



Board of Education Recap

Cinco de Mayo, 2020



Dear Vikings –

The Board of Education held two meetings last night. The first, called a “Reorganization Meeting,” permitted the Board to elect their new officers for the upcoming school year. Please join me in congratulating (L to R):

Rod Hise, President
Kimberly Sailor, Vice President
Leah Lispka, Clerk
Diana Rothamer, Treasurer



Questions?

We are regularly updating our [FAQ page](#) as information becomes available.

Registration is still open – but we need you to please sign up soon! Please [click here](#) for the details!

Among other activities at this meeting, each Board member was assigned to a building liaison position. In the coming days, we will update our website to reflect these updated assignments.

The second meeting of the night permitted the Board to discuss and take action on a number of important topics. Here is a summary:

International Trips – The Board was briefed on three pending international trips: the FFA’s annual fishing trip to Canada, our students’ trip to Costa Rica, and the High School band’s New Year’s Day trip to London.

- The trip to Costa Rica, originally planned for this June, was postponed – This was the recommendation of the participating families. If a return is to be considered, a decision will have to be made sometime in December.
- Band staff surveyed families to get their read. Approximately 60% of respondents understood the need to cancel the trip. We understand doing so before June 1 would permit dollars to be refunded, save deposits. (Please look for a letter in the coming days to applicable families.) What does this mean for a January 1, 2022 trip to London? At this point, we would feel much better having a better understanding of the pandemic’s continued impact before putting forward A LOT of effort for naught. Hang in there with us!
- The Canadian fishing trip was originally approved for Sunday, June 21 - Sunday, June 28. There is enough uncertainty to make this date unrealistic. Tuesday, July 28 - Tuesday, August 4 have been tentatively been greenlit. Pam Allen said it best, “I would think if we go through with



graduation on July 26 the world would be safe enough to go on the trip. If graduation doesn't happen, then, well, ugh - I hope not.”

I recognize “we don’t have an answer, yet,” is among the most frustrating answers to hear. We just don’t want to promise something and not deliver. Your patience, during this time of change, is appreciated more than you know.

Information and Advocacy Report: As part of their [Strategic Plan](#), the Board established two indicators of success in our goal to improve “Learning and Growth.”

- Indicator 4: Percent of seniors meeting College Board recommendations for a course of study
- Indicator 6: Percent of students who persist beyond the first year and graduate college within six years

So, how have we done? Please take a look for yourself. [This is a report](#) compiled by our Director of Instruction, Mrs. **Sarah Straka**.

Spring Fees As you may recall, families that wished to participate in spring athletic programs paid a \$75 fee to do so. I have asked our Business Office to begin the process of refunding to applicable families.

To this last point, I know a number of our students participating in spring co/extra-curricular activities have been dealt a bad hand. Many athletes, state music competition participants, et al. are frustrated. Among many of life’s lessons is the importance of resiliency. Our young people demonstrate this lesson in spades. Fortitude and resilience are character traits that will take them very far in life. Until we connect again...

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

Steve