



Board of Education Recap

Just a friendly reminder...

There will be school on:
Thursday, February 28
Friday, March 1
(Make up due to weather)

February 19, 2019

The Board of Education had a productive meeting last night. If there was a theme to the evening's meeting, it definitely would be the exciting renaissance happening among our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs (Some details can be found [here](#)). These are a few of the highlights from the Board's meeting:

Discussion items

Skills USA: With the beautiful new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Art, & Mathematics) labs coming online with our high school's renovation, opportunities abound for students to partner with teachers and industry leaders. The goal is to work together to produce a skilled workforce. Skills USA has helped students excel by offering educational programs, events, and competitions to support CTE programs in classrooms. Led by faculty co-sponsors Mr. **Tyler Bass** and Mr. **Bart Leibfried**, students shared all they have accomplished, and discussed details of their competition this past weekend in Milwaukee. [Here is a copy of their presentation](#) to the Board.



Community Alliance for Skilled Trades (CAST) members of this newly formed team, led by parents and business owners Mrs. **Jessica Drexler**, Mrs. **Angela Leuzinger** and Mrs. **Mary Grundahl**, shared with the Board their [goals for supporting our CTE programs](#). Especially impressive is the degree to which this volunteer group has aligned their vision to the Board's new strategic plan, [Vision 2023](#). As a result, we will all "row the boat" in the same direction. Their ability to mobilize business leaders in our community will only serve to benefit our students even more. (If you would like to join the cause, [please send me an email](#), and I would be happy to connect you with team.) We look forward to seeing their vision come to fruition.



In “Action” items...

- ♥ February is Career and Technical Education month. As such, the Board drafted a resolution recognizing this auspicious event and the professionals who have dedicated themselves in service to our young people. Here is a picture of our middle and high staff celebrating the partnership.



- ♥ The Board approved two student trips, both of which happen annually. First, our FFA fishing trip to Jutten Lake, Ontario will occur for the 52nd straight year! Let’s hope the fish are biting June 16 through the 23! 🐟 In addition, the Board approved our DECA students’ trip to Lake Geneva on March 3-6. We have approximately 22 students representing our high school at this year’s competition. Based on all of these wonderful students have accomplished, I am confident they will continue to make us proud!

- ♥ After several months of studying and data gathering, the Board approved the administration’s goal of expanding summer school beginning this June. With the extended summer, we thought it may be helpful to provide our students extra opportunities to enhance their learning. While there will be some remedial courses offered, we also wanted to allow students to explore enrichment opportunities. We are thankful to have a Board of Education that understands the importance of keeping students growing throughout the summer. Very soon, our Director of Instruction, Mrs. **Sarah Straka**, will be sending information out to families so they may sign up for various offerings.

Finally, I wish to express a note of gratitude to our Human Resources Coordinator, Mrs. **Cynthia Swart**, for work in completing [this comprehensive](#) “Information and Advocacy Report: Engagement of Employees, Quality of Applicant Pool, and Employee Retention Rate”. It is one of the indicators of accountability we have developed as a barometer of our District’s performance. As evidenced by the data culled by Coordinator Swart, when teachers come to Mount Horeb, they stay. Our teachers’ non-retirement turnover rate remains well below the industry’s average. While there is always more we can do to get better (e.g. continuity among staffing our exceptional paraprofessional team remains a challenge), I still...

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

Steve