



Take Five Briefing
Board of Education Meeting
August 18, 2020

We understand that members of our school community may not be able to attend Board of Education meetings. To help keep stakeholders informed, the Take Five Briefing has been developed by the administration to touch upon five key topics discussed at the most recent public Board meeting.

Please view the meeting documents [here](#).

1. **Experts Share Their Thoughts:** The Board welcomed Madison Health Official, Michael Fitzpatrick, and engineer Anthony Gianforcaro to provide their perspectives regarding the reopening of school. Mr. Fitzpatrick discussed local transmission rates, health and safety protocols, and collaborative efforts being undertaken between the Department of Health and the administration. Mr. Gianforcaro discussed ventilation and air quality in district buildings.
2. **Staffing Concerns Outlined:** Superintendent Mark Schwarz discussed some of the staffing challenges facing the district in its plan to reopen schools in person. Approximately 15% of the district's staff has requested either an accommodation to work from home or a leave of absence. The administration has generated significant interest from community members interested in serving as substitute teachers and has posted for long-term substitutes in nearly all positions in anticipation of the impact. The district will continue to explore options to provide a positive and meaningful learning experience for students at all levels.
3. **Reopening Policies Discussed:** The Board adopted two policies related to the reopening of school. The first, the Federal Families First Coronavirus Act policy, outlines provisions available under a new expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act. The second, the School Visitors regulation, added information regarding visitors to school during the pandemic. The Board also approved for first reading a Quarantine Policy related to employee travel and discussed parameters and concerns regarding a Remote Learning policy. All policies are attached in the [Board agenda](#).
4. **MEF Donations:** The Board accepted a donation from the Madison Education Foundation of 11 Juno call room sound field systems and 10 portable wireless speakers. The donation, which has a total value of \$20,224, will help instructional staff meet the needs of their in-person learners and remote learners during the hybrid instructional phases of the upcoming school year. The Board and administration thank the MEF for its generosity and ongoing support.
5. **Bond Refunding Resolution:** The Board approved the second reading and adoption of the bond ordinance. The adoption of the resolution allows the district to refinance its existing bond debt should the market present a 3% (or higher) yield savings on a taxable basis. The Board has asked Phoenix Advisors to monitor the current rate environment and has engaged bond counsel, Tony Solimine, to present a recommendation.