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## **Breaking Ground to Build the Future**

Tomorrow will be a historic day for Port Huron Schools and the future generations of youth in our community. On Monday, May 15, we mark the official beginning of our Phase I construction work of the “Building Tomorrow, Today” Bond Proposal approved by our community last August, as we break ground for the state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center. The Phase I work is also highlighted by significant enhancements at Crull, Woodrow Wilson, Michigamme, Holland Woods and Port Huron Northern.

The Port Huron Schools Early Childhood Center is a specialized learning facility that is uniquely designed for the personal and academic needs of our preschool population. As educators, we will ensure their preparedness for elementary school and the rigorous education they will embark upon in our soon-to-be transformed school district.

We know competitive demands on students are at an all time high. Today’s society requires mastering the basic academic courses along with a new and urgent need for students to become proficient with increasingly complex technology and demonstrate sophisticated problem solving at an early age. Kindergarten has become an academic year and we need to assure our preschool students are ready when they enter our schools.

The Early Childhood Center’s (ECC) strategic positioning at the beginning of the three-phase bond project will also free building and classroom space in current schools to allow contained work on a staggered design, bid, award and construction schedule. Stand alone work for the bond has already been in process throughout several buildings and sites such as elementary and middle school gymnasiums, district tennis courts, and district-wide technology infrastructure. Details of the ECC were presented as Bid Package #5 in Phase I at the December 19, 2016 Port Huron Schools Board of Education meeting when the design was in process.

The location of the new Early Childhood Center is adjacent to the McKinley Administration Building at 2720 Riverside Dr. The facility is estimated to open its doors to students in the fall of 2018. We have intentionally designed the building to blend into the existing neighborhood and surrounding buildings on our Crull-McKinley Campus.

We appreciate the community’s support as we officially begin the construction process of “Building Tomorrow, Today” and look forward to celebrating this historic occasion!