



# Board of Education Recap

November 3, 2020

## Rethinking snow days during the pandemic - eLearning



# VS



November greetings, Vikings!

Last night's Board of Education meeting kicked off by recognizing **Ella Bell** as this month's Student Spotlight recipient. Mrs. **Patricia Fish**, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, nominated Ella for this special recognition. Mrs. Fish wrote, "Ella comes to virtual learning everyday prepared and ready to go, like most of her classmates, but Ella also brings her smile and enthusiasm to EVERY meeting! When a [GoNoodle](#) is played, Ella is the first one to participate. When asked questions, she is always ready to share. Recently, I asked, 'How can we show support to one another?' Ella's response was, 'When someone is having a difficult time, you can say, 'You Got This!'" Mrs. Fish added, "Ella brings such a caring heart to every meeting by greeting everyone when they log on, and she is always the last one to leave the meeting with her big smile, a big wave and a personal good-bye to each classmate."

Here is a picture of Principal **Rachael Johnson** and myself who visited Ella's house last Tuesday to provide a certificate of this special moment. Ella's mom and dad are Amber and Justin Bell. Their beautiful family also consists of Dawson (grade 5), Colton (grade 7), and Brayden (grade 8).

"You got this," -Ella

COVID-19 Update: Planning remains on track with the return of K-2 students, provided Public Health Madison Dane County's recommendation remains unchanged. If you missed the K-2 Virtual Town Hall meeting last Tuesday night, [you can find the video here](#). Our K-2 parents have been such a help with completing the most recent survey.



The results showed that approximately 60% wanted hybrid and 40% sought to remain virtual.

Next steps:

- ✓ Based on the student/parent results, we are in the process of assigning our staff accordingly, while paying particular attention to their individual/family health considerations. Staff members' final requests for leave are due by Wednesday, November 4.



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- ✓ Once we know which staff remain, we will know how we can assign students – with the goal of keeping classrooms as in tact, where possible. We would like to have that information to families by the end of Wednesday, November 11.
- ✓ Around the same date, families using District transportation will receive a letter with routing information.
- ✓ After coordinating a meeting for our staff with teachers in other districts that are already teaching K-2 hybrid instruction, it was evident that lunch can successfully be held in neighboring, unused classrooms. This will permit us to physically distance our children.
- ✓ Speaking of food, Mrs. **Michelle Denk**, Director of School Nutrition, will likely be reaching out to hybrid families to share more about our meal program.

In action items, the Board:

- conducted a first reading of the Board's "[Anti-Racism Statement](#)." This is the next evolutionary step in the District's efforts to advance equity for all. In fact, much of the Board's upcoming workshop will focus on this important lens.
- approved updates to the Board's "[Equal Educational Opportunity](#)" policy. Members of the Senior Leadership Team have spent 20+ hours attending Title IX training provided by the Wisconsin Association of School Board's legal counsel. As a result, our policy needed updating.
- approved updates to our "[Advanced Placement Courses](#)" policy. The goal is to provide access to traditionally marginalized populations of the children served. Therefore, subjective references to screening of students "with the potential to succeed" were removed and those without the financial ability to pay for testing should not have to worry.

We are in the month of Thanksgiving. My heart fills with gratitude for the support this community has demonstrated for our young people. I deeply appreciate the advocacy you demonstrate for our devoted staff. Thank you.

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

Steve Salerno