to replace our outdated and undersized gymnasium at Mira Costa High School. Just last week, we had to move a basketball playoff game because of all of the leaks in the roof! After interviewing seven firms, Gensler emerged as the panel's top recommendation for award of the Measure EE MCHS gymnasium replacement project. Gensler attended the Board meeting held on February 13, 2017, to introduce their firm, the team that would be assigned to the project, and their conceptual approach to the project given their current knowledge of its parameters. At Wednesday's Board meeting, the Board approved Gensler to commence work immediately! We will be holding community stakeholder meetings to help shape the design vision for our new gym, so please watch for upcoming opportunities to participate.

The Gensler logo consists of the word "Gensler" in white, sans-serif font, centered on a solid red rectangular background.

MBUSD Families



Connected

I have shared before that MBUSD is the pilot district for an innovative teen wellness and substance use prevention project called South Bay Families Connected. SBFC is an outstanding resource for our parents and staff as we work together to help keep our youth on a healthy path into maturity. The [MCHS Families Connected](#) website has had close to **3,000 unique visitors** since its launch a year and a half ago. And the [MBMS FC](#) website, launched in May of 2016, had **1,000 unique visitors**.



Congratulations to Mira Costa junior Jillian Reed, our January MCHS Student of the Month and SBFC teen blogger and "Pass On It" video winner. You can read more in the SBFC monthly e-newsletter by [clicking here](#).

Our Board is so focused on improving the social-emotional wellness of our students. I have written to you about stress, calendars, substance abuse, inclusion, and more, and I am grateful that Families Connected is a key partner in ALL of those efforts. Check out their [parent resources](#) page to get more information on all of these issues. Get involved, and don't try to do it all alone. We are all stronger when we are connected!

News from the Board Meeting



At its last meeting, the Board thanked the [Measure BB Oversight Committee](#) and the 26 members who served on it between 2008 and this week. The Committee's job is done, and their final act was to dissolve their own Committee. Thank you to all!

Also at that same meeting, the Board joined districts across the state and voted to extend their terms to comply with SB 415. The next board election will be in 2018, which should (1) reduce costs by \$60,000, and (2) nearly triple voter participation in our board's election. Click [here](#) for more information.

Spotlight on:

Food Waste Recycling Program

As a National Green Ribbon District, we take great pride in helping our schools and our community to be greener and more sustainable. A group of parents, district, and community members meet quarterly to share ideas about how to be even more green. Great news from this week's meeting -- ***ALL your food scraps can now be turned into renewable energy ... easily!*** That's way better than sending them to the landfill! Manhattan Beach residents can follow 3 easy steps:

1. Put all food scraps into a bag.
2. When the bag is full, tie off the top of the bag securely.
3. Place the bag containing the food waste into your green waste cart.



For more information on the City's residential and commercial food waste recycling programs, click [here](#).

City Agreement Update



We are trying to continue our talks with the City about extending our shared use agreement. This agreement permits the District to share the facilities that it owns with the City. These facilities consist of our elementary and middle school fields as well as Polliwog Park, including Premier Field, Begg Pool, Begg Field, the Botanical Gardens, and the dog park, as well as all of the open park space in that area. We are proud of this agreement, which allows the City to make these spaces available to the community, both through formal user group rental arrangements with organizations like AYSO, MBYB, and many others, as well as by opening the schools and the parks to the public when they are not in use by our students. Beginning in

2013, the City, in addition to providing for the maintenance of the park and fields, began contributing \$550,000 a year for the use of the fields. The agreement was set to expire in June of 2016.

The District and the City were unable to reach agreement on a long-term extension of the agreement last year, so a one-year status quo extension was agreed upon, and the City and District made a commitment to continuing to pursue a long-term extension this year. The District is looking at model agreements like the ones in Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, which provide fair market value for the District's properties, and which enhance those districts' abilities to serve their students while also enhancing those cities' abilities to provide services for school-aged youth in the community, and has exchanged information with the City about these agreements and a variety of other ideas. To date this year, three meetings with the City and the District have been held, out of a total of six scheduled. The City cancelled our last meeting and has also notified us of their desire to cancel our next meeting, scheduled for next week, so we are in limbo at this point. The election on March 7 for City Council will be crucial in this process. I encourage you all to research the eight candidates and go out there and vote!

Thanks for all you do to support our students and our schools,



Mike Matthews

MBUSD Superintendent



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