

# PĪTĀCEMOW

*"He or she who brings stories/news"*



## Building Community. Honoring Traditions.

On April 5, voters in the Menominee Indian School District will be asked to decide on a \$35 million school referendum to construct a new Menominee Indian High School, convert the existing high school to a middle school, make improvements to Keshena Primary School and purchase equipment related to the projects.

What do you need to know about the referendum? This newsletter will provide a comprehensive overview of the need and the projects so you can make an informed decision when going to the polls.

## Careful Consideration

For nearly five years, the School Board and MISD leaders have studied facility needs in the district. Enrollment is growing at all schools. In addition, the schools do not have the space to meet changing and evolving educational and technology requirements. In the case of MIMS, the school property is landlocked, so there is no room for expansion.

The Board has been working with financial and construction consultants to develop a master facility plan while evaluating options and cost estimates. Subsequently, the Board voted to move forward with the facility plan and the referendum.



## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Want to learn more about the April 5th referendum?  
Ask questions?  
Provide input?  
Plan to attend one of four community meetings in the month of March:

### **Tuesday, March 8**

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom (Virtual) Meeting:

[bit.ly/MISDZoomMtg](https://bit.ly/MISDZoomMtg)

Meeting ID: 896 1565 2797

Passcode: 315246

Or By Phone:

(312) 626-6799

### **Thursday, March 17**

Community Meeting

@ South Branch

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, March 23**

Community Meeting

Neopit @ MIMS

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, March 30**

Community Meeting

Keshena @ MIHS

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



## One Purpose. One Campus.

In addition to improving facilities for students and the community, having one educational campus with all three schools in Keshena offers many advantages, including: shared staff and resources; reduced transportation costs; enhanced, focused security; improved access to health services and centralized special education services will be more efficient and effective for staff and students.

### Features of the NEW MIHS

Larger, technology-equipped classrooms

Expanded labs for Menominee language, arts and foods; including a Menominee art instruction studio

Larger multi-functional tech ed and science labs, including areas for woods, metal, auto, ag and food/harvesting

Core pod collaboration spaces, and collaboration flex spaces

FACE Lab with six food stations for culinary education

Special education areas including life skill class space, restrooms and small breakout meeting space

Expanded room for band and choir programs

Field House with adequate space for sports, fitness and wellness programs, classes and activities; student athletes and coaches; as well as being available for community use

A school forest will be established, offering opportunities for cultural and environmental learning.

## Land Swap

Plans call for the new MIHS to be built on a 40-acre parcel off Warrington Rd. behind the Save-A-Lot. In exchange for the land, which is currently owned by the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW), the Tribe will receive the existing MIMS building in Neopit after that school moves to the current MIHS. In January 2022, the Menominee Tribal Legislature unanimously approved the land swap concept and details are now being worked out between the two entities.

*"This facility plan and referendum gives each and every one of us the opportunity to do something positive for our children as well as future generations of children. The plans honor and incorporate Menominee culture and traditions while building community that we can all be proud of."*  
David "Jonesy" Miller, MISD School Board President

## A NEW Menominee Indian High School



Examples of collaboration spaces



### History. Environment. Culture. Education.

The new MIHS will encompass all of this and more.

The proposed 110,000 sq. ft. facility design will be culturally relevant, connecting nature, learning and the community. It will be constructed using natural, sustainable materials, providing an abundance of light and open spaces for collaboration and hands-on, project-based learning. Additionally, the school will be designed to become a community resource and gathering point, with a welcoming commons area and a multi-purpose community room that will be used by students, families and the community alike.

## Menominee Indian Middle School

The current Menominee Indian Middle School in Neopit is landlocked, so it does not have room for expansion. After the new high school is built and occupied, transforming the existing 40-year-old school won't require a substantial amount of work. The current high school offers enough room for current needs as well as room to expand in the future.

By having the middle school and high school in close proximity there is an opportunity to share resources, staff and equipment, so increased class offerings would be available to MIMS students. This would be welcome by students and families who want to pursue additional learning options. Shared resources would also be more efficient and cost-effective. And, with having all schools located in Keshena, it will be much easier for families attending events at multiple schools.

It should be noted that MIMS would not move into the existing high school until after a new high school is built and occupied.

*"All students and families will benefit from this plan. High school students will take great pride in being in a new, modern facility that is designed to encourage and support learning. The Middle School and KPS also benefit because of the improvements that will be made to their facilities."*

*Moving the Middle School to Keshena will then pave the way for the Tribal School to move into the existing Middle School, which is an improvement for them as well. I encourage all district residents, Tribal members and non-Tribal members alike, to vote on April 5."*

*James LaRock, Menominee Indian Tribal Member*

## Keshena Primary School

The facility plan calls for expansion and renovation of Keshena Primary School so it will cover current needs as well as potential growth over the next 10-20 years.

The school will remain in its current location but expanded and renovated to accommodate growing enrollment as well as current technology and mandated space needs.

While specific plans and costs for this project have not been finalized, it's anticipated at least six classrooms will be added to the school and a new gym area developed. The district is also studying the possibility of moving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the new Middle School, but no decision has been made at this time.

### Financial Impact



The financial impact of the referendum for a property taxpayer would be approx. \$2.99 per thousand of equalized value of their home.

The owner of a home with an assessed value of \$50,000, would have a tax increase of \$149.50 per year, or \$12.45 per month.

*That's less than two large specialty beverages a month at a well-known coffee chain.*



The owner of a home with an assessed value of \$100,000, would have a tax increase of \$299.00 per year or \$24 per month.

*That's less than one monthly meal of burgers, fries and drinks at a fast food chain for a family of four.*



*Assumptions: Mill rate based on the following estimates: 2021 equalized valuation and 1% annual growth thereafter. State aid at current levels. Borrowing in two stages: \$25,000,000 in 2022 (20 years @ 3.75%) and \$10,000,000 in 2023 (20 years @ 4.00%). For additional details, please refer to the plan of finance available at the district office..*

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Indian School  
District

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## VOTE ON APRIL 5

If you live in the Menominee Indian School District, are at least 18 years old, and meet State of Wisconsin voting requirements, **YOU CAN VOTE on this referendum. You do not have to be a property taxpayer, a homeowner or the parent of a student to vote. Tribal and non-tribal members alike can vote.**

Remember your photo ID! Voters will be required to provide a photo ID at polling locations prior to voting.

Absentee ballots can be requested at: [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) or through your municipal clerk. The application must be received by the clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the election in order for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you.

Each and every vote is important as it will help determine the future of our District's facilities and ability to provide an education that will serve our students now and into the future. **PLEASE VOTE ON APRIL 5!**

**Building Community. Honoring Traditions.**



**Menominee Tribal  
Chairman Ron Corn  
Urges You to Vote**

*"As a community that is growing, we need our institutions to grow with us – especially our educational institutions. This plan is about more than buildings, it's about providing the best education possible for our students to be successful now and in the future. I urge everyone to support our students by voting on April 5<sup>th</sup>. "*