

The results of the recent bond election for a new elementary school in the Middleton School District are in, and while we did not reach the required threshold for passage, I want to begin by saying thank you.

Thank you to the hundreds of individuals who gave their time, shared their voices, asked thoughtful questions, and worked tirelessly to inform and engage our community. From parents and teachers to business owners and civic leaders, your efforts were heartfelt, and they mattered. While the final outcome is disappointing, the energy and dedication you showed is a powerful reminder of the strength we share as a community.

There is no way around it—this result hurts. We put forward a bond that reflected our most urgent need: easing overcrowding in our elementary schools. Mill Creek and Heights Elementary have been operating well beyond capacity for some time, and a new elementary school was intended to address that challenge head-on. We had listened to feedback from past elections, reduced the tax impact by 79%, and focused the bond on just one project. We believed this was a plan our community could support. Many did. Just not enough to meet the two-thirds supermajority required by Idaho law.

But even in disappointment, there is a silver lining. Thousands of patrons took the time to participate in the democratic process. Many reached out to learn more. Some opened their homes for small group discussions. Others shared stories about their children and why this matters so deeply to them. We saw community members leaning in, not backing away. That level of civic engagement is something to build on, not mourn.

To all of you who helped—thank you. Whether you passed out flyers, posted signs, shared on social media, attended a cottage meeting, or simply had a conversation with a neighbor, you played a part in something important. And we see you. Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and they are not lost.

We also want to recognize those who voted differently. We hear you too. Your questions and concerns help us understand the values, priorities, and expectations of our community. And as always, we will continue to listen.

While this vote didn't go the way we hoped, our work does not stop here. The need for a solution to our growing enrollment remains. So we will regroup, reflect, and return to the table with a

renewed sense of purpose. As a district, we remain committed to doing what's best for kids, and that includes finding ways to ensure they have the space, support, and opportunities they need to thrive.

We are proud of the Middleton School District—of our students, our staff, and the broader community that surrounds them. Together, we will continue to move forward, thoughtfully and united, in building a future that reflects our shared hopes for the next generation.

Sincerely,
Marc Gee
Superintendent
Middleton School District