

The October 3, 2016 Board of Education meeting was filled with a great deal of important business as well as several noteworthy celebrations:

*Please complete your
Facilities Survey by
October 10, 2016*

Student Spotlight: Sarah Gerg Mount Horeb Middle School student, Sarah Gerg, was nominated by her science teacher, Ms. Cheri Awtrey. Sarah gave her time and talents this past summer to paint the beautiful mural you see below:



She told the board, "Miss Awtrey approached me and asked me to fill some space in her classroom. I thought this would be a nice addition." Sarah, you could not be more right! Thank you for your outstanding contributions in making our school a better place for our students and staff to learn and work!

Personnel Transactions: Activities Director Kolleen Nesheim enthusiastically recommended Mr. William "Bill" Freidig as our head girls basketball coach for the 2016-2017 winter season. Coach Freidig told the Board he appreciated the thorough process that was used during the selection process. Bill has several years of successful coaching experience and is known for truly building "team" in every sense of the word. It was wonderful to be introduced to Bill and his wife and daughter. Welcome to the Viking family, Coach!

Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week: The last recognition of the evening was for our Board. As the week of October 2-8 is Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week, a brief celebration occurred prior to the start of the meeting and a proclamation was shared with our Board members. Our Board members selflessly devote their knowledge, time, and talent as advocates for school children and the community's future.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Results: During the 2015-16 school year, Mount Horeb Area School District students participated in a new survey designed to gauge the extent to which middle and high school students are exposed to substances (illegal or otherwise). The YRBS has replaced the Dane County Youth Survey as the tool in assessing comparative trends in our students' lives. Director of Student Services, Theresa Daane, walked the Board through several key points. By and large, the results continue to demonstrate our children today are continually faced with increasingly complex issues. Attached, please find a copy of Director Daane's report to the Board.

Security Update: Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds David Reed told the Board efforts are still on track for installation of secured entrances by October 31. Omni, the vendor that has been selected, is in the process of ordering the necessary materials. Director of Student Services Theresa Daane continues the tedious work of developing protocols necessary to address concerns employees might have with unrecognizable visitors.

We anticipate a rollout at the Primary Center at some point in mid to late November. Parents and visitors, who may be unaccustomed to showing identification, may question the need for such action; however, one only need to look to the events in South Carolina last week to see the devastation that can be brought on by failing to secure our entrances.

Replacement of High School AC Units 1 and 5: Due to the Board's financial stewardship, there are significant dollars remaining from the HVAC referendum. As a result, the Board took a proactive step in approving replacement of these two air-conditioning units. NAMI, the vendor overseeing the project, will complete installation of the handlers before the first snow flies; however, the system will not be tested until the cooling season begins this spring.

As I reflect on the Board's meeting, one cannot help but take great pride in the true communal effort being made on behalf of our children. While we celebrate our students (Sarah Gerg), our new staff (Coach Bill Freidig), or the Board of Education (Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week) there are countless others who give tirelessly each and every day in support of this District's important mission. I thank you, and I am honored to serve alongside each of you.

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

Steve