

Dear Vikings,

The spirit of the holiday season was on full display at Monday evening's Board of Education meeting. It really was a gift for the Board and audience members to hear our 4th grade Intermediate Center choral students perform a few selections. Principal Guziewski selected this class as part of the student showcase section of the Board's agenda. Thank you, Mrs. Roxanne Fauque, Mrs. Rebecca Gustafson, and Ms. Barb Brown for bringing out these very special talents in our Vikings!



Speaking of talents, they are not merely limited to music. Principal Guziewski gave the Board an update of the exceptional efforts being made to further improve the Board's vision for improved academics, safety, and technology.

Referendum Update - After listening to the thoughtful recommendations of the Facilities Steering Committee at their last meeting (November 21), the Board had their first chance to dialog about the details. It was very clear the Board is pleased with the comprehensive planning the Steering Committee exhibited. This permitted the

Board to ask insightful questions and clarify recommendations. There appeared to be general consensus that the recommendations made will find their way into a final version of any referendum. Though, conversation about the number and location of parking stalls requires a bit more study. The conversation was so productive, the Board began discussions about a sample ballot question. Lastly, the community was reminded a Request for Proposal related to an Architectural and Engineering firm has been sent and in the coming days an RFP for an Owner's Representative will be issued. Our community can stay abreast of all the Board's work related to the referendum by pointing their web browser to <http://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/Page/3225>.

Mental Health Action Team – Like many other high achieving communities we sometimes lose sight of how to fully nurture our students' emotional wellbeing. Achieving at such high levels can come at an unintended price. Director of Student Services Daane and I can tell you, anecdotally, a call to action is absolutely necessary to support our burgeoning mental health needs in our community. The Board of Education has been so very responsive in growing this support system effort by directing the administration to initiate the Mental Health Action Team. The team has morphed into a community-wide initiative. The schools cannot shoulder this alone. I encourage those reading this update to please consider lending your time and talents in helping support our students and families by participating on this team. **The Mental Health Action Team will be meeting on Wednesday, December 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the upstairs portion of the State Bank of Cross Plains building.** Can't make it because of the holidays? No worries – We will be meeting at the same time and location on Wednesday, January 25, 2017.

If you or someone you care about needs support, please feel free to reach out to your student's counselor who can refer you to a trusted resource. They can be reached at 437-2400:

Ms. Brooke Running, ELC/PC – (ext 5106/6114)
Mr. Preston Sigmon, IC – (ext 4160)
Ms. Krisann Weier, MS – (ext 3277)

Mr. Mark Clark, HS – (ext 2183)
Mrs. Sateash Kittleson, HS - (ext 2184)

Policy Updates: In the Board's "Actionable" Items, several safety related policies were considered by the Board. First readings were held regarding the newly established "Adult Anti-Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation" policy (#522.3), the revised "Student Anti-Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation" policy (#443.71), "Visitors to Schools" policy (#861), and "School Use of Surveillance Equipment"

policy (#751.21). As a result of student and staff feedback on each of these policies as they were being written, the Board approved each as part of their first reading. These policies may be found on our webpage beginning Thursday afternoon at the following link: <http://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/page/7>.

DECA Trip to Indy – Mrs. Penny Thompson and our DECA students shared with the Board their experience at the Central Region Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. Opportunities such as this make for an even fuller high school experience and prepares them from the possibilities of tomorrow.

Request for Proposals: The Board met in closed session for the purpose of reviewing a draft of a request for proposal (RFP) for Owner's Representative services. Because of the competitive nature of the bidding process, the Board is permitted to meet in closed session for this purpose. The Board did reconvene in open session to accept the administration's recommended RFP language. The District will begin the process of obtaining the requested proposals beginning Tuesday, December 6. After reviewing the document (please click [Request for Proposal for Owner's Representative Services](#)), all those qualified are encouraged to submit a packet for consideration.



May the spirit of the holiday season fill your heart, thoughts, and actions. I am proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too!

Steve