Marble Falls Independent School District
September 15, 2025

Alex Payson, President, called the regular meeting to order at **6:01 p.m.** at the Marble Falls Central Office at 1800 Colt Circle, Marble Falls, TX. A quorum was present; notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Board Members Present: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman

Board Members Absent:

Administrators Present: Dr. Jeff Gasaway, Stan Whittle, Yarda Leflet, Dr. Shana Bunch-Fancher, Tiffany Brantley, Clark Fields, Dr. Melissa Fields, Nathan Fink, Jeanna Jette, Melissa Fletcher, Dr. Pedro Garcia, Rudy Gonzalez, Kara Gasaway, Patrick Hinson, Eric Humiston, Suzie Neuenschwander, Bill Orr, Mackie Price, Soor-el Puga, Keri Timmerman

Members of the Press: None

Citizen Comments

Michelle Morrison spoke on school safety, highlighting her research in other districts and commending MFISD for the strong safety protocols and practices in place to protect students and staff on every campus.

Special Recognitions

Spotlight on Excellence

Dr. Gasaway honored Jeanna Jette as the September Spotlight on Excellence recipient. The presentation included a video of Mr. Whittle and Dr. Fancher sharing comments that emphasized her outstanding service to students and staff across the district. Following the presentation, Dr. Gasaway presented Ms. Jette with a certificate and award to commemorate the recognition.

MFHS State One Act Play

The Board recognized MFHS Theatre Director Jon Clark, who along with assistant Jordan Jones presented the One Act Play students for their outstanding accomplishments. The students placed 2nd in the State One Act Play competition, continuing the program's long tradition of excellence. This year, the troupe swept every round leading up to state, marking the 8th consecutive appearance at the regional or state level. Mr. Clark highlighted both individual achievements and the collective dedication and talent of the group.

Spotlight on Engagement

Yarda Leflet recognized Marble Falls Elementary teacher Anna Grace Kieschnick as the September Spotlight on Engagement recipient. Ms. Leflet shared heartfelt remarks from Ms. Kieschnick's coworkers and students, who praised her engaging classroom, effective teaching, and genuine love for her students. To commemorate the recognition, Ms. Kieschnick was presented with a certificate by Ms. Leflet and an award by Dr. Gasaway.

Information Items

-General Fund Summary
-Expenditure Report
-Special Awareness Dates
-2025 STAAR Report

Public Hearing

First Report

Mr. Payson opened the public hearing at **6:25 p.m.** Bill Orr presented the district's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) report, noting that Marble Falls ISD earned a "Superior Achievement" rating for 2024–2025 with a score of 96 out of 100. He reviewed several key line items included in the report and explained that the rating is based on the 2023–2024 fiscal year. Upon conclusion of Mr. Orr's presentation, Mr. Payson called for public comment; hearing none, he closed the public hearing at **6:31 p.m.**

Presentation/Discussion Items & Possible Action

Baseball Facility Update

Mr. Whittle, along with representatives from Pfluger Architects, presented an update on the planned high school baseball facility. The presentation included architectural renderings, an overview of the design phase, and projected timelines for completion. During the discussion, Trustee Larry Berkman inquired as to whether the design for the new stadium includes provisions for shower facilities.

Architect for Elementary Playground Improvements

The Board received a proposal from Corgan Architects for professional services related to playground improvements at all four district elementary campuses. Mr. Whittle shared the scope of work which includes site visits to document current conditions, coordination with the district's preferred playground manufacturer, preparation of contract documents, and construction administration services. Trustee Gary Boshears requested that the district obtain additional proposals prior to selecting an architect for the project.

Possible Purchase of Maintenance Vehicle

Mr. Whittle presented a recommendation to replace a 2010 service truck with 114,678 miles that is nearing the end of its life cycle and experiencing significant mechanical issues. He explained that while ordering a new truck typically requires up to a six-month wait, a replacement vehicle that meets district needs is currently available in stock at Sam Pack's Five Star Ford. Mr. Whittle further noted that funds for this purchase were included in the 2025 bond allocation designated for vehicle replacements.

Upon a motion by Kevin Virdell, second by Gary Boshears, the Board of Trustees approved $64,525.74 to purchase a new truck from Sam Pack's Five Star Ford.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Possible Purchase of Skid Steer Loader.

Mr. Whittle presented the Maintenance Department's recommendation to purchase a Kubota SVL75-3H skid steer with attachments from Ewald Kubota of Marble Falls, a local and Sourcewell-approved vendor. He explained that this model was identified as best meeting the district's needs and is sized to be transported across campuses. Mr. Whittle further noted that the vendor's proposal of $80,412.06 is $40,323 below the $120,735 originally budgeted in the bond for this item.

Upon a motion by Crystal Tubig, second by Kevin Naumann the Board approved the purchase of a skid steer and attachments from Ewald Kubota in Marble Falls for the amount of $80,412.06.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell

Against:
Abstain

Possible Purchase of Custodial Equipment
Mr. Whittle presented a request to reallocate bond funds originally budgeted at $76,000 for a robotic floor cleaner toward the purchase of replacement custodial equipment needed across campuses. He explained that, following an equipment audit, staff identified higher-priority needs. The recommended purchases would ensure each campus is properly equipped with essential custodial machinery and tools at a total cost of $51,253, resulting in a savings of $21,563 from the original budget. Administration recommended purchasing the equipment from Buckeye.

