

Dear Vikings,

Monday evening's Board of Education meeting was filled with recognition of our students/staffs' outstanding accomplishments, a mid-year "check in" of our high school's goals, and a visionary eye to the future.

Recognition –



What if a student was described by one of her teachers as, "... emblematic of what makes the Mt. Horeb High School student body special. She's smart, compassionate, hard-working, has a great sense of humor, and--above all else--[is] a kind human being"? Shouldn't that student be recognized by her community? We think so too. Congratulations, Mount Horeb High School senior **Thana Zoske!** You are an incredibly talented young lady, and we look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in the years to come.

- Our high school band students, led by **Mr. Will Janssen**, shared highlights from their memory-filled trip to London this past winter break. Understandably, our students' faces beamed with pride as they recounted their experience representing our amazing community. Thank you to all who made this event happen!
- Lastly, we are still doing cartwheels over the news that our very own **Mrs. Martha Koller Faust** has been named **National Gymnastics Coach of the Year** by the National Federation of State High Schools Association. We will be hosting a reception in Mrs. Faust's honor in the High School Atrium on Monday, February 13, at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



High School Showcase – Goals Review

Principal Mike Werbowsky, Associate Principal Lensert, and Activities Director Nesheim showcased the great strides our high school is making in achieving their rigorous goals. Taking a cue from the Board of Education's Strategic Plan, three main focal points were identified for continuous improvement: academics, technology, and building safety. Please click [here](#) if you would like to learn more.

Future

- Referendum Update - Bray Architect's marketing team presented an update of efforts being made to message the District's April 4 referendum. Community visits with governmental and civic organizations, coupled with Open House dates, have been established (please see the next page for a listing). All are welcome to attend these informational events. If these dates do not fit with your schedule and you would like to visit with members of our team, won't you please drop me a line? I may be reached at salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us
- Mental Health Action Team - Dane County's Executive, Mr. Joe Parisi, has expressed interest in partnering with our District to make an incredible commitment to the health and wellbeing of our kids, families, and educators. "The Building Bridges" program provides matching financial support in the contracting of personnel for purposes of teaching staff how to recognize and support those experiencing traumatic life events. The same program has been met with tremendous success in Madison, Middleton/Cross Plains, Wisconsin Heights, Sun Prairie, Verona, and DeForest schools. As the 2017-18 budget begins to take shape, this item will be among the many options we will be considering in supporting the "whole child."



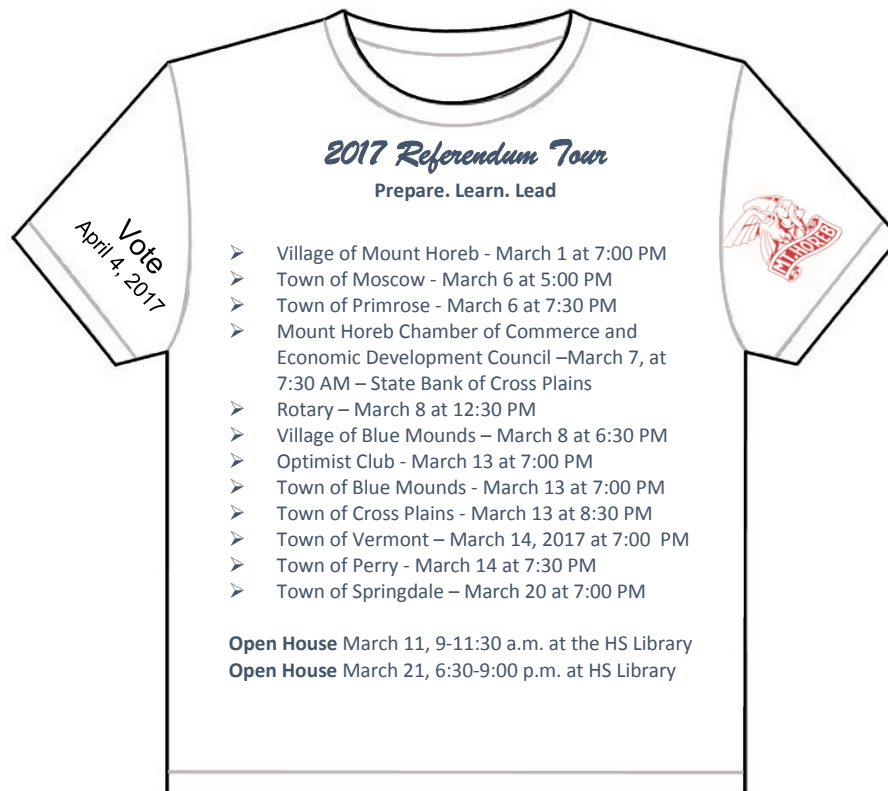
**MOUNT HOREB
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

FACILITIES REFERENDUM

APRIL 4

★ PLEASE VOTE ★

- The Board received an update regarding the Middle School gymnasium floor. As you may recall, on Christmas night, water seeped in damaging some portions of the new floor. Thanks to the quick response of our Buildings and Grounds team, damage was mitigated and a water extraction plan was immediately implemented. Now that the extraction process has been completed, District leaders met on Friday morning with our insurance company to determine how to fully remedy the issue and take steps to ensure this does not occur again. In the coming days, NAMI will complete work on the insulation of the interior piping, which spans the width of the gymnasium, and leads from the roof.
- Plans are beginning to take shape for a number of field trips, which were approved by the Board of Education:
 - FFA Horticulture II Trip to Bauer Greenhouse, LaCrescent, MN on March 22;
 - FFA Environmental and Natural Resources State Team Competition, Rosholt, WI on April 6-7;
 - FFA 50th Fishing Trip to Canada from June 18-25; and
 - Middle School Trip to Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa on May 17, 2017.
- Lastly, the Board closed out their very productive meeting, by visiting in closed session to debrief January 30's interviews with Owner Representative firms. At the conclusion of that discussion, the Board returned to open session to direct the administration to begin negotiations with Huffman Facility Development, Inc. The Board was appreciative of the number and quality of firms that sought to partner with them should the upcoming facilities referendum be approved by voters on April 4.



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

Steve