

School Board Report

In 2023, the work of the Mountain Views School District Board was focused on several key steps to enhance teaching and learning in our schools.

Continuing to leverage pandemic-era ESSR funds to overcome learning loss, the district made key investments in math and reading education this year. Following intensive professional development, our math teachers created foundational agreements to advance teaching practices, engagement, high-quality instructional resources, and learning assessments. Similar investments in student literacy based on the science of reading culminated in a new 90% reading proficiency standard for the district. With historical measures around 65%, this represents an ambitious goal, but one our educators have eagerly taken on with new methods and exciting early results.

Following a district-wide assessment, the Board also approved additional administrative and educational resources at our elementary schools to address socio-emotional behavioral concerns using restorative approaches.

With voter approval of three ballot measures last spring, the Board was able to make significant progress on improving the conditions of our school buildings. A \$1.75M project was completed to replace the roof at Killington Elementary. A \$1.2M upgrade project was required to extend the service life of the heating system at Woodstock Union High School after losing the use of 6 classrooms last winter.

As the maintenance team worked steadily to keep up the MS/HS building, district voters also approved \$1.65M for architectural services needed to complete the detailed design of the new Middle and High School Building. PC Construction was hired in October as the construction management firm for the project. Soon after, PCI Project Consulting were retained as owners' representatives to help complete project costing and value engineering. In December, their work resulted in \$16.5M in cost reductions to achieve a final construction cost of \$90M for the new building. With permitting, site work, and furnishings, voters will be asked to approve a \$99M total project cost in March of 2024. At a square foot price of \$569/square foot, this is among the most efficient school projects currently planned for construction in the state, with 5 other Vermont school buildings ranging from \$633 to \$726/square foot.

We are thankful for the commitment of fellow Board members, and of our exceptional administrators, educators, and school staff. Through all of our collective dedication to the students of our district, we have made real progress in overcoming the challenges presented by the pandemic, as well as tackling infrastructure issues long in the making. We look forward to continuing our important work together in the year to come.

Keri Bristow, Chair, Mountain Views School District Board
Ben Ford, Vice Chair, Mountain Views School District Board