



Board of Education Recap

February 4, 2020

With the first semester in the rearview mirror and parent-teacher conferences on the horizon (March 12), now is a good time to assess our own practices. During last night's Board of Education meeting, Director of Instruction, Mrs. **Sarah Straka**, shared two important metrics we utilize to gauge our efficacy: opportunities for advanced learners and the professional development of our staff. [Here is a link](#) to Director Straka's report.

To the former, we are fortunate to have a number of enrichment experiences for qualifying students. Many of these would not be possible without Mrs. **Christine Parmley**, Advanced Learning Coordinator.

Shameless Plug: [Camp Invention](#) dates have been set for this summer: June 15-19, from 9am-3:30pm. at the Primary Center. To register your child for camp please go to: www.campinvention.org

To the latter, I believe investing in our employees' professional development is one the greatest gifts we can provide. In so doing, we validate the importance each individual plays in aspiring to reach the rigorous expectations our community has, rightfully, come to expect. Lately, professional development has focused on responding to our Vikings evolving emotional/social/**wellbeing** needs (e.g. trauma supports, mental health), establishing/sustaining **professional learning communities** (e.g. critical in the [adoption](#) of our new elementary math series, [Bridges](#)), and **equity** (e.g. when we ensure equitable outcomes for all students, we make tremendous strides in closing expectation, opportunity, and achievement gaps. These gaps are very real in all districts, and we owe it to our young people to shine a light and improve).

Speaking of professional development, our Board of Education leads by example. Many of them took vacation time from their "day jobs" in order to attend the Wisconsin Association of School Board's State Convention in Milwaukee. During their meeting, participating members shared what they learned.

Why do we spend so much time honing our craft? Simple: for the **Hudson Miskosi's** of our world. First grader Hudson was described by his teacher, Mrs. **Nicole Morrisard**, as having a heart of gold. She wrote, "No matter what friend it is, he is ALWAYS including everyone. He has a special eye that spots those kids who may be lonely, sad, or left out and he goes up to them and extends his GENUINE kindness to them, which might be in the way of a joke, a hug, asking them if they are okay, including them to play, suggesting something to do, etc. He is very encouraging to everyone and thinks of others instead of himself. He is the kind of friend you want to have and the kind of friend you want other kids to be like!" No wonder Hudson was selected as the recipient of the Board's Student Spotlight award.



In this picture, Hudson's efforts are celebrated with his parents (Mr. and Mrs. **Ryan and Lyndsey Miskosi**), sister (4th grader **Payton**), cousin, grandma, grandpa, aunt, principal (Mrs. **Rachael Johnson**), ELC/PC Board liaison (Mr. **Jeff Hanna**), & Board President (Mrs. **Diana Rothamer**).

Finally, with an eye toward extending our purchasing power, the Board approved our Food Service Director, Mrs. **Michelle Denk**'s, recommendation for continuation in the [Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing Coop](#) through 2020-2021.

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

Steve

PS For those who do not know what these symbols mean    and didn't see our social media posts you may not have known the following staff members have announced their retirement effective at the conclusion of this school year:



Ms. Cheri Awtrey,
8th Grade Teacher



Mr. Rob Farnsworth,
5th Grade Teacher



Mrs. Mary
McDonough-Sutter,
Teacher of Special
Education



Mrs. Pam Stencil,
5th Grade Teacher



Mrs. Cindy Williams,
Family and
Consumer Science

#alltogether these five professionals represent 153 years of service to our community. Please join us in thanking and congratulating them!