



Board of Education Recap

August 20, 2018

Dear Vikings,

On our first day of school with students, the Board of Education met. Here are a few highlights from their discussions:

Professional Development in the Summer of 2018: In preparation for another successful year, staff members spent their shortened summer attending a number of professional development activities. Director of Instruction, **Mrs. Sarah Straka**, and Director of Student Services, **Mr. Brian Johnson**, shared with the Board [this](#) PowerPoint presentation. It reflects implementation of a number of District initiatives including the “Hand Writing Without Tears” program, attendance at the Professional Learning Community Institute (pictured), a review of our district’s student performance data, a three day excursion we affectionately refer to as “Viking Voyage Week”, Mental Health First Aid for Youth Training, and Critical Incident Training. We packed an awful lot in to this shortened summer, and our students are the benefactors.

Mental Health and Wellness Coalition Updates: On Saturday, August 11, well over 35 community and staff members convened for the purposes of establishing potential long-range activities. I was impressed with how the spirit of the team seemed to pivot to prevention (from “post-vention”). Three District goals were prioritized from a list of hundreds of ideas. Similarly, the Coalition received several suggestions. Here, too, three potential ideas rose to the top. Now the real work begins. **The Coalition will be meeting on Tuesday, August 21, at 5 PM at the Driftless Historium. All are welcome!**



In action items...

The Board approved expanding our relationship with Bray Architects for the purposes of furniture planning and design. In the coming months, I would welcome the chance to have our students join us in some of these decisions. Who else knows better about which desks are comfortable than those who sit in them, right? More information to follow.

We are so pleased your children are back to school! They breathe such life into our buildings and their spirit of wonderment warms my soul. Best wishes for a great start to your school year!

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

Steve