



Board of Education Recap

May 7, 2019

It looks like the Avengers might need to make room for another superhero. Meet Ms. **Ella Fager**, 7th grader. She was recognized last night by our Board of Education during their monthly Student Spotlight. Ella's dedicated teachers told us she not only performs extremely well academically, but she is a positive role model to her peers, is often someone other students go to for help, has a positive attitude and strong work ethic. As if that were not enough, Ella is highly involved in athletics as well. She is a member of our middle school basketball team as well as the Mt. Horeb Club Basketball team that placed 7th in the state this past season! Since the completion of the basketball season "SuperElla" has moved her athletic focus to soccer. Here, Ella is pictured with (R to L) mom, **Dana Fager**, **Susan Gorski** (teacher), **Melissa Hanson** (Associate Principal), **Rod Hise** (Vice-President), **Paul Christiansen** (Principal), and myself. You inspire us, Ella!



Principal **Paul Christiansen** and Associate Principal **Melissa Hanson** shared with the Board progress made by Middle School students and staff in reaching the following school goals:

- **Literacy:** "By the spring of 2019, the percentage of students who demonstrate growth in reading will increase from the previous year as measured by one or more middle school standardized assessments." Those measurements include, but are not limited to, the Measure of Academic Progress, Wisconsin Forward, Stanford Research Institute (SRI measurements at 7th and 8th grades), Read Naturally, and Dynamic Learning Mapping (DLM).
- **Mathematics:** "By the spring of 2019, the percentage of students who demonstrate growth in math will increase from the previous year as measured by one or more middle school standardized assessments." This goal was established for two reasons: our disaggregated data continues to demonstrate not all student populations are experiencing growth; moreover, our highest achieving students continue to perform well but are somewhat plateauing.
- **Well-Being:** "During the 2018-2019 school year, 100% of middle school students will be able to independently identify two or more strategies to cope with the stressors of middle school. In addition, 80% of students will identify they have been successful in using coping strategies when necessary." Clearly, this is a life-skill that needs development in everyone, not just children.

A complete copy of their report may be found [here](#).

Referendum Progress Update: We remain in an enviable position – on time and under budget. That has given the Board pause to consider what/how many additional projects can be considered using the earned savings and within the framework of the community's April 2017 authorized borrow. Very soon,

the administrative team, with the assistance of Bray and Associates, will recommend additional work based on the District's Long Range Facility Plan. **Once this proposal is offered (June 17, 2019, Board meeting), it is essential that we receive the community's feedback. I hope you will please consider attending this meeting to share your perspective.** We anticipate the vast majority of any new work would be completed in the summer of 2020.

Later in the meeting, the Board approved the purchase and installation of 25 new security cameras at the High School; removal, abatement, and replacement of flooring in the High School's (classrooms 200-205); and planned heating and ventilation work at the Early Learning Center. All of this work will be completed this summer.

Lastly, it might be helpful to remind everyone: the only part of the High School that will be accessible this summer is the Fitness Center. Access to that room will only be available through the East Garfield Street entrance. The High School's administrative and student services offices will be relocated to the Middle School beginning May 28.



Reflections from the Board's Community Listening Session About School Resource Officers:

There were approximately 75 people in attendance at the Board's April 19 community visit. By and large, the vast majority of speakers were supportive of such a consideration. (You can still watch a video of the event by clicking [this link](#)). To be sure the Board and administration have heard from individuals who have expressed concern. All perspectives continue to be appreciated and welcomed. Though no decision has been made, based on the feedback received so far, the Board did direct administration to begin an exploratory committee to study and make a recommendation that meets Mount Horeb's needs. This cannot be a "one-and-done" discussion. We will continue to keep you updated.

School Nutrition Meal Prices: A school breakfast or lunch continues to be among the best bargains around (not mention good for you). In order to keep pace with inflation (cost of material and labor), the Board approved a \$0.10 per meal increase beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. This will permit our program to self-sufficiently operate (not always common in schools). Thank you for your gracious understanding.

In closing, I am looking forward to May 17- What's happening? Last year, we began a new tradition for our graduating seniors. We call it the "Senior March", which allows all our Vikings to re-live their years by "marching" through the ELC, PC, IC, and MS adorned in their caps and gowns. There will be lots of "high fives", hugs, and tears for students and staff alike. We will be sure to post pictures on our social media accounts so you can see our youngest Vikings looking up in awe of their graduating classmates. It's one more reason why...

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

Steve

PS Congratulations to Board members Diana Rothamer, Rod Hise, Jeff Hanna, and Kimberly Sailor who have been elected Board of Education president, vice-president, clerk, and treasurer respectively.