



# Board of Education Recap

Dear Vikings,

July 7, 2020

As the District turns the page on a new fiscal year, the Board's efforts to "set the table" for a new school year were a large part of last night's work.

COVID-19 Update and Next Steps: As you know, the Board has established what the first quarter of education will look like. The District will host a 100% virtual pathway for families that desire it. Our remaining Vikings will attend school in a hybrid model. Two models, developed by the planning committee, were put to a vote last week. After reviewing the survey results from the 530 participants, the following model was selected (73% to 27%):

CONFIRMED MHASD Weekly Schedule for K-12					
Teacher	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mrs. Smith	Students' Last Name A-K*	A-K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Needs: Social/emotional check in; virtual class meetings; remedial/extension opportunities</li> <li>Instructional Planning and PD: collaboration time, pacing, blended learning trainings</li> <li>Additional Deep Cleaning</li> </ul>	L-Z	L-Z

\*families with multiple names per household will be kept together – further information to follow.

Understandably, many have asked, "Why can't we sign up for the day we want our children to attend?" The planning team thought long and hard about this. We would absolutely want choice; however, we are concerned about our ability to meet all 2,500 unique needs (due to transportation constraints, classroom size - physical distancing requirements - and the large response from parents about wanting older siblings to cover younger siblings). We are working as diligently as possible to avoid errors and frustrations given the fluidity of the pandemic. On behalf of our team, I am a grateful for your understanding.

In action items, the Board approved [this revised calendar](#) for at least the first quarter. When the District is able to return at full capacity, we will evolve back to the [originally approved calendar](#) as soon as practically possible.



### "Coffee with the Superintendent" is Going Virtual!

At least once a month (the second Thursday) I would routinely visit with families, community members, and others at the downtown Sjolind's location. We would talk about a range of subjects, anything you would like. Because that, currently, is not possible and due to the significant questions families and staff members have, I thought this option might be helpful. So, grab a "Cup of Joe" and [click here](#) to join me this Thursday, July 9, from 10-11 a.m.

Assuming **everyone** is doing their part (physical distancing, masks as recommended, washing hands, etc.), the cleaning of schools will be made even more secure ([Center for Disease Control](#) guidance on reopening school). Our team continues to evaluate many products and cleaning best practices. We are working closely with school nurses to evaluate the safest, most effective products and methods.

- All employees are going to receive training about facility cleaning and hygiene procedures ([see these standard operating procedures](#) shared with staff and the community on June 15 and 16)
- The cleaning frequency of the facility is increased, including the restrooms.
- High-touch surfaces are disinfected multiple times a day, ideally between users.
- Only [EPA approved disinfectants effective against COVID-19 are used](#).
- Ensure handwashing sinks in break rooms and restrooms are stocked with soap and single-use towels.
- Provide hand sanitizer for employee use throughout the District and at employee workstations.
- Employees do not share equipment or tools. If not possible, disinfect between users.
- Provide sanitizer wipes to employees for wiping baskets, door handles, and other frequently touched areas.

So what exactly is “deep cleaning” on non-student days? This refers to custodial staff going over everything *again* plus some additional cleaning measures. Additional cleaning protocols are being assessed and will be added in the future. Rest assured that the custodial staff will be doing everything they can to keep our schools clean and safe.

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Transportation remains a major driver in our fall planning. Public Health Madison and Dane County’s revised *guidelines* no longer suggest a maximum number of passengers; however, 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 have a committee exploring all options at this point.
- 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.



With many plates spinning at the tips of our parents’ fingers, I thought it might be helpful to provide [this timeline](#) of anticipated decisions. A special note of “thanks” to all the parents and staff members who have joined our 11+ workgroups – The collective brain trust is helping to solve the complex issues before us. It makes me....

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Salerno". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steve Salerno