



## Board of Education Recap

We have a new website!

[mounthorebschools.org](http://mounthorebschools.org)

Tell us what you think. Please follow this [link](#) to find out how to navigate the new Viking waters!

#mohovikings #alltogether

December 4, 2018

The first Board meeting of the month had a full agenda. Here's a quick snapshot of the meeting's agenda:

**Student Spotlight:** **Logan Ford** is a 5th grade student in **Mr. Farnsworth's** homeroom and is the type of student who makes the Intermediate Center a better place. Logan epitomizes the growth mindset; he knows hard work and dedication are the keys to reaching his goals in the classroom. He demonstrates a positive attitude in all he endeavors and encourages others to do their best as well. Logan is a leader, a friend to all, and is especially sensitive to students with special needs. Principal **Katie Hauge** wrote me, "If someone is sitting alone at lunch, Logan sits by them or asks them to join his group. If someone doesn't have a friend to play with at recess, Logan invites them to play his game with him. Beyond that, Logan is respectful to his teachers and even keeps an organized desk. At the IC, we have the tradition of reading the book *Only One You* which talks about importance of using your gifts and talents to make the world a better place, and Logan puts this into action every day at the IC." Here is a picture of Logan, his parents (**Matthew** and **Tina Ford**), siblings (**Andie** and **Cameron**), Board President **Leah Lipska**, IC Board Liaison **Diana Rothamer**, Principal Hauge, Mr. Rob Farnsworth, and myself.



**Mental Health Updates:** You may recall the District partners with Dane County and Catholic Charities to provide counseling and wrap-around supports to our K-8 families. We have been offering this service since the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. We felt now was a good time to update the Board on the progress being made. Mr. **Brian Johnson**, Director of Student Services, was on hand to provide some really impressive results. Please find a link [here](#). If you believe your student may benefit from this support ([overview can be found here](#)) feel free to give your school K-8 principal or counselor a telephone call.

Director Johnson reminded the Board the launch of our confidential in-school counseling program has been successful. He shared the team at Oregon Mental Health Services has been visiting with middle and high school students since the end of October. Please take a moment to review [this document](#) if you would like more information. Here, again, if you would like to have your student participate, please feel free to reach out to your building's principal (Middle School, Mr. [Paul Christiansen](#) – High School, [Mr. Rick Penniston](#)).

Lastly, on August 11, 2018, the District partnered with the Mental Health and Wellness Community Coalition to identify and prioritize goals for advancing mental health supports in our community. Borne from that Saturday morning discussion were six goals (3 for the schools and 3 for the MHWCC). Now is the time to discuss progress being made and continue moving our efforts even further. We are tentatively planning a community-wide meeting on **Monday, January 7, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Norsk**. All are welcome (even if you were unable to attend our August 11 planning session).

**Intermediate Center School Goal Update**— Fresh off the Department of Public Instruction’s “School Report Card” announcement that the Intermediate Center’s performance “Exceeds Expectations” (Whoot! Whoot!!), Principal Hauge hung around to update the Board on the progress being made towards this year’s school improvement goals. [Here is a link](#) to the slide deck she presented. We cannot rest on our laurels – our students deserve nothing but the very best. A special note of gratitude to the IC staff for representing the very best of our Board of Education’s Strategic Plan.

In action items...

- Mr. **Ted McMillan**, Kraemer Brothers Project Manager, and Mr. **Mike Huffman**, Owner’s Representative, were on hand to provide an update on the District’s referendum project.
  - There is a contingency of Viking students and staff heading to a few furniture showrooms in Milwaukee on Tuesday, December 11. The goal is to find comfortable, appealing, and durable (inexpensive) furniture for our new spaces.
    - The Board also approved two action items:
      - use of budgeted “contingency dollars” to offset additional costs for items like rock excavation. The Board had allocated money for this purpose in the original budget, but as anyone who has tried to simply garden in Mount Horeb can attest, hitting rock can be a problem; 😊
      - use of “owner’s savings” to complete additional projects within the scope of the authorizing referendum question. For example, we believe the front plaza of the High School needed some attention. [Here is a rendering](#) of what this will look like around the start of the 2019-2020 school year.
- The Board approved providing the Public Services Commission with testimony about the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line.
- Sometimes I wonder if these “Recaps” are serving the intended purpose – If you do read these summaries, please email me and I will be sure to get the first ten people a little Viking gear.
- In response to a new statutory requirement, the Board of Education formally approved our District’s *School Safety Plan*. (It was previously reviewed in October, but now needed formal approval from the Board.) As you may know, the District has evolved away from “lockdowns” to age appropriate iterations of “run, hide, fight”. Staff and students have (and will continue to be) trained on what this looks like in a variety of situations. For example, today throughout the District students began practicing the process of “hiding” by practicing barricading techniques. Even though it pains me to write this, when have a duty to teach this new “life skill”.
- The Board approved our updated FabLab grant application. What is a FabLab you ask? [Follow this link](#) to one of many websites that provide insight into how these labs open rich learning experiences for students. We are truly appreciative of all our business community has done to help us get to this point.

The Board’s *Safety and Wellness* and *Education* Committees have been studying testing and its potential impact on student wellness. We are curious to know if your child has experienced *significant* test anxiety that has impeded his/her ability to do well on a given test. Anecdotally, we are trying to ascertain how prevalent an issue this may be in Mount Horeb and what seems to help students during this period of high anxiety. If you can help, please drop a line to our Director of Student Services, [Mr. Brian Johnson](#), or Director of Instruction, [Mrs. Sarah Straka](#).

I had lunch with a few kindergartners the other day, and I was reminded that “Santa is always watching”. I hope you are enjoying the spirit of the holiday season with the same sense of wonderment. I am proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too!

Steve