

October Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Education met last night via Zoom at 6:00 PM. The principals reported on the start to the year and among the themes that emerged was positive feedback from students, staff and parents about being back in school. The transition for some to distance learning is not without challenges for students and staff. However, the efforts of everyone involved is paying off and with every passing week things are improving. Regarding mitigation efforts, the principals were so grateful for the attitudes of students and staff to support wearing masks and pitching in with cleaning. Everyone is doing more than they have done in the past and it is making a positive impact in the low number of positive Covid cases and number of students and staff needing to quarantine. It was evident that teachers are spending more time planning for instruction in different ways and we need to continue to look for opportunities to provide more time for this important work. It is the beginning of a long year and we need to ensure that our staff is maintaining a healthy work/life balance.

Katie Claeys, Director of Teaching and Learning, presented our fall K-8 diagnostic data in math and reading. We are happy to report that the data is very good when considering the 5 month break from in-person learning. The big takeaway is that teacher instruction is sound, curriculum is rigorous and aligned with core standards, and students are engaged. Thanks to staff and students for their efforts!

The middle school is completed! We have been enjoying the renovations for many months. Yet, it is a celebration to have a totally renovated school that reflects the value the Ballard community places on education. Thank you for your support in providing a middle school our students, staff, and community can be proud of for many years!

With the completion of the middle school, we have turned the page to stadium improvements. Work on the new storage building, concession stand renovation, ticket booth, and pressbox is underway! We will make as much progress as the weather permits this fall, and work will continue into the spring. The new field will be installed over the summer and ready for the fall sports season.

Enjoy the beautiful fall season and we look forward to seeing you soon. GO BOMBERS!

Ballard Board of Education