



# WEEKLY UPDATE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 2, 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT CARLTON D. JENKINS

Dear Board Members,

This week marks the start of our fall semester. During this week, our district staff have been leaning forward together in anticipation of the joy, laughter, anxiety, and excitement their students will experience in a brand new school year. As educators who want to positively impact the lives of students, families and colleagues, they are working diligently to uplift the pillars of excellence, equity, humanity, and intentionality.

Excellence has been embraced by our students, staff, and families in their diligent preparation of supplies, classrooms, lesson activities, and other routines associated with the return to school. Pursuing excellence was the focus of many of the private reflections of the members of our MMSD family this summer as they pondered the possibilities and promise of this new school year.

Equity remains at the forefront of our decision making this new year as we embrace our core values and continue listening to the collective voices of our students, staff, families, and community. As we refine our policies and practices, we must consider how they impact the disparities typically faced by students and families from historically excluded groups.

Humanity remains a critical pillar in our effort to lean forward together, as evidenced by Tuesday's discussion with our medical advisory panel about refining our outdoor masking policy for our 4K-8 schools. The Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to challenge us to engage in rigorous thinking about how to strengthen our mitigation strategies. Our efforts are made better by truly having the highest regard for human decency in all our vigorous discussions as we work to keep students, staff, and families safe this year.

Finally, intentionality has been embraced by our entire school community in their planning for this school year. Every detail, from the selection of students' backpacks to professional development for early literacy and beyond, has been carefully considered by students, staff, and families. Our continued efforts to consider the most minute details of each decision will elevate our efforts to accelerate learning and attend to our students' social-emotional needs.

Thanks for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to providing you with more updates on our district's progress and planning next week.

Sincerely,

*Carlton*

Carlton D. Jenkins, Ph.D.

## OTHER INFORMATION

➤ **Update on Capital High Transition to New Home at 3802 Regent Street**  
Attached is a report on the progress that Capital High is making as they transition to their new location. This update includes information about the Hoyt neighborhood residents' appeal to the City's Plan Commission and the planning that took place during the referendum campaign.

➤ **Article regarding Teacher Shortage**  
Adding the national context to our conversation from SLT today as we continue to pivot and plan for our future - <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/teacher-shortage-grows-schools-opening-without-key-educators>

➤ **Weekly Metrics and Ops Recordings and Agendas:**

- Weekly Metrics Meeting—Tues., 8/31 [Agenda](#) & [Recording](#)
- No School/Central Office Ops. meeting this week

➤ **Community Events:**

**All dates for community announcements are posted on the [Board Community Activities Calendar](#)**

- **Taste of Madison Off the Square at Breese Stevens: Sept 4 & 5**  
*Cost:* FREE  
*Where:* Breese Stevens Field, Downtown Madison  
*What:* Labor Day weekend's annual Taste of Madison will feature 40+ vendors and live entertainment all day on both Saturday, Sept. 4 and Sunday, Sept. 5. Normally this event is held right on the square, but this year will be held at Breese Stevens Field. [More information Here.](#)
- **Monroe Street Festival: September 25 from 10am-5pm**  
*Cost:* FREE to attend  
*Where:* Monroe St. Madison, WI  
*What:* During this annual festival, there will be celebrations of entertainment, children's activities, street sales, and "grab and go" food specials. The full schedule and more info can be [found here.](#)
- **YWCA Racial Justice Summit: September 28-September 30**  
*Cost:* Registration Fees  
*Where:* Monona Terrace Convention Center and virtual online community spaces  
*What:* This year's 2021 annual summit will be held in a hybrid model of in-person and virtual participation. The summit consists of keynote speaker

presentations and a wide variety of workshops. More info on this year's theme and further details can be [found here](#).

➤ **NAMI Walk Day - Saturday October 9, from 10:30am-2:30pm**

*Cost:* Free - but fundraising efforts are suggested

*Where:* In person at Olin-Turville Park and/or virtual participation

*What:* The annual 5k walk along lake Monona will be socially distanced and participants can choose to participate virtually as well. NAMI Walks support the collective effort for mental health awareness. More info can be [found here](#).

## OUR UPCOMING BOARD CALENDAR

- Mon., Sept. 6                      Labor Day Holiday
- Mon., Sept. 13, 9 a.m.          Board Officers  
Virtual
- Mon., Sept. 13, 5 p.m.          Special meeting in open session WORKSHOP  
Virtual
- Mon., Sept. 13, 5:15 p.m.      Instruction Work Group  
Virtual
- Tues., Sept. 14, 5 p.m.          Student Senate  
Virtual
- Tues., Sept. 14, 5 p.m.          Citizens' Ad Hoc re Renaming Memorial High School  
Virtual
- Mon., Sept. 20, 5 p.m.          Operations Work Group  
Virtual
- Week of Sept. 20                  Board Member Briefings  
Virtual
- Mon., Sept. 27, 6 p.m.          Regular Meeting  
TBD
- Wed., Sept. 29, 5 p.m.          Student Senate  
Virtual

## ITEMS ATTACHED FOR INFORMATION

1. Update on Capital High transition to Regent Street

**To:** Members of the Board of Education

**From:** Quinn Craugh, Principal  
Capital High School

**Date:** September 1, 2021

**Subject:** Capital High Transition to New Home at 3802 Regent Street

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Capital High is pleased to share that their transition to their new home at 3802 Regent Street continues to make progress.

In late July 2021, a limited number of Hoyt neighborhood residents submitted an appeal to the City's Plan Commission regarding the plan to locate Capital High at 3802 Regent Street. Since that time, Central Office staff and Capital High staff have met with Alder Regina Vidaver, Alder Shiva Bidar's successor (with whom MMSD worked extensively on input collection and information sharing throughout the referendum process). Staff shared information with Alder Vidaver about the process that preceded the referendum vote. In addition, 11 Hoyt neighborhood members submitted emails of support to the City Council via written public comment. Capital High has plans to create a "getting to know you effort" in the neighborhood which was limited over the course of the summer due to COVID.

On Tuesday, August 31st, the City Council held an open hearing on the Appeal of the Plan Commission action on the Conditional Use request for 3802 Regent Street. Thereafter, the Council voted unanimously (19-0) in opposition of the appeal. The planning for relocation of Capital High to 3802 Regent Street will continue in alignment with the Madison community's vote to approve the November 2020 referendum. Capital High is thankful for the support of the City Council, particularly Alder Vidaver and the many area neighbors who look forward to welcoming Capital High.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, Capital High participated in MMSD's referendum community input process that included 50 input sessions (with nearly 1000 attendees) all over the district, including large sessions at each high school that were also streamed live to share the plan with the community and obtain feedback. We also distributed a survey that had over 4000 responses and continually updated the website with responses to frequently asked questions.

In the months leading up to the referendum, Central Office staff, Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) staff, and Capital High staff coordinated with the area's Alder and held two meetings in the Hoyt neighborhood area and a third meeting at MSCR was advertised to all individuals on MSCR's Goodman 50+ program participant mailing list, lasting over two hours. At each of these meetings, questions were asked and discussed regarding the Capital High proposal. In addition, the second meeting in the Hoyt neighborhood offered the proposed solutions to concerns raised such as traffic and storm water drainage, and surfaced ideas for potential program elements that could include neighborhood residents volunteering at Capital High and/or participating with students in community-oriented programming. A fourth input session was held after the referendum vote to provide an opportunity for community members to share their ideas for design of the building. This session was virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Responses to questions raised at the fourth session were provided to the Alders to share with their constituents.