

LETTER TO VERONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

June 30, 2015

RE: Our Schools

Dear Community Members,

These are exciting times for our school district, and, as a Board, we are thankful for our excellent staff and their commitment to our students as we are thankful to you for your continued support.

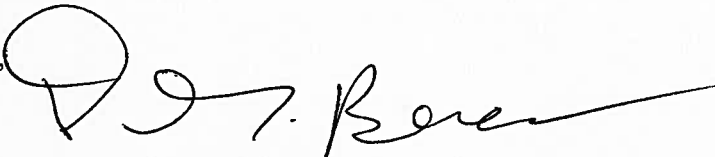
We remain committed to having every student in the District succeed in their educational journey with us. To that end, nearly two years ago, we approved a "personalized learning" initiative. There have been many questions raised about personalized learning, and we acknowledge that the communication surrounding this initiative may not have been as good as we hoped for. We will be using the next few months to review this initiative to ensure our continuing commitment and to identify and address any issues and concerns that may serve as barriers to implementation. Additionally, at the June 29th Board meeting, the Board voted to extend the timeline for implementation of personalized learning plans and directed the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment committee of the Board to formulate a new time frame.

There also have been issues raised concerning discipline in our schools. This is an emotionally charged topic, and there has been a fair amount of misinformation spread about concerning our schools. The Board, the Administration, our staff, and the public have a shared interest in ensuring that our schools are safe places, and that decorum and a favorable academic atmosphere are maintained. We intend to review this area by creating a district-wide task force to address behavioral expectations and philosophy. This task force will work through the issues and make recommendations to ensure that our common interest here is satisfied.

A few Board members have received contacts suggesting that some employees have concerns that there may be retribution if they make comments that raise questions or are critical of the direction in which the District is moving. While no formal complaints have been filed alleging such conduct, the Board in a letter to staff has reaffirmed that it will not tolerate retribution against any employee who, in good faith, expresses concerns about these important matters.

We will continue to keep you informed about our review of these important issues moving forward. Again, the Board thanks you for your support of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Beres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Dennis Beres
Board President