



Board of Education Recap

Resumen de la Junta de Educación

September 8, 2021

During last night's meeting, Board of Education members celebrated a successful launch to the 2021-22 school year with an eye toward keeping the momentum moving. Please find a few updates herein...

Mental Health Grants Awarded – Director of Student Services, Mr. **Brian Johnson**, confirmed the District was the recipient of three VERY generous grants that permit us to continue our mental health and wellness focus.

- \$150,000 (over two years) – WI Department of Public Instruction School-Based Mental Health Service Grant that will be used for activities like continued training of staff around mental health first aid, provide community wellness activities that promote acceptance, and purchase/implementation of social and emotional learning curriculum at the secondary level.
- \$72,000 – [Dane County K12 Emotional Wellness and Mental Health Support Grant](#) – This will permit the District to hire one additional social worker (for two years) to help lead our middle/high school efforts.
- \$15,000 - WI Department of Public Instruction Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Grant which will permit us to continue targeting supports based on the data we learned from the Dane County Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

After an especially difficult budget session, these dollars are essential to continuing/expanding our supports to our children and community. A special note of gratitude to Brian and **Megan Miller**, Social Worker, for taking the extra time to write these comprehensive grant applications!

COVID 19 School News – We remain under an in-door Public Health Madison and Dane County face-covering mandate through Thursday, September 16. In the event [Order 17](#) is not extended, the Board directed the administration to extend the in-door masking requirement at least through Wednesday, September 22. If needed, this would permit the Board to determine the appropriate pathway at their Monday, September 20 meeting and communicate it accordingly.

Free drive-through testing will begin at MHASD around September 13 for those who are symptomatic or determined to be a close contact. Thanks to Nurse **CJ Goodwin's** efforts, we have partnered with Accelerated Analytical (ACL), which is a testing vendor that the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has contracted with for COVID-19 testing. The District's hybrid testing model includes ACL providing drive through rapid and PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) testing twice per week and MHASD

"Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority."

--CDC: [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

[Please click here to find a free vaccine appointment!](#)

Mt. Horeb Pharmacy has plenty of access to the vaccination.



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health services team members providing testing for all other school days/hours. The types of testing offered via this model include:

- **Rapid testing:** On the spot screening tests that detect proteins in the virus and deliver results within minutes. These tests are more likely to miss an active COVID-19 infection compared to a PCR test.
- **PCR testing:** This highly accurate testing detects the virus's specific material and proteins but can take up to 24 hours to result.

ACL's drive through service will be located at our Middle School, 900 E. Garfield Street, outside our Technology Education classroom (Door #2) Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our health services team will provide testing within school during all other school days/hours.

Lastly, we continue to update the front page of our website: soon, we will return our COVID-19 dashboard. In addition, we understand some parents are struggling with determining whether allergies might be something more. Taking the [Viking Pledge - Symptom Checklist](#) might help.

In action items, the Board reviewed a number of their policies. Last night's policy reviews were related to student services topics and reflective of the suggestions made by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards. All of them will return for a second reading at a future meeting.

If your school year launch has not gone as you had hoped, we want to know about it. While we may not always "get it right", we want to "try and make it right." Drop your student's principal or myself a line. I may be reached at salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us. In the meantime, ...

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

Steve Salerno

