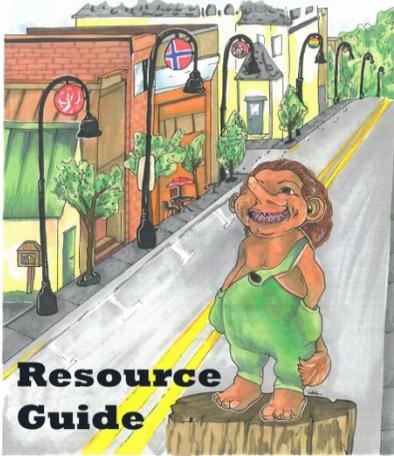


Dear Vikings,

On Monday evening, our Board of Education met in the Middle School's Step Room to address some of their very important work. What follows is a brief update:

**Mount Horeb Area**



**Student Recognition** – While the Board, typically, recognizes students' achievements only at their first meeting of the month, the extraordinary efforts of **Leah Witt**, Mount Horeb High School student, were cause to make an exception. Leah lent her artistic talents in creating a cover page for the soon to be published Mount Horeb Community Resource Guide. As you can see, Leah has woven the culture of our amazing community in a way that celebrates our historical downtown. It only seemed fitting to honor this very gifted young lady.

Those following the Board's work know of their great support of those in our community who are struggling with mental health. Those interested in learning more about this communitywide effort are welcome to come to the Wednesday evening meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. at the upstairs conference room in the State Bank of Cross Plains building.



**School Safety-** Director of Student Services Daane and Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds Reed updated the Board about the doorbell entry system that went live at the High School on February 20, 2017. This critical step brings closure to the first phase the Board is making in their continual focus on preserving student and staff safety. All buildings have now begun implementing a doorbell entry system. As you may know, the April 4<sup>th</sup> referendum has as a central piece, the construction of secured, brick and mortar vestibules.

**Referendum Informational Updates-** The Board learned how District leaders intend to inform the public about the components of the April 4<sup>th</sup> referendum. The finishing touches of mailers, presentation slides, and videos are just being buttoned-up, and the Board had an opportunity to preview some of these and share suggestions for improvement. In the meantime, a website has now been launched, [referendum.mhasd.k12.wi.us](http://referendum.mhasd.k12.wi.us) , and an email account whereby those with questions, comments, or suggestions are encouraged to share their insights ([referendum@mhasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:referendum@mhasd.k12.wi.us)). Lastly, several civic and governmental meetings have been established for the purpose of getting word out about this critical vote:

- o March 1 at 7:00 PM – Village of Mount Horeb
- o March 6 at 5:00 PM – Town of Moscow
- o March 6 at 7:30 PM – Town of Primrose
- o March 8 at 12:30 PM – Rotary – Grumpy Troll (Upstairs)
- o March 8 at 6:30 PM – Village of Blue Mounds
- o March 13 at 7:00 PM – Optimist Club (Mount Horeb Public Library)
- o March 13 at 7:00 PM – Town of Blue Mounds



- o March 13 at 8:30 PM – Town of Cross Plains
- o March 14 at 7:30 AM – Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce / Economic Development Corp – Panel Discussion at State Bank of Cross Plains
- o March 14 at 7:00 PM – Town of Vermont
- o March 14 at 7:30 PM – Town of Perry
- o March 20 at 7:00 PM – Town of Springdale

**Policy Review** – The Board had their first reading of their policy, #448, Students of Legal Age. About this time of year, many of our high school seniors celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This also means students take legal responsibility for their academic, attendance, and behavioral records. The vast majority of the time our Vikings continue on their path to success. Sometimes, though, students veer off track and parents seek information about their student’s progress and are surprised to know their “adult” student has excluded them from having access. The proposed change to the policy attempts to respect the law while encouraging students and parents to address any misunderstandings before an issue even arises.

**Executive Session** – The Board met in closed session to review the proposed terms of contracts developed with the selected architectural/engineering and owner’s representative firms, Bray and Huffman Facility Development, respectively. Upon careful review, the Board voted unanimous approval once they returned to open session.

I can’t help but chuckle that just a few short weeks ago our students worried about the potential for making up school on February 24. We had way too many snow/cold days. As evidenced by the beautiful weather we enjoyed this weekend, we appear to be in good shape. Now all we need to do is remind our ‘lil dumplings we still have 107 days until the last day of school on June 9. There are many exciting learning opportunities that await us all!

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

Steve