



Board of Education Recap

August 18, 2020

Dear Vikings,

Just need the FAQs (facts)?
I hope [this link](#) helps!

We are drawing closer to the start of school on September 1. In the midst of a pandemic, we fully recognize any plan short of a full return to school is not optimal. However, teams from throughout the Mount Horeb school community are diligently working to create more engaging learning experiences in a “virtual+” environment. These efforts served as the primary discussion points at last night’s Board of Education meeting.



COVID-19 Update: District leaders layered in several more details about this fall’s start. For example, last week, families received [this letter](#) about registering for classes and teacher assignments. Embedded in that letter was [this document which provided a schedule for synchronous \(live\) learning](#). During the Board meeting, the following additional information was provided:

- Special Education in a Virtual+ Model – Director of Student Services, Mr. **Brian Johnson**, was on hand to answer the Board’s questions about [this plan](#) developed in consultation with parents, staff and medical professionals.
- What expectations do we have for students and staff when working in a Virtual+ Model? [This document](#) has been created so that everyone understands what success should look like while advancing through these uncharted waters.
- Educators, by their very nature, are high performers. Given the unique circumstances of the pandemic, expectations about performance are shifting. [This document](#) was created with the goal of helping the Board in discussing what expectations they have for employees’ return to site-based work. The Board took formal action to approve this plan.
- Synchronous Online Lesson Planning – In an effort to provide families with an even deeper understanding of the steps we are taking to do as was asked (improve our online lessons) [this tool](#) was created for upper elementary and secondary planning.

In other “Discussion” items, Mr. **Dave Reed**, Building Services Coordinator, was on hand to share [this document](#) and accompanying pictures ([A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#)) of the capital projects that have been completed through the summer. All of these enhancements were only possible as a result of money saved during the first round of our referendum.

In “action” items, the Board of Education:

- approved our “[Gradual Reopening Plan](#)”. As you may recall, it was important for the Board and community to understand what metric would be used before moving between each of the four steps. The established criteria mirror those established by Public Health Madison and Dane County. Their [Forward Dane](#) plan and [the associated metrics](#) were developed with epidemiologists and medical professionals.
- approved the updating of the Board’s Dress Code Policy to reflect the wearing of masks; and
- approved the required federal updates to the Board’s Title IX policies for students and adults.

Even in the very busiest of times, I am proud to be a Viking and I hope you are too!

Steve Salerno