

Congratulations to our Regional Champions:

Volleyball and Soccer

Tournament play continues on Thursday,
October 27 – Details coming soon!



On Monday, October 24, 2016, our Board of Education met to discuss a number of important topics. Below is a brief synopsis I thought might be helpful to share:

Reduced Mill Rate Approved: The Board took action to approve the 2016-17 tax levy. The resulting mill rate will decrease from 9.70 for 2015-16 to 9.44. This represents a reduction of 0.47 from the projected mill rate discussed at the Annual Meeting on August 8, 2016.

4th, Additional, Air Handler is approved from HVAC Referendum – As final project numbers came in, it became evident enough dollars remained for the purchase of another air handler. This brings the total number of extra replacement units to four. With the Board's approval, all air handlers have been replaced at the High School. This was quite unexpected, but a welcomed development in the project's overall implementation!

DECA Heading to Indy! Our High School 's DECA Club is heading to the Central Region Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, IN, November 18-20. A special "thank you" is extended to Mrs. Penny Thompson and Mr. Michael Cassidy for advocating for this opportunity for our student leaders. They are encouraged to come back and share their experience with the Board. Safe travels, team!

School Safety: Implementation of secured entrances is on track for mid-November. While doors to most school entrances have already been locked, we have not been locking the Main Entrance. Over the next few months, Main Entrances to each of our schools will begin using a two-way video intercom system. Visitors will simply press a button, and an office assistant will greet them through the monitor. Once the nature of the visitor's business has been established, the assistant will buzz the individual into the building.

Our Primary Center has been selected as our first site. Given its layout, it seems optimal for our pilot. Shortly thereafter, we will begin outfitting other entrances with the hardware. We anticipate the Early Learning Center, Intermediate Center, Middle School, and High School will follow in that order.

We recognize this will likely be an inconvenience. **Security measures take the commitment of everyone.** In advance, the District thanks everyone for their patience when a well-intentioned staff member may not recognize visitors, requests verification of identity, and/or or asks additional questions.

Board Support of Staff and Administration: In between Thanksgiving and the Holidays, staff members will be encouraged to complete the annual Staff Wellness Survey. One of the survey items centers on the degree to which respondents feel the Board of Education supports staff and administration. The Board is committed to building from last year's results. Discussion centered on a different and evolving dynamic at the Board table and throughout the District over the past eight to ten months. If staff or community members have specific actions they would like the Board to consider, won't you please let me know? Simply drop me a line at salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us , and I will be sure to collect them and pass them along to the Board at a future meeting.

Board of Education Workshop: The Board's commitment to continued learning was on full display this past Saturday, as they met from 8:30 – 1:00 p.m. Guest presenters Bill Foster, School Perceptions, and Matt Wolfert, Bray Architects, reviewed the results of the District's recent Facility Survey. The survey was administered between September 22 and October 10, 2016. There were 1,416 respondents, which is significantly higher than is typical. At first glance, it was evident improvements to the High School's core academic areas has the highest likelihood of voter support. In addition, replacement of the Middle School's roof and HVAC polled very favorably. There are many more needs than there is financial capacity to address those needs. Nonetheless, the Board and administration are deeply appreciative for the apparent level of support even being considered by the Mount Horeb area community.

I will be sharing the results with faculty and staff at an after school voluntary meeting on Tuesday, October 25. Thereafter, the Facilities Steering Committee will take a deeper dive into the results at their next two meetings on November 1 and 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School LMC. The charge of this committee will be to advise/recommend to the Board potential projects for consideration based on the results of the survey. Lastly, the results will soon be available on the District's website.

The Board continued their work with guest presenter Dr. George Steffen who led the Board through a discussion about team building, board/superintendent relationship, and expectations for both. Among other items, Dr. Steffen delineated the role of the Board and those of the superintendent, addressed the role of Board subcommittees, and emphasized their value for trust as a foundation for relationships.

Despite the long morning, all participants found the time to be worthwhile and beneficial.

Despite a shortened week (early release this Thursday and no school on Friday) there remains a lot of learning ahead. On behalf of our Board of Education and our faculty and staff, I thank you for your continued support of our schools. I am proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too.

Steve

PS Below is additional information staff members thought you might find interesting.

The DECA Haunted House is slated for this Saturday , October 29th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at our High School – Please enter through the Atrium
Choose your level of scare at the door—Mild \$3 Intense \$5

Dear Parents,

We are partnering with BrightBytes, an educational research, and analytics company, to learn more about our students’ school and home technology use.

We are reaching out to ask you to take part in our district questionnaire. Your participation helps us form a complete picture of technology use for learning. Please know that all of your responses will remain anonymous to protect your privacy and they will help your child's school choose the right technology for their classrooms. It will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

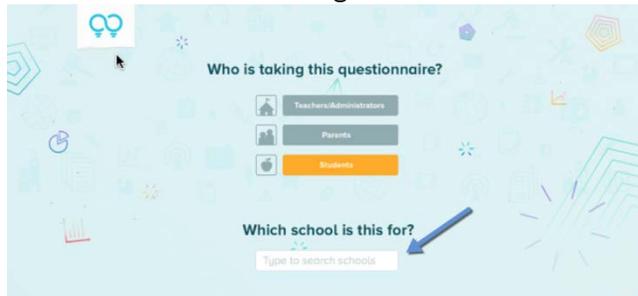
The questionnaire is open until **November 4, 2016**. Questions please contact schuhmacherdustin@mhasd.k12.wi.us

Please go to <https://bbyt.es/start/HE39C>

STEP 1: Select who you are from the list.



STEP 2: Click in the box to get a list of schools and click on the name of your child’s school.



STEP 3: Click the ‘Start’ button to begin! You will be taken to your questionnaire.

