

To provide open communication with the community, important information discussed at the Board meetings will be shared on a regular basis. On Monday, July 20, the Mount Horeb Area School District Board of Education met and discussed a number of agenda items.

The Co-Curricular Code of Conduct was reviewed again because there was a change recommended by the attorney who represents the District. This was to allow for the chairperson of the appeals committee to vote if there is a tie on an appeal. This change was approved by the Board. The Code has changed substantially from the previous year and will be reviewed at the upcoming Co-Curricular Code of Conduct meeting. Specifics on the meeting will be provided next week. The District is working to hire an Activities Director/Assistant Principal with the plan to have one hired next week.

The District hired Boldt Technical Services to act as its owner representative as we work on completing the High School HVAC project from the April 2013 referendum. The District will be going out for proposals shortly and, if the proposals come in positively with design and cost, have the project completed over the next two summers.

The District hired Bray Architects to complete a Facility Plan. The first part of this process is to review the capacity and condition of our facilities. The plan is to have this first phase reported on by Bray at the August 3 Board meeting. Work will then begin on creating a facility plan for the District's future based on this initial information as well as the student enrollment projection completed by the Applied Population Laboratory.

There were a number of community members who spoke during citizen comments during the July 20 Board meeting. Below is a draft version (not official until the Board approves the minutes at the next meeting) of those comments.

Joel Meylor, chair of the fitness center fund raising committee, requested that due to the recent changes in Board policy regarding donor recognition that the fitness center be grandfathered in to create a wall of fame to honor donors rather than the proposed TV monitor.

Joe Ryan spoke regarding teacher morale.

Tanya Thompson addressed the Board regarding her disappointment in the process used in retracting a contract offered to one of the AD candidates.

Jeanne Post questioned the Board on how they came up with the selling price for the 2014-2015 building trades house. She also shared that the exterior has not been taken care of and is an eye sore in her neighborhood. She believes it is overpriced.

Jessica Noethe addressed the board questioning why the fitness center does not have the same security measures as the rest of the high school building. She also criticized Mary Seidl for the content of her speech at graduation.

Jeff Gassman expressed his frustration with the Board's closed door rules. He shared that our mission statement contains the words "in partnership with the community". He said the public voted members

into their seats but they are not representing the public. Believes there is no communication and that the board needs to be more transparent and should get out and talk with the community because you work for us.

Cory Recknor also believes the words “in partnership with the community” are empty words. He shared that donors are needed as communities are having revenue issues. The district can acquire revenue through donors and donors need to be recognized.

Jeanne Post read a statement by her son, Hunter Post. He shared his concern when there was talk of suspending the football program. She also shared his respect for Coach Rohrer and what he has done for football in Mount Horeb.

Sharon Gunderson, mother of Grant Nortmann, shared she is disgusted with how the Board handled the closing of the fitness center. She is waiting for answers as to why it was closed and when it was reopened.

Jeff Gassman added that the community is looking for some kind of response from the Board.

Brenda Monroe shared her observation. She said there is a theme of lack of communication. She also shared her concern about staff communication. She believes morale at the High school is not good. She suggested the possibility of the Board holding an open forum with the assistance of legal counsel.

Cory Recknor suggested to Deb Klein that hope for a new AD is not a strategy. Ms. Klein stated that we need at least a 2 week timeline for a new AD to get going. Our fall sports will start soon and we are working on a plan to get this accomplished.

Jessica Noethe asked for clarification of placing the Code of Conduct on one sheet. Ms. Klein stated that it would be a summary sheet for reference.

Will Janssen questioned the Board how they will handle a tie in the Code of Conduct appeals process. Ms. Seidl said legal would get involved if a tie were to happen. Jeff Gassman expressed his concern that the Board needs to listen to the community. Heather Holler asked that because the revision didn't pass does it revert back. Mary Seidl explained the process of how the Code of Conduct was changed for the start of the 2015-2016 school year. The suggested change was not approved at tonight's meeting. We will send it back to the work group for consideration. Kevin Bagstad said that this is a pretty serious issue and does not want to sign a flawed policy.