



# MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2603 Leahy Street • Muskegon Heights, Michigan 49444 • Phone 231-830-3221 • Fax 231-830-3560

January 27, 2012

Dear Parents,

A story in today's Muskegon Chronicle makes it appear that Muskegon Heights Public Schools (MHPS) is *planning* on closing. That is not the case. We are working hard to make our schools stronger.

The article concerns a meeting I had last week with the superintendents and board leadership of the other 11 school districts in the county. During that meeting I shared the status of the financial situation at MHPS. Questions were raised about what might happen if the State of Michigan chose not to help our district deal with the financial concerns we face.

Closing schools is an extremely remote possibility, but one that the other districts need to consider if a worst case scenario occurred. It is only a worst case scenario. Many actions are taking place every day to make sure the worst case never occurs.

The early closure of a school district has only occurred once in the past – at Kalkaska Public Schools in 1993. I want to assure you that we are doing everything in our power to avoid this. We are working every day with the State of Michigan to see that MHPS only becomes a stronger school district as the years go on. The other 11 school districts support our efforts wholeheartedly. We need MHPS to remain a strong school district.

You can help our efforts by making sure your children are in school every day and that they continue to work hard to achieve great things. Encourage MHPS staff members with kind words and support during this difficult time. We are eager to hear a response from the State on the Board of Education's request for assistance. We will continue to keep you updated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Sipka".

Dave Sipka  
Interim Superintendent, Muskegon Heights Public Schools  
Superintendent, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District