

Dear Vikings,

As you might expect at this time of year, our Board of Education meeting was filled with many important activities. Below, please find a few highlights from last night's meeting:

Student Recognition - Understanding our students are the reason we serve, the Board took time to recognize Ms. Allison Keller, Mount Horeb High School student, for receiving an auspicious award from the Wisconsin School Music Association. Allison's instrumental piece, "Serendipity," was submitted as an original musical composition to the 2016 Student Competition Project. Those in attendance at last evening's meeting enjoyed listening to this talented artist's work. Here is a picture of Board President Diana Rothamer, Allison, and myself.



It really was a special night. It is the Board's goal to recognize other students on a regular basis. Do you know someone deserving of high praise? Please send that information to me via email at salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us . In turn, I will take the names and your rationale for recommendation to the Administrative Council to determine how and if recognition can be made possible. Congratulations, Allison, for representing our District in the very best way possible!

Facilities Survey – For the past several months, the Board of Education and our community have benefited from a dedicated group of about 40 parents, business owners, and staff members who have been studying our facility needs. This has culminated in a draft survey for the purposes of obtaining feedback from all residents of the Mount Horeb area community. With the help of Mr. Clint Selle, Bray Architects, the Board walked through one more draft and offered insightful updates. The final draft will be sent to a proofreader and onto the printers. Residents can expect to see the survey in their mailboxes during the latter part of the week beginning September 18. We highly encourage all members of our community to complete this survey so that our Board of Education may better understand the wishes of the community as it relates to our much-needed facilities improvements.

Security Update- Now that the school year has begun in earnest, it is time to reconvene our Security Taskforce. This is slated to occur on Wednesday, September 14, at 1 PM in our District Office. All are welcome to attend.

As you may recall, the Security Taskforce is comprised of interested community members and staff members. New this year is a commitment by all building leaders to keep all doors locked, with the exception of the front entryways. This can be quite a challenge as students frequently leave our buildings from multiple exits and doors are not always fully shut and/or are propped open for easy reentry; however, in time, we believe we will establish a culture that meets our intent. Buildings and Grounds Coordinator Reed is working with several vendors to determine when installation of a buzzer entry system can be accomplished. Director of Student Services Daane is facilitating the discussion about protocols for entry.

HVAC Project Updates - As we have done for several months throughout our project, we had a final planning meeting with each of our vendors this past Thursday, September 1. We are thankful for the leadership demonstrated by NAMI and district staff for the coordination of multiple projects occurring at once. We are pleased that all projects, save our high school auditorium air-conditioning unit number four, have been successfully installed; while there is still a little fine-tuning that must occur in the setting of our thermostats, we are really in a “good place” as a result of the spirit of team.

During this project update meeting, we learned air conditioning unit numbers one and five have surpassed life expectancy. These are the units which set atop our library media center and administrative/guidance offices, respectively. While preliminary numbers have been submitted and there are some referendum dollars remaining for such a project, further study to determine cost is currently taking place. At some point in the near future, the Board is likely to consider how best to address this burgeoning need.

In closing, we really have had a wonderful start to the school year. Thank you for entrusting your beautiful children with some of the most dedicated faculty and staff I've had the pleasure with which to work. If I may ever be of service to you, please feel free to call on me at any time.

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

Steve