Upon a motion by Kevin Naumann, second by Kevin Virdell the Board approved the purchase for the needed custodial equipment in the amount totaling $51,253.00.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman
Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Possible Purchase of Digital Radios
Mr. Whittle presented a request to upgrade all handheld radios districtwide from analog to digital models. He noted that the high school and middle school transitioned to digital last year, and this purchase would complete the upgrade at the elementary campuses as well as the maintenance and transportation departments. The proposal recommends using Air Comm, a TIPS-approved vendor, to provide 175 Motorola CP100D radios at a cost of $66,275.

Upon a motion by Kevin Virdell, second by Gary Boshears the Board approved $66,275 for the purchase of 175 digital handheld radios as presented.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman
Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

PCAT Interlocal Agreement and Addendum
The Board received information regarding the renewal of the district's property and casualty insurance with Property Casualty Alliance of Texas (PCAT). Mr. Whittle explained that the district would like to extend its Interlocal Agreement and 3-Year Addendum, providing budget stability for the next three years. He further stated that despite a large claim, Insurica secured a 3.7% rate decrease in premiums compared to 2024 by leveraging favorable market conditions.

Upon a motion by Kevin Naumann, second by Crystal Tubig the Board approved the Interlocal Agreement and 3-Year Interlocal Addendum with Property Casualty Alliance of Texas (PCAT) to provide property and casualty insurance for the district from 2025-2026 through 2027-2028 as presented.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman
Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Student Chromebook Replacements
Nathan Fink presented the scheduled replacement of student Chromebooks, due to secondary devices at their 5-year lifecycle and elementary devices already extended to 7 years. Mr. Fink shared that after evaluating vendors, Dell was selected as the most cost-effective option, providing 3,800 devices with upgraded memory, licenses, protective cases, and accidental damage coverage at a total cost of $341.85 per unit. The purchase will replace all student Chromebooks.

Upon a motion by Kevin Virdell, second by Larry Berkman the Board approved the purchase of 3,800 Chromebooks with Gumdrop Cases from Dell for $1,299,030.00.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Staff Laptop Replacements
Nathan Fink shared with the Board a request to replace staff laptops as the current staff devices are nearing the scheduled five-year lifecycle. After evaluating Dell and Lenovo, Dell was identified as the most cost-effective vendor, offering the Dell 16 Pro at $722.14 per unit with upgraded memory. The purchase covers 650 devices to replace all current staff laptops and provide a small reserve. Mr. Fink added that the old laptops will continue to be used as loaner devices and for support staff needs.

Upon a motion by Gary Boshears, second by Crystal Tubig the Board approved the purchase of 650 Dell 16 Pro laptops for $469,391.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Campus PA System Upgrades
Nathan Fink's final presentation on the evening was the proposal for campus PA system upgrades. Mr. Fink stated that the project will replace outdated BOGEN systems with IP-based speakers in classrooms and analog speakers in common areas, improving security, reliability, maintenance, and scalability. He added that installation will occur after hours and on weekends, and the project is expected to remain within budget.

Upon a motion by Kevin Virdell, second by Mandy McCary the Board approved the purchase of the upgraded campus PA systems from Computer Solutions for $299,998.98.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

E3 Alliance Contract for TEA Strong Foundations Grant
Yarda Leflet shared that the district was awarded a LASO Cycle 3 Strong Foundations Planning Literacy grant from TEA and shared details on the grant including that it will support development of a research-based instructional framework. Ms. Leflet stated that the administration's recommendation was to select E3 Alliance as the provider which would allow alignment of district initiatives and avoid additional procurement requirements.

Upon a motion by Kevin Virdell, second by Kevin Naumann the Board approved the administration contract with E3 Alliance, as required in the LASO, Cycle 3 Strong Foundations Planning Literacy grant for the 2025-2026 school year for an amount not to exceed $98,000.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

District of Innovation Plan Amendments
Yarda Leflet presented Amendments to the District of Innovation Plan for approval. Ms. Leflet reminded the Board that the 89th Texas Legislature introduced new requirements for public schools, leading MFISD to amend its District of Innovation Plan. Previously the DOI Committee and Board approved updates addressing parental rights, instructional information, library policies, and GPA calculations. After TEA requested minor revisions, the DOI and DEIC committees reconvened and approved the changes and now the district is asking for Board approval of those proposed changes. Ms. Leflet stated that if approved the plan would be effective through 2027–2028.

Upon a motion by Mandy McCary, second by Crystal Tubig the Board approved the Marble Falls ISD District of Innovation Plan Amendments effective until the end of the 2027-2028 school year.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Consider & Possible Approval of Action
Consent Agenda

Upon a motion by Gary Boshears, second by Kevin Virdell the Board approved the following as presented:

-Minutes from August 18, 2025 Meeting
-Budget Amendment

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Upcoming Meetings & Board Training Opportunities

-Monday, October 20, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting
-Monday, November 17, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting

Executive Session

At **7:36 p.m.**, the Board adjourned into executive session to discuss Professional Personnel (TX Govt. Code 551.074).

The Board reconvened from executive session at **7:56 p.m.**

<u>Discussion & Possible Approval of Action Arising from Executive Session</u>
Possible Approval of Professional Personnel

Upon a motion by Crystal Tubig, second by Kevin Virdell the Board approved Professional Personnel as presented.

For: Alex Payson, Mandy McCary, Crystal Tubig, Gary Boshears, Larry Berkman
Kevin Naumann, Kevin Virdell
Against:
Abstain:

Adjourn
Hearing no objection, the Board adjourned at **7:57 p.m.**

Approved:

Alex Payson, President

Crystal Tubig, Secretary