



Board of Education Recap

ACTION REQUESTED

Please review our letter to families regarding the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

Click here for additional information on what is being requested by each family.

BY JULY 24, 2020

July 21, 2020

Our Board of Education met last night for the purposes of reviewing a number of important topics. Here is a synopsis of their important work:

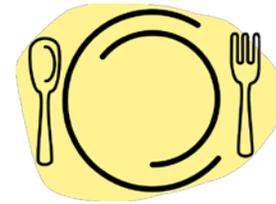
COVID-19: The pandemic continues to be front and center on the minds of many. Each of our 11+ District work groups are developing recommendations to mitigate safety concerns when school resumes on September 1. I am grateful to the parents, students, staff, and medical professionals who are sharing their time and talents with us. You are making the “heavy lift” a little lighter.

One important result, among many, from our June community-wide survey, centered on the importance of professionally developing our staff so they may be of even better service to our families and students. We have secured a number of highly regarded trainers in the field of online/blended teaching, and we are beginning our first of many training opportunities during the first week of August. In addition, we have heard from families who want to learn how they can better assist their children in a virtual platform. Videos are now being created and will be released in the weeks ahead.

We, too, are watching with great interest the number of confirmed cases in Dane County and Mount Horeb. We have a strong, positive working relationship with Public Health Madison and Dane County officials. Our district leaders are in daily communication with them and other school leaders from around the region. This has resulted in collaboratively developing protocols related to illness reporting, cleaning, and exposure mitigation. Any alteration in the Board of Education’s plan for the start the school year will reflect the data coming from PHMDC.

Long Range Facility Plans Update: The Board reviewed [these pictures](#) from projects that have been underway this summer. One only needs to drive past the Middle School to see the continued work on the main entryway’s metal roof and the re-designed front and back drop off/pick up areas. The Intermediate Center is also receiving a new roof, as the current is original. We were beginning to see the membrane portion of the roof failing at several points throughout the building. In addition, site work has continued in several of the parking lot areas.

Our kids could sure use your help...



During the past spring, the District was able to provide meals to children experiencing food insecurities. This was made possible, as a result of federal funding. It appears this funding is in jeopardy. [Won't you please consider letting your voices be heard here?](#)

End of School Year Goal Review: Each of our building principals were on hand in order to share with the Board an update as to the status of their buildings' goals. As several goals involved the Measure of Academic Progress and various standardized testing results (which were not administered due to the pandemic) the degree to which the goals we met could not be fully discerned. In many instances, principals acknowledged the same goals will continue for the upcoming school year. [Here is a link to their presentation.](#)

Information and Advocacy Report: Life Ready Indicators: in our continuing effort to monitor our performance in areas identified by the strategic plan, [Vision 2023](#), our Director of Instruction, Mrs. **Sarah Straka**, and Director of Student Services, Mr. **Brian Johnson**, were on hand to present [this report](#). All our past accountability reports can be found [here](#).

In action items, the Board of Education approved:

1. on second reading [policies](#) related to "Ceremonies and Observances" (323); "Religion in the Classrooms and Schools" (383) forwarded by the Education Committee (June 1); and "Local Student Scholarships and Awards" (460) referred by the Safety and Wellness Committee (June 15);
2. the annual declaration and parent notice of the District's [student academic standards](#) for the 2020–21 school year;
3. our annual [Education for Employment Plan](#); and
4. agreed with the administration's recommendation to approve Madison College's dual credit "[Mathematical Reasoning](#)" course for the 2021-22 school year.



For many the stressors of the pandemic and the uncertainty related to the upcoming school year can weigh heavily on us. In an effort to help, the District has established [several avenues of assistance](#). I especially like [the information found at this link](#). Of course, if we can ever be of assistance in connecting you/your student with supports, please give me a call 608-437-7010 or email me at salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us . I am happy to lend a hand.

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

Steve Salerno

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.

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o We are beginning to identify areas that would permit ease of parent drop off/pick up of students.

