



School District of the City of Iron Mountain

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April 18, 2023

Dear Mountaineer families,

I hope this communication finds you well and excited for the home stretch for another school year. It is hard to believe we are starting to plan the end of year activities, and hopefully we will see some warmer weather coming our way so we can get outside and enjoy these last few big school events.

The purpose of my communication is to reach out to our families, to share some thoughts from the district level regarding our upcoming referendum on May 2, 2023. My first talking point is to remind you that I have held three town hall meetings about our upcoming referendum and building project plan over the past several weeks. We still have one more session planned for Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in the Izzo-Mariucci Center at 5:00pm. If you haven't made it out to one of the town hall meetings, I would like to personally invite you to attend. The building project we are proposing directly impacts our families that attend Iron Mountain Public Schools in very positive and significant ways.

While I understand that not everyone may be in agreement on the proposed building project, I do want to share that the decision to move forward with this proposal was considered carefully with the help of several outside agencies. The School Board and I believe very strongly what we are proposing truly is in the best interest of our students and families we serve and will keep Iron Mountain Schools an excellent choice for our future Mountaineers and will add significant improvements to our city as a whole.

In order for businesses to be able to grow and develop and meet the needs of their consumers they need to be future focused and determine what the needs are. Public education is not any different. As Superintendent I must continue to have a vision for the future of Iron Mountain Public Schools, evaluate the landscape of public schools both in the UP and in our state, and push forward with continuous improvement. Failure to do so in any business, including public education, will lead only to status quo operations, and eventually total system failure. The families we currently serve and will serve into the future deserve our very best and if we can improve our services and programs then we need to find a way to do that.

Lastly, I would like to mention that the vision for this district contained within this building project is focused primarily on one topic; what is best for kids and our families? Certainly, there are some who disagree with the proposal and look at the current level of programming and don't think there needs to be changes. If you are one of these individuals, I would encourage you to come to our last town hall meeting or come and speak with me or a board member. This entire proposal is built on the foundation of how we can educate and serve our children in better ways, and how we can ensure a positive bright future for our school district. While I understand there is a financial cost for each district family, that cost is being poured directly into the future of our children and is the single most rewarding investment we can make in what is the most valuable asset to any community; its children.

Bond 2023 "Remember to Vote May 2" yard signs are available in all Iron Mountain Public School offices at no-cost-to-you during school hours. I encourage you to stop in and pick one up at your earliest convenience.

If you haven't already, I urge you to register to vote. At this point in time, you must register in person at the Iron Mountain City Hall up until and including the day of the election, Tuesday, May 2, 2023. The County Clerk asks that you please bring along proof of residency if your driver's license address is not up-to-date.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Sardina'.

Jerry Sardina
Superintendent