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Joint Board of Directors' Meeting
Northwest Area Education Agency and Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency
Special Meeting - Hearing on Reorganization Petition
Roxy Theater, Alta, Iowa
June 26, 2017

Purpose of Special Meeting:

The purpose of convening this special meeting, pursuant to public notice given in the Buena Vista and Cherokee Counties in the Alta Pilot Tribune and the Aurelia Star which are papers of general circulation in the Alta and Aurelia School Districts, is to provide the public an opportunity to be heard, for or against, the proposed petition for the reorganization of Alta and Aurelia School Districts.

President Rick Morain called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Prairie Lakes AEA:

Jeff Herzberg, Chief Administrator.
Dr. Gary Astor, Pat Brown, Sue Brown, Todd Lundgren, Rick Morain, Jeremy Riesenber, Board Members.
Jim Hanks, Attorney for both Prairie Lakes AEA and Northwest AEA.

Northwest AEA:

Dr. Tim Grieves, Chief Administrator.
Dr. Tom Bjorge, Roger Brinkert, Glen Coble, Mike McAlpine, Creston Schubert, Tricia Sutherland, Keith Zylstra, Board Members.
Gloria Miller, Board Secretary.

Absent:

Northwest AEA: Glenda Den Herder, Ron Jorgensen, Board Members.
Prairie Lakes AEA: Dawn Crane, Board Members.

Approval of Agenda: (Action 1129)

A motion was made by Director Sue Brown, seconded by Director Riesenber, to approve the agenda for the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Procedures and Purpose of the Hearing:

Jim Hanks, attorney for Northwest AEA, reviewed the laws governing reorganization procedures including the filing of petitions, written objections, and hearing procedures, according to Iowa Code 275.6. He also explained that the AEA Boards would hear all interested parties involving the petition to be considered and what options the Board had in coming to a decision. Mr. Hanks asked Dr. Grieves pertinent questions regarding the AEA's duties for this reorganization.

Reaffirmation of Joint Plan and Determination that Petition Conforms to Plan: (Action 1130)

A motion was made by Director McAlpine, seconded by Director Astor, that the Northwest AEA Board of Directors and the Prairie Lakes AEA Board of Directors, acting as a Joint Board, agree that the Alta Community School District and the Aurelia Community School District is a potentially appropriate reorganization of those two school districts and determined that the Petition for the Reorganization of the Alta Community School District and the Aurelia Community School District conforms to the plans for reorganization of the school districts adopted by the respective boards of directors.

Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation by Parties Present at the Meeting:

A. Parties Speaking in Favor of the Petition:

1. Lynn Evans and two board members from the Alta and Aurelia school districts, Jennifer Kaskey and Gigi Nelson, and Rick Engel, attorney for the Alta and Aurelia school districts, reviewed the whole grade sharing history of the school districts, the advantages for reorganization, the cost savings of reorganizing, and the elements of the petition submitted to the Prairie Lakes AEA Board and the Northwest AEA Board on May 5, 2017.

B. Presentation of Evidence and Arguments by Objectors:

Mr. Hanks invited anyone present to speak in support or opposition of petition. No one spoke against the petition.

Board's Deliberation and Decision: (Action 1131)

Mr. Hanks reviewed the Board's options in their decision.

It was moved by Director Riesenbergh that the Joint Board enter findings that it has jurisdiction over these proceedings, that there reside within the proposed district at least 300 persons of school age who were enrolled in public schools the previous school year, that neither of the districts have approved the issuance of general obligation bonds during the six-month period preceding the petition, that a petition describing identical or similar boundaries has not been voted on less than six months from the date the petition was filed, that the proposed method of election of school directors be approved, and that the petition for reorganization of the Alta and Aurelia Community School Districts be sent to a vote with an election to be conducted pursuant to law, that the boundaries for the proposed school corporation be fixed in accordance with those boundaries set forth in the petition for reorganization, and that, at the same election, an election regarding a Revenue Purpose Statement be submitted for approval or rejection by the voters as provided by law. Director Brinkert seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

The Board was that this reorganization would be voted on by the communities in September 2017. Director Pat Brown made a motion to adjourn the hearing, and Director Zylstra seconded.

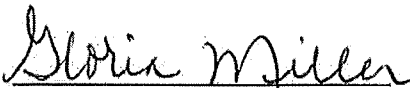
Hearing Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Rick Morain, Board President
Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency



Roger Brinkert, Board President
Northwest Area Education Agency



Gloria Miller, Board Secretary
Northwest Area Education Agency