



Board of Education Recap



November 19, 2019

A great deal was covered by the Board at their meeting last night. Here are a few highlights:

Community and Legislative Engagement Updates: When the Board of Education developed this subcommittee in 2016, their goal was to learn, advocate, educate, and engage the community on topics related to public education. During the second Board meeting of the month, an update is provided from committee members. This meeting centered on two topics:

1. Did you know the State of Wisconsin takes \$105,000+ from the Mount Horeb School District to fund students' attendance at private schools? Do you know MHASD is responsible for paying an additional bus route to transport students attending the private school? In fact, other districts that see far greater reductions are forced to either cut services or levy more in taxes. Committee members believe taxpayers should know information like this. They have been advocating for an insert to be provided in property tax bills – like is done in other communities.
2. Did you know the Village, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council and the District have been meeting several times this year? The goal of these meetings is discuss long-range planning designed to lead to an even stronger Mount Horeb Community. No doubt, you will be hearing more about this in the future.

Consideration of Requested Charter School Letter of Intent (Driftless Area Community Schools): After several meetings with the Board of Education, three open meetings sponsored by DACS in which parents/community/staff could learn more, and multiple opportunities for public comment (at Board listening sessions, phone calls, and emails), the Board placed this important topic on the “action” portion of their agenda.

DACS Design Team Leaders sought a letter of intent from the District to partner on the opening of a charter school at the Intermediate Center. DACS sought an answer by the Board no later than the end of November so that they would have enough time to apply for a federal grant. It appears many of the Board's concerns (previously shared throughout the past few months) and feedback from the community resonated with Board members, as a motion was not made to issue the requested letter. Even though this was not the desired outcome the dedicated DACS Design Team wanted, the District “stands on the ready” to learn how we can even further consider their educational principles for our schools while sharing how the District is currently supporting their vision.

November is a month dedicated to being thankful. It is a perfect time to introduce a project anticipated for Staff Appreciation Week in May!

We are looking to create a collaborative project with current students, alumni, and families. This will be a compilation of video testimonials thanking the staff of Mount Horeb Area School District.

Want to participate? It's easy: please film yourself or your child talking about why a specific staff member has impacted your life, OR you can keep it general to the entire District!

Please try and keep your videos under 20 seconds so we are able to include as many submissions as possible in the final product! This can be done in groups or classes as well. (e.g.: a whole family video, all fourth hour study hall, etc.)

If you prefer not to make a video, please feel free to email us your testimony or your child's testimony. If desired, include a picture for the text to be placed over. This is so confidentiality can be maintained if desired.

Email your submissions or questions to MoHoStaffTestimonials@gmail.com by Due April 10th by 11:59pm but THE SOONER THE BETTER!

[Here is a link](#) to the full guidelines for this project.

Thank YOU for helping to recognize our amazing staff members!



4K Contracts Renewed: The partnership between the District and our 4K sites continues to thrive. The administration recommended and the Board of Education accepted the renewal of our contracts with Agape Preschool, Children’s Community School, Hearts and Hands, and Little Vikings.

Policy Updates: As you know, the State of Wisconsin has some requirements related to student physical examinations. From time-to-time, our school nursing team reviews our practices to ensure compliance with changes in the state’s expectations. That was the purpose of the Board’s updates last night. A copy of the revised policy that was proposed and passed. In addition, the Board approved adjustments to several other policies which can be found [here](#).

In closing, we have much for which we can be grateful. It shouldn’t take Thanksgiving for us to express our abiding appreciation for the contributions and sacrifices you make in order to make our schools so very special. Whether you are staying at home or traveling this Thanksgiving, may it be a memorable day for you and your family.

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

Steve



The Mental Health and Wellness Community Coalition will be meeting tonight from 5:15-6:30 p.m. at the Driftless Historium – All are welcome! The Coalition has selected their next community-wide book read: “[An Unquiet Mind](#)” by Kay Redfield Jamison. I am about 2/3 of the way through, and I have been purposefully regulating how much I am reading because I do not want it to end. Details of the discussion group are forthcoming, but I thought I might put this on your radar in case you want to get your copy now.

