



# Board of Education Recap

October 29, 2019



It's been a few weeks since the last Board meeting, and that meant a number of important decisions were in the "hopper" for their consideration. Let's dig in:

**Levy, Mill Rate, and Budget Set** – On October 15, the District received its state aid calculations. One critical factor in proposing the levy (subsequent mill rate) is the value of equalized property – equalized property values rose 7%. This is one factor that permitted District leaders to propose a reduced mill rate of \$0.25 per \$1,000 of equalized value (in comparison to the 2018-2019 school year). As a result, the Board approved a new mill rate of \$9.20 per \$1,000 of equalized value. (This represents a \$0.36 reduction per \$1,000 of equalized value that was originally proposed during the District's Annual Meeting in August.)

**Real World Learning Opportunities for Students:** The Board heard a comprehensive report about the increasing number of students participating in apprenticeships, work cooperatives, and work experiences. In many cases these lead to professional certificates. ([The full report may be found here](#)). Business occupations opportunities, transitional programs, Certified Nursing Programs, EMT/Fire Academy, and youth apprenticeships would not be possible without a strong network of supportive partners in and around our community. On behalf of our students, we are grateful.

**Summer 2020 Capital Improvements** – Yes, you read that correctly. Even though fall arrived only a month ago, *now* is the time to get the ball rolling. You may recall, there are [a number of projects the Board previously approved for completion](#) using savings from the referendum. (As a reminder, the Board elected to forgo borrowing several million dollars our taxpayers had previously authorized.) Given the long, varied list of items on the list, the importance of securing bids, and scheduling a complex workflow, District leaders requested the Board enter into a construction management contract. We are grateful this recommendation was approved. As a result, the District's successful partnership will continue with Kraemer Brothers.

On a tangential note, the Board approved the administration's recommendation to purchase additional furniture as part of the referendum. This was possible because we had underspent our budgeted furniture line item, knowing we should first, move in and get a feel for what space we really had.



So as you can see, nothing too spooky came from Monday night's Board meeting – alright, taxes are never fun. The future of our society rests with a well-educated citizenry. It is how we pay forward the gifts we have enjoyed from those who came before us. I am deeply thankful for this community's benevolence and support of our students, staff, and this administrator. Mount Horeb really is like no other!

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

Steve

