



## Board of Education Recap

Just a friendly reminder...

There will be school on **Friday, March 1** (make up due to weather).

February 5, 2019

While at last night's Board of Education meeting, members were introduced to a very accomplished young woman, **Jessica Fox**. "JJ" is a junior at Mount Horeb High School and was selected for the Student Spotlight portion of the meeting. Interim Principal, Mr. **Rick Penniston**, told me, "Jessica has a positive presence in her relationships and her numerous activities within the school. She demonstrates an unusual poise and maturity in her interactions with her peers and with staff. She genuinely cares about other people and making MHHS a better place to be." Jessica is an active part of our school's service club, "Rotary Interact", and she is involved in our Student Wellness committee, Student Council, music, and volleyball. Pictured with Jessica are Mrs. **Leah Lipska**, Board of Education President; Mr. **Rod Hise**, the School Board's liaison to the High School; Jessica's mom, grandma, and aunt; Mrs. **Kolleen Nesheim**, Activities Director/Associate Principal; Mrs. **Deanne Lensert**, Associate Principal; Rick and myself. JJ, thank you for making us a better high school!



### In "Discussion Items"...

**Referendum Updates:** The Board was introduced to Kraemer Brothers' new project manager, Mr. Kevin McGuire. In addition to the many updates found in the latest edition of the "[Referendum Project Report Newsletter](#)", we enjoyed hearing:

- the project remains on-time and under budget;
- all the math classrooms on the second floor have been drywalled;
- the pouring of concrete for the steps will take place this week (at all stairwells);
- all the window panes are onsite and ready for install;
- the installation of the elevator is beginning soon;
- video installation in the auditorium is nearing completion (sound/lighting are completed);
- painting of the kitchen is beginning;
- furniture bidding is on-track (thanks to our students/staff for providing feedback about the furniture we have set up in three mock classrooms);

- additional project scope is being prepared for pricing and will go to the Board's *Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation* committee for consideration; and
- exterior brick work will resume soon (once the cold weather subsides).

**High School Goals Update:** The High School's administration shared [this report](#) on the progress being made by staff toward the school's goals (which cascade from the Board of Education's strategic plan, [Vision 2023](#)). Bottomline, high quality instruction continues and students are achieving at high rates; however, we need to be cognizant of *all* students' achievements, especially those historically disenfranchised. We can, and must, continue to move the needle here.

This presentation permitted the Board to thank High School Interim Principal, **Rick Penniston**, for his service this past school year. Initially, Rick planned on a second year at the helm of High School; however, commitments to family and a desire to enjoy retirement caused him to reconsider after the winter break. His vast experience as a high school principal and thoughtful demeanor encouraged a sense of calm during this transitional time. We are in the process of advertising for this vacancy. Many times we find the very best candidates by reaching out to the community and asking, "Who do you know?" [More information about this vacancy can be found here](#). Please feel free to share this information with credentialed friends/family/colleagues with experience in school leadership.



### **Action Items...**

**Consideration of the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 School Calendars:** A dedicated committee of staff and parents created the next two year's calendars. While the [2019-2020](#) school year was previously Board approved, a slight adjustment was needed to the end date (school year will end on June 10). Whereas, this was the first time the [2020-2021](#) calendar came before the Board. The results of the 2018 community survey (students, parents, and staff) guided our team's work in making recommendations to the Board of Education.

Finally, regarding my request for a waiver of the statute which outlines the required annual minimum number of instructional hours. You may recall, this was considered because of the inclement weather we experienced. While none of us are satisfied with the minimum, there is a lack of time available to "make up" due to our tight construction schedule. We received a polite "no". We may have to get really creative if additional weather delays must be called. Frankly, it's okay. We should always be grateful for having more opportunities to learn.



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

Steve