

Dear Vikings,

Our Board of Education met on Monday evening to discuss a number of important topics. Below, please find a brief summary of their good work:

Secured Entrance Rollout Continues – The Board heard about continuing progress being made toward ensuring our students' and staffs' safety. A "buzzer" entryway system will be launched at the Early Learning Center and Middle School on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. This comes on the heels of successful implementation of the same system at the Primary and Intermediate Centers. Next up, our High School will receive the upgrade. Wires will be pulled at the HS on Thursday of this week. As you might imagine, the complexity of implementing systems at that level is significant. Nonetheless, please look for implementation at the High School no later than March 1. Thank you to all who have been so gracious with your patience and understanding of these new protocols. A special note of appreciation is extended to Princi-"pals" Johnson, Christiansen, Guziewski; Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds Dave Reed; and Director of Student Services Theresa Daane.

2017-2018 Calendar Announced – The Board took action to approve next school year's calendar. It reflects the constructive feedback we have received from many of Mount Horeb's constituencies. It can be found by pointing your mouse [2017-2018 District Calendar](#). School will begin on the first day permitted by the State of Wisconsin, Friday, September 1, 2017 – only 219 days away!

Pupil Nondiscrimination Self Evaluation - Another important directive from the state is the requirement for Districts to evaluate the equality of our educational opportunities so as to avoid discriminatory practices. We are in the process of conducting a thoughtful and comprehensive review of our practices, and we welcome input from anyone (parents, community members, staff) around three required topics:

- methods, practices, curriculum, and materials used in counseling;
- trends, patterns and school district support of athletic, extracurricular and recreational activities; and
- trends and patterns in awarding scholarships, other forms of recognition and achievement provided or administered by the District.

Director of Instruction Sarah Straka and Activities Director Kolleen Nesheim are leading this critical effort. In the spirit of continual improvement, interested participants may reach out to either of these two fine professionals by calling 437-2400, extension 1213 or 2154, respectively.

Mental Health Action Team – This community-wide team will be meeting this Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM in the upstairs room of the State Bank of Cross Plains building. All are welcome (including students) to help our community seek ways of improving our supports in this critical health area.

Owner's Representative Proposals – The Board's interview of Owner Representative firms (related to the upcoming facilities referendum) was postponed to January 30, due to last week's inclement weather. Interviews will be held in open session beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office (1304 E. Lincoln Street). Four firms will participate, and the Board will meet in Executive Session in order to deliberate each firm's presentation. We are pleased with both the number (6) and quality of the firms that offered a proposal to partner with the District. We are confident the successful firm would work well with the selected architectural and engineering firm, Bray and Associates, should a referendum pass on Tuesday, April 4.

In closing, I am pleased to tell you exciting learning opportunities continue to abound for your beautiful children. This is due, in large measure, to the deep partnership our dedicated families have with our amazing staff. This is just one more reason...

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

Steve