

It's 2017, Vikings!

Your Board of Education jumped right into their work by holding their first meeting of the new year. The very reason we exist is for our students. The Board and Middle School Principal, Mr. Paul Christiansen, had the opportunity to celebrate the work of one very special young lady, Emily Wallace. She is an exceptional member of the Middle School's newly formed student PBIS spirit squad! Please click [here](#) to see their video! It was a delight to recognize Emily and her wonderful family.



such rich experiences! By all accounts, our Vikings made our community proud as they represented Mount Horeb at London's New Year's Day Parade. Thank you to all who organized and supported this life changing experience!

Middle School Gym Roof - Back home the melting snow caused some additional havoc with our middle school roof. Up to this point, we did not have problems with the roof over the gymnasium. Compounding the issue is the impact the leak had on the new gym floor and the insulation running along the width of the gym. The District immediately began working with the installers and a remediation company to address the leak. Thanks to some very quick action by **Mr. Gordy Brunner**, MS Head Custodian, and **Mr. Dave Reed**, Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds, the District escaped a more dire result. Nonetheless, there will be some impact to scheduling of events. Please stay tuned for updates as **Principal Christiansen** and **Activities Director Nesheim** work fastidiously to reconfigure schedules. The very best minds are working to solve this Christmas evening surprise.



Weather Delay - In other weather news, very clearly, a two-hour weather delay would have been helpful on Tuesday morning. The conditions unexpectedly worsened while most of us were sleeping. While roads within Mount Horeb were sanded, it is understandable the outskirts were not as clear. At the end of the day, the decision to delay school rested with me, and I got it wrong. I apologize.

According to our records, the last time the District implemented a two-hour delay was January 8, 2015. I mistakenly believed our parents did not have enough time to plan for a last minute delay. This decision had nothing to do with the number of drivers available to take kids to school later. Even if this was a concern, we would have simply doubled up on the runs.

This experience provides me an opportunity to remind families of the potential for a two-hour delay. If you have not already done so, please continue making plans for this possibility. I recognize a delay impacts families and employers. Despite the concerns experienced, I am thankful our children and staff made it to their destinations safely. This is the direct result of our outstanding bus drivers and a local road crew that worked diligently to adjust last minute. Thank you for your gracious understanding.

Safety and Security Updates – Now that work is advancing towards achieving the Board's goal of providing secured entrances in all our buildings, the District's administrative team is reviewing its protocols related to who volunteers and chaperones in our schools. The District takes very seriously the awesome responsibility we have for ensuring that we put the very best of our community in front of our children. We continue to use multiple sources for conducting criminal background checks. As you might imagine, our schools are a mirror of our society. In an attempt to enhance a legally defensible method for consistently accomplishing this important effort, a schematic has been developed and used by

multiple school districts. The document will serve as a guide for building leaders in determining when an individual with a conviction record is able to volunteer and/or chaperone in our schools. This additional measure will be one more step in a never ending journey to protect our children and staff.

Architecture and Engineering Interviews – After a brief intermission, the Board transitioned to a second meeting for the purpose of publicly interviewing two architectural and engineering firms: Bray Architects and HSR and Associates. Both firms left a positive imprint on the Board. As a result, the Board took the proactive step of scheduling site visits to see and talk, firsthand, with staff and students at schools designed by the finalists. The Board will likely make a decision on a firm at a special meeting slated for January 9, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the District Office.

Owner's Representative Proposals – The Board continues to receive favorable responses from firms interested in partnering with the District as an owner's representative for the upcoming referendum project. Interested firms have the opportunity to send their proposals to the District Office by this Friday, January 6, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. Please click [here](#) if you are interested in learning more about the proposal.

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

Steve