



Board of Education Recap

The Board's *Safety and Wellness* and *Education* Committees have been studying testing and its potential impact on student wellness. We are curious to know if your child has experienced *significant* test anxiety that has impeded his/her ability to do well on a given test. Anecdotally, we are trying to ascertain how prevalent an issue this may be in Mount Horeb and what seems to help students during this period of high anxiety. If you can help, please drop a line to our Director of Student Services, [Mr. Brian Johnson](#), or Director of Instruction, [Mrs. Sarah Straka](#).

November 6, 2018

The Board of Education held their second of two meetings in a row last night. Below, please find a couple of highlights from their discussion:

Emma Erickson, first grade student at the Primary Center, was recognized for the Board's November Student Spotlight. **Principal Rachael Johnson** was on hand and explained why Emma was selected for this auspicious award. She said, "Emma is such a nurturing, kind and helpful young lady. She has readily stepped up to help others who need support. Emma often, just naturally, jumps in to the 'helper roll' and has really built some strong, trusting relationships with her peers." On hand to celebrate Emma's efforts were Mr. and Mrs. **Tom and Jami Erickson**. Also pictured are Emma's amazing teacher, **Mrs. Courtney Harlan**, and our Board of Education President, **Mrs. Leah Lipska**.



In discussion items...

School Showcase: Principal Johnson shared the progress being made toward her buildings' goals (Early Learning Center and Primary Center), which are reflective of the Board's *Strategic Plan*. Staff has been focused on goals which support improved literacy, numeracy, and positive student behaviors. We are fortunate to have students achieving at high levels on multiple measurement systems; however, it is also important that we look at students' rates of growth. Wisely, Rachael and her staff (along with other schools), have been studying this for the past year. Moreover, we want to mitigate any gaps in students' achievement between various socioeconomic, gender, students with disabilities, and ethnic groups that comprise the beautiful mosaic that is Mount Horeb. A "tip of the hat" is also extended to staff members for continuing to have high expectations for students' behavior. For example, the ELC and PC students are hoping to have earned fifteen "100 Gold Token Celebrations" before the end of the school year. Based on their work so far, I believe this can happen! Principal Johnson's outstanding report may be found by [clicking here](#).

In Referendum Related News: Mr. **Mike Huffman**, Owner's Representative, and Mr. **Ted McMillan**, Kraemer Brothers Project Manager, shared that our project continues to be on time and under budget.

- Many of the masons have been working extended shifts in order to make up for some lost time during September and October's rainy season.
- Thankfully, cooler, dryer air has ushered in to our region - providing some relief to the allergy issues experienced in our modular units. We are pleased to report the Dane County Public Health Department and two industrial hygienists have visited the building, and no one has expressed a need for the district to vacate the buildings; however, out of an

abundance of caution, we have supported staff who felt more comfortable doing so. We continue to work with the owners, Innovative Modular Solutions, to complete a thorough inspection, remediation, where appropriate, and verification testing.

- Due to significant savings on the total project, we continue to consider additional proposals for the Board's consideration (completing these proposed projects would not require the District tap the remaining \$5.5 million voter approved borrow). These plans include addressing on-site ponding /site drainage issues on the southwest corner of the Middle School. In addition, replacement of the Middle School's steel roof and masonry needs, and re-visioning the High School's front plaza, to include covered seating areas, shrubbery, bike storage, etc., are on the docket. Each will be considered by the Board's Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation subcommittee at an upcoming meeting.
- Lastly, all minor but remaining items from our summer work are being "buttoned up." This includes installation of a coil fire permanent entry door at the Middle School and completion of our display cases in the High School vestibule to be in place before the holidays are over.

Information and Advocacy Report: As part of the Board's new "Strategic Plan", a system of accountability was developed around each of their visionary goals. While there are four main tenants to the plan, there are numerous indicators of success to which our staff aspire. Director of instruction, **Mrs. Sarah Straka**, was on hand to discuss the number of High School students receiving professional certificates and completing apprenticeships, work cooperatives, and/or work experiences. These opportunities would not be possible without the continued support of our community's business leaders, educational partners, and our dedicated staff. A special note of gratitude to Ms. **Penny Thompson** and Mrs. **Mary McDonough-Sutter**. You can see the entirety of Mrs. Straka's report by [clicking here](#).

That brings to a close another addition of our recap. Nights like the one shared on Monday remind me of the collective efforts each of us plays to ensuring a world-class experience for students. Thank you for all you do to support our beautiful young people.

I am proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too!

Steve