



# School District of Iola-Scandinavia

"Dedicated to Excellence"

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**Ray Przekurat**  
District Administrator  
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**Chris Nelson**  
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Ext. 1301

**Stacey Wester**  
Elementary Principal  
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## School Board

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May 12, 2020

Senator Luther Olsen  
Room 122 South  
State Capital  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Kevin Peterson  
Room 105 West  
State Capital  
PO BOX 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Olsen and Representative Peterson,

I hope all is well with you and your family. These times have been extremely hard for everyone. I am reaching out to you today to explain what we have been going through at our school district and to provide you with information you might use to make decisions in this unprecedented time.

On March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, our school closed to in-person instruction. We developed an e-learning plan and have been moving forward with this plan ever since. Our staff has been dedicated to providing the best education to our students as possible. They have put in countless hours in developing new strategies to instruct students and keep them engaged. Most of our families struggle with staying connected due to the limited broadband access in our rural areas. We have made the most of it by providing families with hotspots and making door to door curriculum deliveries every Wednesday. The school district has also provided food service to our community for pick-up and delivery.

The school district has been able to keep most of our employees working. All of the teaching staff have put in additional time because of the changes needed to instruct students virtually. The office staff has been working on developing new ways to communicate and develop steps for what might happen next. We did furlough some of our hourly staff because of limited work. Other hourly staff have been able to help with deep cleaning and food/curriculum delivery. As you know, a small rural school district is the heart of the community. We have been doing all that we can to help during this time of need to provide our employees with incomes to weather through these tough times. Our community, just like all others are concerned how we will make it through and what the future will hold. The Iola family heard some difficult news today. The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Iola Car Show was cancelled today and this car show provides many different opportunities for our whole community. Our students and staff volunteer during this show, and in return, we receive payments to continue some of our programs at the school.

"An equal opportunity employer"

The purpose of explaining some of these situations is to show you the need and foundation of our school systems. We provide our communities with purpose and direction in times of need. Our staff is committed to keeping things as normal as possible. When legislators talk about how schools are spending money that may be needed in different areas, they need to talk about the contributions that schools make to the community. They need to talk about how the pay for staff is spent in the communities. They also need to talk about how the staff has dedicated themselves to their students and families.

These times have been difficult for everyone. We have been educating our students in an environment that is new and unprecedented. We will continue to move forward and make the needed changes to develop our students; academically, socially, and emotionally.

I am available any time to answer questions or give you examples of our staff going beyond what has been asked of them. We will make it through this and we will be stronger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Przekurat". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Raymond Przekurat

District Administrator

Iola-Scandinavia School District

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