



Dear Vikings,

Your Mount Horeb Area School District Board of Education met on Monday evening at 7:00 PM. Below, please find a number of highlights of their work.

Student Recognition- One of our favorite parts of our Board meetings has got to be welcoming/rewarding our students for their contributions to our schools. Last night's recognition of **Alexander Chapman** (grade 2) is no exception. Principal **Rachael Johnson** tells us, "Alex has been selected because he is a leader! He is kind, compassionate, empathetic, helpful, encouraging and is an example for his peers. He is often seen, without being asked, helping a student with special needs. He helped me with a different peer a few weeks ago when the friend was feeling 'blue' and moving slowly back to the classroom. As soon as Alexander stepped out in the hallway and encouraged the classmate to go into the room to join him, the peer immediately went in and got on with his day." Alexander is pictured with Rachael, his proud teacher **Tracy Lange**, Board President **Diana Rothamer**, and Assistant Superintendent **Scott DeYoung**. Congratulations, Alexander – You melted all of our hearts with your warm, can-do spirit.



Personnel Transactions- The Board approved the hiring of the District's next Director of Student Services, Mr. Brian Johnson. For the past six years, Mr. Johnson has served as the Director of Student Services for the Columbus School District. We love his backstory: He began his career as a special education paraprofessional in Sun Prairie. In 2003, Brian continued his service to public education by becoming a teacher of special education at Waubesa Intermediate School in McFarland. Wanting to impact change at a broader level, Brian went to work at the Department of Public Instruction until 2011 (as an autism and assessment specialist). Mr. Johnson's vision for supporting students and families, high expectations for all, and penchant for problem solving were among the many reasons the administrative team offered this recommendation for employment to the Board. Welcome to Brian and his beautiful family!



School Showcase- The Board had the opportunity to hear all that has been achieved during the first half of the school year at our 4K sites, Early Learning Center, and Primary Center. Each presentation centered on each of the Board's goals identified in their Strategic Plan: academic, technological, and safety improvements. The full report can be found by clicking [this link](#). We would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude to our 4K partners (Agape, Children's Community School, Hearts and Hands, and Little Vikings) for their outstanding efforts in "setting the table" for our students' success.

Wellness Survey Results- For the past several years, the Board has surveyed employees on a wide range of topics related to health, wellness, and professional satisfaction. Typically, this occurs between Thanksgiving and Winter Break. We continue to have a solid response rate, spanning all portions of the District's workgroups. This year's results demonstrated growth in almost every area measured. Among the key indicators for the Board was the degree to which employees feel support from the Board. This jumped a staggering 43%. A special note of appreciation is extended to our Director of Student Services **Theresa Daane** for culling and presenting this uplifting data.



Referendum Updates- Assistant Superintendent **Scott DeYoung** shared two of the videos designed to give the community an overview of the referendum. A total of 5 videos will be created. Each video focuses on one of the referendum's three themes: ensuring safety and security, supporting our buildings' aging systems and infrastructure, and preparing our high school learning environments for the 21st century. The three videos will be bookended with an introduction and a video about costs.

Mr. DeYoung also reminded those in attendance about a number of opportunities for the community to learn more regarding the referendum. On March 11 (9-11 AM) and March 21 (6:30-8:30 PM) there will be an open house beginning in the High School's library. In addition, there are plenty of chances for interested community members to attend meetings in their neighborhood:

- 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

A website has now been launched, referendum.mhasd.k12.wi.us, and an email account for those with questions, comments, or suggestions are encouraged to share their insights (referendum@mhasd.k12.wi.us). I would be more than pleased to meet with you/your neighborhood community if that may be helpful in your decision making. Please feel free to give me a call at 437-2400, ext. 1210 to arrange a time.

Pupil Nondiscrimination Self-Evaluation Report- In action items, the Board approved a self-study completed with the assistance of interested community members and lead by our Director of Instruction **Sarah Straka** and Activities Director **Kolleen Nesheim**. As you may recall from a previous Board update, the required focus of the study is threefold:

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

Mrs. Straka and Mrs. Nesheim have pinpointed a few areas where we can enhance our support. An executive summary may be found by clicking [here](#).

Life is good at the Home of the Vikings. Our high school juniors are breathing a little easier after completing the ACT, our girl's Gymnastics team had an impressive showing at State, and our littlest ones capped off a week-long celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday with a Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports recognition event that included a special visitor, "The Cat in the Hat," (aka Peter Walton)! I could go on and on about our students' achievements – all the more reason...

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

Steve