



Board of Education Recap

October 2, 2018

Dear Vikings,

The Mount Horeb Area School District's Board of Education met last night to discuss a number of important topics. Below, please find an overview of their meeting:

FFA Update and Request to Travel to Indianapolis:

Students were on hand to provide an update to all of the activities they enjoyed during this past summer. [Here is a link to their slide-deck](#). With smiles on their faces, we enjoyed learning about their upcoming trip to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. As an extra treat, students attending this year's event will have the opportunity to attend a **Garth Brooks** concert (taking place near the convention center). Upon hearing the news that Mount Horeb High School students would be attending his concert, Garth officially changed the words to his hit song to "I've Got Friends in High Places."



Mount Horeb 4K Program Goals: Our 4K coordinator, Ms. **Nicole Tepe**, presented our 2018/19 goals. Each of our 4K sites has established goals that align to our new strategic plan, [Vision 2023](#). You can find Ms. Tepe's presentation by [clicking this link](#). We continue to appreciate the partnership that has been forged between each of our sites and the district.

Referendum Update: Mr. **Ted McMillan**, Kraemer Brothers, and Mr. **Mike Huffman**, Owner's Representative, shared with the Board a number of promising updates:

1. The "punch list" for the Middle School's secured entry and conference room addition is nearing completion. We are pleased with each of the security enhancements made.
2. At the High School, we are beginning to see noticeable changes on the eastern side of the building. While the rain and rock have slightly impacted our schedule, we believe time can be made up once we begin interior work. It is still anticipated much of the work will turn to the inside around Thanksgiving.
3. Regular readers of these updates may remember the Mount Horeb Area School District is the recipient of a significant grant to complete even more safety and security enhancements. Using some of those State of Wisconsin dollars (administered by the Department of Justice), we intend to install security cameras in each of our elementary buildings (Early Learning Center, Primary Center, and Intermediate Center). As part of the referendum, our High School will receive a complete overhaul of its camera system. We intend to leverage the buying power of multiple sites with the goal of being good stewards of taxpayers' generous dollars. Currently, we are working on our design needs.

Potential Strategic Planning Partnership with the Mount Horeb Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce:

Our Board of Education's strategic plan encourages the fostering of community partnerships. Both the EDC and the Chamber are working diligently to complete their strategic plans. Having just finished the Board's plan, discussion ensued about how to be of service to our colleagues. As a result, I will be reaching out to my counterparts, Carol Johnson and Tiffany King, respectively. Board of Education president, Leah Lipska, graciously agreed to connect with her counterparts on each of the two boards, Mike McNall and Mary Grundahl, respectively.

In action items...

Many of the Board's action items related to the review of various policies. One of the many things I appreciate about our Board is their continual investment in their own learning. During their last meeting, they met with the Wisconsin Association of School Board attorney, Mr. **Bob Butler**, to reaffirm how to legally conduct open meetings. As part of *Vision 2023*, the Board continues to seek ways of engaging the public on a number of topics important to our schools. As such, the Board also reviewed many of their policies applicable to public participation in their meetings.

Lastly, the entire state of Wisconsin is preparing to celebrate School Board Appreciation Week (October 7-13). These leaders are responsible for setting a vision for the district, formulating school district policy, and providing community leadership. Legal concerns, the complexities of the school finance system, and ensuring effective governance require them to spend many hours in Board training programs and personal study. Please join me in extending our deep appreciation to our dedicated Board members whose commitment and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible:

Leah Lipska, President
Diana Rothamer, Vice President
Jeff Hanna, Clerk
Kimberly Sailor, Treasurer
Dani Michels, Director
Damon Piscitelli, Director
Rod Hise, Director



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

Steve