



Polson School District #23

March 13, 2018

Dear Polson Community,

In the wake of the recent Florida school shooting and the national student movement to have a voice, Polson High School and Polson Middle School administration, in conjunction with local law enforcement, are working with their student leaders and staff to provide structure and safety for our students to have a voice in this important national priority for school safety.

The Polson High School administration has been meeting with student leaders in planning an appropriate event for March 14th. Our student leaders are planning a school assembly highlighting safe schools, honoring the 17 victims of Parkland High School, and advising their peers to speak up if they see or hear about threats to the school or students. I want to make clear this is not a political statement and issues of gun control and other hotly contested national topics are not the focus. This is an opportunity for the student voice to be recognized in collaboration and cooperation with school administration.

We are also aware of a student demonstration "Walk-Out" planned for March 14, 2018. If this demonstration occurs, it will be student-initiated and student-led in accordance with the students' right to engage in speech on matters of public interest. The Polson School District understands there is also the possibility for student-led counter-demonstrations during this period. The District will not participate in or endorse any demonstration. Again, any demonstration will be in accordance with the students' right to engage in speech on matters of public interest.

School will remain in session. No student is required to participate in any demonstration. School staff will remain on duty to deliver education services during the period of demonstration. Students who decide to participate may be monitored by District staff to ensure safety and compliance with school rules and state and local law. If you have questions, please contact the Principal or myself.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools.

Polson Schools Superintendent