

Despite the lazy days of summer, much was accomplished at last night's Board of Education meeting. Here are a few updates for which you may have interest:

- 1. Buildings and Grounds Update**- Last Wednesday, July 13, saw our first Facilities Open House at the High School. The purpose of this visit was to permit community members and staff the opportunity to see the HVAC upgrades and window replacement progress in the middle of our project. The Open House was very well attended by Board members, and we were fortunate to have a few staff members join us as well. Thanks to the good work of our Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Dave Reed, we have ordered the replacement for AC unit four, which sits atop of the auditorium. We anticipate having that unit up and running shortly after the start of the school year. Our biweekly meetings with NAMI continue to demonstrate we are well on track and on budget for this significant upgrade. In fact, our custodial team is already getting into some of the classrooms in order to begin cleaning. We intend to have another meeting this Thursday, July 21, and we look forward to keeping the board and our public updated.
- 2. Secured Entryways**- This Taskforce met on Monday, July 18, for the second time. We are appreciative of all of those who've invested their time, including our Mount Horeb Police Department. MHPD has offered to walk our buildings for the purpose of discerning areas in need of consideration from a safety perspective. Most notably, the police department has advised us locking all doors during the school day is an essential first step. We anticipate this will take some "getting used to" by students and visitors; however, it is a plausible first step. More information about this in the coming weeks and months ahead.

As can be expected, there will be growing pains by all stakeholders. This will likely include visitors coming to the schoolhouse who expect to immediately walk in but will need to "buzz in." This will require allocating additional time in our day when planning to visit our buildings. In advance, we thank all of our stakeholders for their patience with this proposed new process. It truly is essential in protecting our most valued resource: children and staff.

While we are in the early stages of planning, we welcome feedback from our community, parents, and staff. We have two meetings scheduled for the very near future: on Wednesday, July 20, at 1 PM we will be meeting with a vendor by the name of Raptor. This system provides instantaneous background checks of all visitors coming to our schools by way of the visitor's driver's license. Our next full meeting of the Taskforce is slated for Thursday, August 4, at 1 PM. As part of the team's next effort, we will review a number of protocols utilized by school districts throughout the region. Anyone with interest is welcome to attend.

- 3. Village of Mount Horeb Tax Incremental Finance District #5** – The MHASD will be represented by Vice President Dani Michels on the Village's Joint Review Board. We thank Dani for her high level of engagement and advocacy for a better Mount Horeb community. All those interested in sharing their perspectives on the proposed district are welcome to attend the public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, at 7 PM at the Village Hall. At a future Board of Education meeting, Vice President Michels will share what was learned at the public hearing, discuss the Joint Review Board's next steps, and receive direction from the Board of Education about how to best represent their intent when it comes time to vote.
- 4. Increasing Visibility for Board and Administration**– Our Board of Education and administrative teams pride themselves in their service approach to leadership. In that spirit, we are seeking feedback from community, students, and staff about how best to increase our visibility. While a number of topics were discussed at last night's Board meeting, we would like to open a conversation up with you. If you have ideas that you believe are meaningful, won't you please drop me an email? I may be reached at salernosteve@mhasd.k12.wi.us I will be sure to share your ideas with our Board at a future meeting.

I was shopping at Target over the weekend, and I noticed the "Back to School" aisle is brimming with supplies and the latest gadgets. For me, it is never too soon to see those bright, smiling faces. In case your children are eager to get back to school and you were wondering please tell them there are only 44 number of days left until school starts! We cannot wait!!

Steve