



## Board of Education Recap

Just a friendly reminder...

There will be school on

**Friday, April 19**

**The Early Release Schedule will be followed**

(make up due to weather).

March 5, 2019

A great deal was accomplished at the Board of Education's first meeting of the month. Among their most important actions was the introduction of this month's...

Student Spotlight: This is kindergartner **Alivia Long**. Principal **Rachael Johnson** told those in attendance Alivia was selected for the positive energy she exudes with her classmates and teachers. She said, "One time, I witnessed Alivia help a student follow the group plan in a classroom. She saw that her peer was struggling and, without even being asked, went to the student and offered for them to join her. The student immediately responded positively to her invitation and was able to successfully participate in the activity." Here she is pictured (left to right) with Early Learning Center Board liaison **Damon Piscitelli**, Principal Johnson, Board of Education Vice-President **Diana Rothamer**, Kindergarten teacher Mrs. **Ambriel Chamberlain**, Alivia, her father, **Tyson** (via Facetime, how cool is that?), an understandably proud mom, **Daniella**, an equally impressive big sister **Ellie**, and myself.



School Showcase: Principal Johnson was joined by our 4K Coordinator, **Ms. Nicole Tepe**, to present to the Board the progress being made in their school and programmatic goals. A copy of their slide deck can be found by [clicking here](#). We continue to be impressed with the social, emotional, and academic goals established for our youngest Vikings; moreover, we continue to be grateful for the strong foundation our children receive from our 4K partner sites.

Memorandum of Understanding with Mount Horeb Police Department: School safety continues to be a major consideration in educating our children. This responsibility calls for even stronger partnerships with those sworn to "serve and protect". Expansion of communication between the District and the Mount Horeb Police Department was part of last night's Board agenda. The administrative team has proposed entering in to a MOU between both entities for the purposes of identifying what information is shared. Increasingly, community related issues are finding their way into the schools with less than favorable results. How would an MOU help? Confidential, open

communication will permit school leaders and staff the opportunity to triple their efforts in monitoring simmering community issues so they do not boil over in our schools (vice versa).

Referendum Update: Coordinator of Building Services, Mr. **Dave Reed**, was on hand to update the Board on the progress made in our High School’s expansion. Using multiple pictures to paint the picture ([take a look at these](#)), he reminded the Board our entire project continues to be “on-time” and “under budget”. If you have not seen the latest February Progress Report provided to the community, you may [find it here](#).

**In action items...**

Resolution in Support of Increased Mental Health and Wellness Funding: As regular readers of the “Board Recap” know, our Board of Education has served as leaders around the state for setting a high bar in support of mental health and wellness. This was on full display last night as they passed a resolution supporting many of the Blue Ribbon Commission’s findings, which called for increased funding in this burgeoning area of need. [Here is a link to the Board’s resolution](#).

Consideration of Additional Referendum Projects: The Board considered additional enhancements to our summer construction schedule that would not have been possible without our project coming under budget and on time. Each of the additional projects support the boards original three goals for the referendum: safety and security, building systems and infrastructure, and creation of classrooms for the 21st-century. You may find a complete list of approved projects by following this [link](#).

Word has it we just completed our first full week of school in 2019 – My word! – As of this writing, there are 14 days until spring and 32 days until the 2019 World Champion Chicago Cubs throw their first pitch at home, no? Even more important than my Cubbies....

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

Steve