



Board of Education Recap

Dear Vikings,

June 15, 2020

The 2019-20 school year is officially in the books. On Monday night, the Board of Education met to discuss what plans for 2020-21 could look like, but not before recognizing some really talented writers...

Mrs. **Christine Parmely**, chairperson of the “Kindness, Courage, and Respect Writing Contest” committee was on hand to celebrate the students who participated and earned awards in our new program. She expressed gratitude to all who assisted in reading the students’ work.

In discussion items, the Board heard updates about:

➤ COVID-19 and Fall Planning:

There is no perfect plan, but we want to ensure everyone’s voices are heard. Based on the [feedback we received from our survey](#), we can develop three preliminary conclusions:

- The data points very strongly align with other groups.
- We believe we have proposed a timeline that is reasonable - allowing parents and staff to prepare and allowing for community input.
- Anything we prepare must meet Public Health Madison and Dane County.

FICTION	POETRY
Grade Level Winners 3rd Grade <i>A Story About Kindness</i> by Lucy Peterson 4th Grade <i>Zebette’s New School</i> by Kaleigh Marquardt 5th Grade <i>Frederick the Fantastic</i> by Alyssa Garrity and Kaleigh Strate 6th Grade <i>The New Kid</i> by Sabrina Salmon Overall Winner- Frederick the Fantastic	Grade Level Winners 3rd Grade <i>The Spread of Kindness</i> by Lucy Rosemeyer 5th Grade <i>A Musical</i> by Lorelei Lawry 6th Grade <i>Plants Are Just Like Us</i> by Mary Meyer 8th Grade <i>Friday Night</i> by Kaitlyn Farr Overall Winner- Plants Are Just Like Us
NON-FICTION	GRAPHIC STORYTELLING
Grade Level Winners 3rd Grade <i>Kindness Problems</i> by Konstantin Levitsky 4th Grade <i>Kindness</i> by Dawson Allen 5th Grade <i>Emergency Room in Alabama</i> by Aaron Fendrick 6th Grade <i>The Slope of Kindness</i> by Tyler Jou Overall Winner- The Slope of Kindness	Grade Level Winners 3rd Grade <i>The St-ole</i> by Alex Nemeč 5th Grade <i>The Race</i> by Evelyn Heindl and Amelia Solts KINDNESS COURAGE RESPECT WRITING CONTEST WINNERS



Logo designed by Christine Parmely

We want to include every possible opportunity for our Vikings to share input about next year. As such, the Board’s “Community and Legislative Committee” will be hosting a virtual town hall on Monday, June 22, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. You may access the live feed by [clicking here](#) or join us by phone at 1 484-416-1777 PIN: 606 156 371#. Please [sign up to speak here](#).

Business owners know Public Health Madison and Dane County’s [Forward Dane Plan](#) (page 9), requires organizations to develop protocols and practices in several key areas: facility cleaning, hygiene, protective measures, illness, and health reporting. [You may find draft versions of those documents here](#). These have been created in partnership with most every Dane County School District and in consultation with Public Health Madison and Dane County.

Transportation remains a major driver in our fall planning (no pun intended). *If* we do not have the capacity to meet (or come near) PHMDC’s *guidelines* for the suggested number of passengers (currently, 15 people) we will need to explore some unorthodox options.



- We may need to seek a moratorium for in-town riders (2 miles or less) who do not traverse hazardous pathways to/from school. This would free up much needed busing capacity. We’re grateful to the vast majority of survey respondents who indicated they could make this work.
- The majority of those who so dutifully drive bus are retirees supplementing income and/or enjoy keeping busy. We are in the process of ascertaining fall availability. **We need drivers – If you want to drive bus, we provide paid training and favorable wages. Please call Mr. Brian Toth, Transportation Coordinator, at 608-437-7057 for details.**
- We are beginning to identify areas that would permit ease of parent drop off/pick up of students.

- Long Range Facilities Plan Update: Mr. **Dave Reed**, Building Services Coordinator, provided updates to the Board about several of the capital projects occurring throughout the District. [Here is a slideshow of the work so far.](#)
 - Information and Advocacy Report – As you may know, the Board has a strategic plan, [Vision 2023](#). In an effort to update the Board as to our status, we develop these reports. This month’s report, [which may be found here](#), focuses on two of the Board’s indicators of success in meeting their goals:
 - Board Goal I: Learning and Growth - We will graduate life-long learners.
 - Objective D: Implement cutting edge and innovative learning practices
 - Indicator 1: Integrate technology in instructional and learning practices
 - Indicator 2: Incorporate research-based and innovative curriculum and instructional practices
- In order to be accountable to our community, [each of our reports may be found here](#).

In “action” items, the Board approved, among other things:

- open enrollment applications. I am pleased to report we continue to have more people seeking to come to MHASD than want to leave;
- the District’s continued participation in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA).

In closing, I know we are all clamoring for decisions – I want them to. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work with PHMDC and the Department of Public Instruction to learn what is possible this fall. We are doing our best to develop multiple contingency plans and look forward to your continued participation in the discussion. Below, please find the *anticipated* schedule for our decision-making.

What’s Next?

- June - Pause, Reflect, Refresh
- June 22, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. - Virtual Town Hall with the Board’s Community and Legislative Engagement Committee
- Late June/Early July - Prepare a recommendation to the BOE based on your feedback
- Mid-July - July 24
 - Online registration
 - Teacher/bus driver accommodation needs
- August
 - Remaining staff members’ accommodations
 - Class lists/Transportation (later than usual)
 - Staff Professional Development



Reflect



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

Steve Salerno