

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

In re:

A PETITION TO FORM A COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSISTING OF ALL OF A-C CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 262 AND PORTA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 202

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

Pursuant to Section 11E-50 of the School Code, I received on November 7, 2013, the record of the proceedings regarding the proposed formation of a community unit school district from all of A-C Central Community Unit School District 262 and PORTA Community Unit School District 202.

I have reviewed the entire record of the proceedings held before the Regional Superintendent, including the transcript of the hearing and all evidence presented at the hearing, and based upon the record, I make the following findings and conclusions.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

1. The petition was filed in the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools of Logan/Mason/Menard Counties on September 16, 2013. Notice was given and a hearing was convened in accordance with Article 11E of the School Code.
2. The Regional Superintendent of Schools issued approval of the petition on November 4, 2013.
3. The record indicates that the approved petition:
 - a) requests the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election (on March 18, 2014) for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a community unit school district in the territory;
 - b) requests the proposition to include the election of school board members by district rather than at large at the same election as the question to form the new district; the original map and legal descriptions for the 7 school board districts were inaccurate with respect to substantially equal populations under subsection (b)(7) of Section 11E-35; however, due to the submission of a corrected map and legal descriptions, I do not believe this fatally flaws the petition;
 - c) describes the territory comprising the proposed district;
 - d) requests an effective date of July 1, 2015, for the new district;

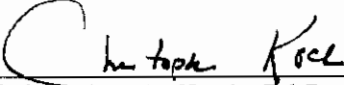
- e) sets the maximum tax rates for educational, operations and maintenance, and pupil transportation purposes the proposed district shall be authorized to levy, as required by statute;
 - f) also sets the maximum tax rate for health and life safety purposes, as permitted by statute;
 - g) does not include a description of how supplementary State deficit difference payments made under subsection (c) of Section 11E-135 will be allocated among the new district or districts proposed to be formed, the non-inclusion of which I do not believe fatally flaws the petition as any deficit difference payment would be paid to the new resulting district as required by statute;
 - h) was filed by Petitioners constituting at least 50 legal resident voters or 10% of the legal resident voters, whichever is less, residing within each affected district; and
 - i) designates a Committee of Ten of the petitioners.
4. The record indicates that the territory described in the petition consists of two entire contiguous unit districts.

As reported by the proponents of the petition, the consolidation of the districts into a community unit school district will result in the following:

- a) the ability to offer current advanced placement classes to all students with the opportunity to add additional advanced placement classes.
- b) the ability to offer more vocational education and technical classes within the district without the need to send students off campus.
- c) greater flexibility in scheduling and more classes for students.
- d) elimination of duplicate extracurricular activities with the opportunity to add new activities.
- e) the opportunity to streamline bus routes to operate more efficiently and reduce the time students spend on busses.
- f) savings through eliminating duplication, allowing taxpayer dollars to be spent more efficiently.

DECISION

Having reviewed the petition, transcript of the hearing and supporting evidence, and the Regional Superintendent's decision, and taking into consideration the school needs and conditions of the affected districts and in the area adjacent thereto, the division of funds and assets that will result from the action described in the petition, the best interests of the schools of the area, and the best interests and the educational welfare of the pupils residing therein, I hereby approve the petition. Approval of this petition will allow the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election on March 18, 2014, for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a community unit school district in the territory.



Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

DATED: November 20, 2013

This is a final administrative order and is subject to review under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law, 735 ILCS 5/3-101 *et seq.*