



Board of Education Recap

January 7, 2020

The first Board of Education meeting of the decade took place last night. Among their first orders of business was accepting the retirement requests of two professionals who have been with the District for the last *two plus* decades. Congratulations are extended to **Mrs. Kim Lins and Mrs. Susan McKenzie!** Mrs. Lins (left), Early Learning Center teacher and friendly/familiar face at most Vikings athletic events, started in our district in 1995. Mrs. McKenzie began her service to our community on August 24, 1988. Her warm, loving spirit epitomizes a kindergarten teacher. Just thinking about all of the children for whom these professionals have impacted brings smiles to many young people and their families! May you enjoy all that you have earned during your impressive careers!



Student Spotlight: The Board took particular joy in recognizing a student who is leveraging his positive leadership skills to help others. Eighth grader **Lucas Gonzalez** just kicked off his “[Pennies for Patients](#)” campaign during an assembly at his school. (Pennies for Patients ensures no child has to take cancer on alone because “every hero needs a squad.”) As if that were not enough, Lucas has been voted by his classmates as president of the Student Council. Music is one of Lucas’ passions as he is enrolled in band, choir, and orchestral! Mom and dad, Cecilia and Alcides, have every reason to be proud of Lucas.

School Demographics: Mr. **Brian Johnson**, Director of Student Services, updated the Board about changes in our students’ composition. By providing a longitudinal look at various datasets, we can strategically identify ways of improving and altering our services. One key area of growth for the District involves the number of students receiving English Language services. The number of students and the languages being served continues to blossom. In addition, we continue to see growth in the number of students who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. (This is a phenomenon seen in schools all throughout the country.) In many instances, these “at hope” students qualify for services both in and out of the school setting. A copy of Brian’s full report may be found [here](#).

Best wishes to you and your family for a year filled with great happiness, health and success. To that end, if I (or any member of our team) can ever be of assistance in helping you reach this, please give me a call (437-7010) or send me an email (salernosteve@mhad.k12.wi.us) .

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

Steve