

Dear Vikings,

Only 16 days until our students arrive. They breathe such life into our buildings. Over the course of the past several days, a number of sports, band, and other activities have begun. As each day passes we see more and more students getting involved. They look rested, recharged, and ready for the exciting challenges that await them in the upcoming school year!

We had a very thoughtful Board of Education meeting last night. Here are a few highlights:

**Review of Strategic Plan and Presentation of School Goals:** Our District's vision is "Prepare. Learn. Lead." Our school administrators have demonstrated each of these attributes in spades. Their presentation to the Board was a culmination of efforts conducted throughout the summer which permitted staff members to review data to determine our strengths and developmental needs. There are three focus areas: academic, technology, and safety. Attached to this email you will find a draft of each school's efforts to this point. This is a working document, and the Board will continue to be updated as to the progress each school is making.

**High School HVAC Project Update:** Final preparations are being made in anticipation of our students' September 1st arrival. With the exception of the air conditioning unit which sits atop the high school auditorium, all projects will be "buttoned up" before the start of the school year. In the coming days, sightseers will have a chance to view a crane lift the new air-conditioning unit on the high school. We will be sure to let students and staff know when this occurs, as parking will be at a premium in the back of the school on that day(s).

**Continued Discussion Related to the Village's Proposed Joint TIF- District #5:** The Board was especially appreciative for the participation of the following leaders: Mr. Randy Littel, Village President/Chair, Mrs. Brenda Monroe, Village Trustee, Mr. Nic Owen, Village Administrator, Mr. Scott Harrington, representative from Vandewalle and Associates, and Mr. Brad Murphy, Executive Director of the Mount Horeb Economic Development Corp.

A very comprehensive and thoughtful presentation was conducted by members of the Village's team. This resulted in an equally reflective discussion by the Board of Education. The Board of Education identified the strengths and potential reservations relating to the proposed TID. The table, below, reflects the Board's considerations.

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| Potential for downtown improvement is welcomed by all  | Will the proposed TID, the upcoming referendum for a police/fire house, and a much-needed school facility referendum be too much for a town our size?  |
| Potential to increase the tax base is greater than the rate of inflation   | If a referendum were to pass, there was concern that the rest of the Village could pick up the cost thereby spreading the tax impact on fewer individuals  |
| This serves as an opportunity to further partner with the Village and our community  | Prior TIDs involved significant new construction. That leads to a greater tax base. Some of the current proposals under TID #5 are not new construction. Will renovations yield the kind of increase in the property values as those realized with new construction?   |
| There are several apartment complexes which are currently being erected. Those, coupled with any proposed new complexes, would lead to a likelihood of increased student enrollment. Given the statutory revenue limit formula this stands to assist the District. | Is the potential length of the proposed TID, up to 27 years, too long?   |
| While it is understood that the value of the tax base would freeze, not the tax rate itself, the District portion of the tax base could be adjusted by an additional levy. This led to the Board's first draw back...  | A review of previous TIDs demonstrates there have been some stumbling blocks along the way. Some can be controlled others cannot. For example, if there were to be another economic downturn the potential impact on both the school and development districts could be adverse.   |
|  | It appears some states have successfully implemented a TID which permits schools to receive some portion of the increased value for purposes of raising revenue. While this is one strategy in Illinois, it is unknown whether this can be done in Wisconsin. At the time of the Board's meeting, a legal opinion had not been issued. |

While a struggle in their deliberations, the Board, through this process of consensus, encouraged Mrs. Michelle Dunn, to respectfully cast a, “no” vote at Thursday’s Joint Review Board meeting. Very clearly, the Board of Education expressed appreciation for the efforts the Village is taking to revitalize the downtown. Like many public entities, leaders are seeking revenue streams which help achieve even better conditions for those they serve. The Board of Education desires to work closely with the Village so

that further partnerships can be even more closely vetted in the best interest of our community and our students.

Our Board and I remain committed to your feedback. If you have any insights you would like to share, please feel free to send them to me ([salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us)) or directly to any Board member. Their addresses may be found at <http://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/page/6> .

Best wishes for an enjoyable remainder of your summer. I am proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too!

Steve



# Mount Horeb Area School District

## MHASD Building Goals - 2016-2017

### Academic

**Early Learning Center/Primary Center:** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 95% of K-2 students will show adequate growth in Reading as evidenced by 1 or more district assessment measures.

**Intermediate Center:** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 60% of the Intermediate Center students will meet their Spring reading student growth projection on MAPS.

**Middle School:** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, at least 80% (or 2% more than the fall data if baseline data is already at 80%) of Mt. Horeb Middle School students will be in the high or average category of the informational text MAP score by the spring MAP assessment.

**High School:** By the end of the 2016-17 school year, the percentage of students who are on track for college and career readiness in reading will improve by 5% based on the ACT suite of assessments and data collected in 2015-16.

### Technology

**Early Learning Center/Primary Center:** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 90% of K-2 student will demonstrate mastery of 5 out of 5 grade level technology skills.

**Intermediate Center:** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 85% of Intermediate Center students will demonstrate independent and group use of Google Docs as measured by completion of Schoology course module, and 100% of staff will submit a shared folder to the building principal with a Google Doc and a Google Slide presentation created by each student.

**Middle School:** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 80% of middle school students will be able to use technology to create and collaborate within at least two technological applications (skills or programs, with an emphasis in Google Suite but not limited to). Examples: peer editing within a google doc, sharing/editing of google slides/presentations, padlet, etc.

**High School:** By the end of the 2017-18 school year, students will increase their ability to use technology to articulate and understand thoughts and ideas effectively, including oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills in a variety of forms and contexts, as indicated by an increase of 10%\* on the school developed survey.

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# Mount Horeb Area School District

## MHASD Building Goals - 2016-2017

### Safety

**Early Learning Center/Primary Center:** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the ELC and PC students will have each earned fifteen 100 Gold Coin Celebrations.

**Intermediate Center:** By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, think sheets will decrease by 10%.

**Middle School:** During the 2016-2017 school year, 90% of middle school students will be able to independently identify 2 strategies to cope with the stressors of middle school. In addition, TBD% of students will identify they have been successful in using strategies.

**High School:** By the end of the 2016-17 school year, student reports of school connectedness will improve by 10% as indicated by positive responses to the following YRBS questions. "Do you feel like you belong at school?" "Do you have at least one teacher or adult in school that you can go to with a problem?"