



Board of Education Recap

March 17, 2020

Village Update RE: VOTING

Mr. Nic Owen, Village Administrator, told me, "In-person absentee voting will begin on Wednesday; to accommodate this we will be leaving the front door open and directing people to the second floor conference room. Staff will still be working in the offices, but in-person contact will be minimal and we will only allow people in by making appointments."

Dear Vikings,

As it relates to COVID-19, our Board of Education has been actively engaged during these past several weeks. In fact, they held an emergency meeting on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. During last night's Board of Education meeting, members of the District's Senior Leadership Team reviewed our current status and provided an update regarding our post-April 5 contingency plans (assuming this may be necessary).

Here's some information I think will be helpful in your planning:

All District buildings will be closed at the end of the business day, 3:30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 18, 2020

MEALS WILL CONTINUE

- All plans are fluid and may require a reversal of previous identified solutions.
- [Here](#) is the District's most recent communication related to our schools' closures. If you have not receiving these updates, please take some time to check your Infinite Campus preferences. You can access a "how to" website [here](#).
- Our post-April 5 plan will likely include a hybrid "virtual" education experience. While there are many details to consider (special education services, access to computer devices and internet connections, etc.), our preparations will first focus on professional development on virtual learning skills for our instructional staff. While the idea of virtual instruction or blended learning is not new to most of our instructional team, moving instruction online for an extended time is a journey that we will all navigate together.
- Our amazing School Nutrition team made 150 meals on Monday – 10 were picked up; I suspect that number will grow in the coming days. If you (or someone you know) has/have food insecurities, please share the information found on page two of [this letter](#).
- The Department of Public Instruction shared two key pieces of information today:
 - They will waive the minimum hour requirements for instruction, provided the proper paperwork is completed and filed. Though they did not specify what that paperwork is, I have my pen ready 😊
 - "It is increasingly clear that it will not be possible to complete testing this year due to the pandemic." Dr. Mike Thompson, Deputy Superintendent - I will keep you informed as to what that portends for our District.
- The Board of Education will continue to meet (as possible). It is important that we operate in the "sunshine." We will continue to record these meetings. In addition, we will be implementing a telephonic dial in system for those interested in listening to their important work and provide citizens' comments. More information to follow.

How can you help?

- a. Where possible, please hold you/your child to account for self-quarantining – especially, if you are traveling this spring break. If we all do our part the impact can be mitigated;
- b. [Do the Five](#); and
- c. Remain calm and patient. We will find our way through this together – It’s the Mount Horeb way, right?



In other news, the Board very begrudgingly accepted Mrs. Jackie Brager’s request for retirement. Those who have the privilege to know and work with Jackie enjoy her expansive knowledge, historical perspective of the district, and her warm spirit. Her energy is boundless and best represented by her enduring work ethic. That energy will now be used for a higher purpose: spending time with her beautiful grandchildren (with two on the way!) and family. Jackie and her husband, Dennis, are in the final stages of building their summer home. There, many new memories will be made as they enjoy the fruits of their labor. Thank you, Jackie, for 30+ years of service to our children, staff, and community.

In closing, I feel we could use a little good news! What if I told you our summer projects, a list of which may be found [here](#), have come in significantly under budget? It gets better: we are so well positioned we do not even have to tap our third, and final authorized referendum bank borrow. **That equates to saving our generous taxpayers \$5.5 million dollars + \$1 million dollars in anticipated interest!**



I wish you and your family only the very best. If I can be of service, won’t you please let me know (salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us or 608-437-7010)? I remain....

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

Steve