



Board of Education Recap



We have a new website!
Please follow this [link](#) to find more!
#mohovikings #alltogether

It is never too soon to prepare for Dr. Martin Luther King's Day. I am reserving 10 seats for students/staff interested in joining me at Saturday, January 19th's First Annual "Forum for Social Action" event at Middleton High School's Performing Arts Center. This event takes place from 4-6 PM. (I can get up to 25 tickets, and if that is the case, I can get a bus for those attending.) This event is FREE for those joining me, but is first-come-first-served.

UW-Madison's Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings will facilitate this event. (She is an absolute treasure <https://ci.education.wisc.edu/.../facu.../gloria-ladson-billings>). Please email me (salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us) or give me a call 437-7010 if you would like to join me.

Steve



December 18, 2018

Those in attendance at last night's Board of Education meeting enjoyed the sounds of the holiday season thanks to a number of Middle School students Gwendolyn Mlsna, Brigit Doran and Grace Nelson, led by our new teacher **Alyssa Thuli**. Here is a wonderful picture of our talented musicians.



In "Discussion Items"...

- The Board of Education explored several metrics used to assess the performance goals outlined in their *Strategic Plan*. First, Director of Instruction, **Mrs. Sarah Straka**, reported our students' high achievement levels in comparison to grade level peers (as identified by multiple measurement indicators). The piece that we all continue to monitor and seek to improve is the extent to which our students are *growing*. Said another way, we are not merely satisfied that our students are achieving at high academic levels, we must be cognizant of how each and every student is growing against their own performance from the previous year. To provide additional context, you can see Mrs. Straka's [report here](#).
- In order to more fully appreciate our growth goals for all students (each and every), we need to even better understand the community we serve. Mr. **Brian Johnson**, Director of Student Services, shared with the Board our evolving demographic trends. Brian did a very nice job of helping us to celebrate the changing racial and ethnic makeup of our student body. In addition, he was able to provide data related to students' socioeconomic status, homelessness rates, and students receiving special education

services. We cannot fully be satisfied if only certain portions of our student body are achieving and growing. While there is work ahead, to be sure, we have a dedicated staff who understands the success of *all* students is at the very core of our mission. [Here is a link](#) to Mr. Johnson's report.

In action items...

Director Johnson hung around to share with the Board the results of our safety drill evaluations completed by each school building's principal and/or school safety team. While each building, in one form or another, has previously been conducting these drills and assessments, new legislation requires the Board's formal approval of these documents.

Families who attended October's parent teacher conference may recall participating in an online survey regarding the potential for expanding summer school. With the extended upcoming summer, our administrative team felt there may be too much "down-time", adversely impacting students' academic, social, and emotional development. Based on the results received from families and our staff, the administrative team recommended to the full Board an enhanced summer school offering in 2019. We are thankful that the Board authorized our team to continue exploring this as an option. No doubt, more information will follow. I would like to publicly extend my gratitude to our Director of Instruction, Mrs. **Sarah Straka**, for working closely with the Village Rec Department and leaders throughout our school organization to begin this very large project. The Board will likely make a decision on the viability of a summer program in the late winter.

On behalf of our entire Board of Education, faculty, and staff, I wish you and your families the very best this holiday season. I hope you will take time this holiday season to encircle yourself with friends and family while creating lasting memories for your beautiful children.

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

Steve