



**SAUGATUCK  
TRAILBLAZERS**

December 1, 2022

**Saugatuck Public Schools**

Central Administration Office  
201 Randolph Street, PO BOX 818  
Douglas, MI 49406  
269-857-1444  
Fax: 269-857-1448  
[www.saugatuckpublicschools.com](http://www.saugatuckpublicschools.com)

Dear Planning Commission members,

I am sure you are keenly aware of the attainable housing shortage in our community. Ultimately, this shortage impacts our businesses, our schools and our municipalities. Our community benefits when families are able to establish year round residency close to their workplace and our excellent schools. Currently, it is difficult for our teachers, first responders, skilled trades workers, and hospitality workers to live in our community.

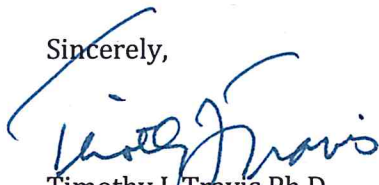
The Saugatuck-Douglas area is a wonderful place to raise a family. With strong community support and an excellent teaching and support staff, Saugatuck Public Schools is among the best school districts in the state of Michigan and holds its own with schools across the country. In fact, Douglas Elementary School was recently selected as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School, one of only 15 schools so honored in the state over the past two years. Saugatuck High School has been selected as one of America's Best High Schools by US News & World Report for eight of the past nine years.

The district is extremely grateful for the community's recent \$36,000,000 investment in the significant renovation of our schools into modern, efficient and secure learning facilities. Our first class facilities combined with the overall educational quality of our schools, makes Saugatuck Public Schools attractive to families wanting to relocate to West Michigan.

As a district, we have significant room for growth in our student population while maintaining the small school advantages Saugatuck Public Schools is known for. The district is currently able to accommodate an immediate increase of 193 students across grades K-12 and still have an average class size of 25 students. Additionally, as resident district students increase, the number of school of choice openings can be limited. Phased in over time, the district could serve a total of 468 new resident students while still maintaining an average class size of twenty-five students in a class.

To summarize, our schools and community are stronger when families can afford to live in our community. I urge the planning commission to continue to consider development opportunities that will provide attainable family housing in our community.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Travis Ph.D.  
Superintendent