Minutes of the Rockville-Turkey Run School Reorganization Committee

January 16, 2012

The Reorganization Committee met at 6:30 pm, January 16, 2012, in the Turkey Run Schools’ ELC room. All members of the committee were present, Ader, Craycraft, Gambaiani, Harbison, Rode and Wrightsman, as well as Superintendent Rohr, Interim Superintendent Hawkins, and Hanner, School Counsel. Both Turkey Run and Rockville School Boards, with the exception of Roger Bridge, were in attendance to hear the Reorganization Plan presented by Wrightsman. Pam Ferguson, President of the Rockville School Board, and Greg Harvey, President of the Turkey Run School Board, called the meeting to order for their respective Boards.

Along with the Reorganization Plan, Wrightsman presented committee comments and suggestions. He stated that House Bill 1058 has passed the committee hearing with a vote of 10-0. At the suggestion of Representatives Grubb and Baird, he has contacted Senators Boots and Skinner to inform them of the need for the bill. Dr Rohr has determined that schools can utilize funds to promote reorganization plans. A timeline was suggested, reading the resolution the first time and having the public meetings in February, reading the resolution the second time and voting on the resolution in March. Wrightsman then opened the floor to comments.

Mark Ramsay: Concerned that representation would not be equal due to Rockville Schools’ greater population; if no financial gain to the districts, why not keep the schools separate but work together; who keeps track of the old debt (the local auditor); why the rush to reorganize? Greg Harvey stated that we can not financially afford to wait, we are spending our reserves.

Andrew Brown: Questioned why there was no fiscal study. Hanner stated that the fiscal study in the Code was to determine the effect on taxpayers, not the schools’ finances. With the current caps and freezes on funds there would be no appreciable change in taxes due to the Reorganization.

Bruce and Evelyn Brown: Worried that the Turkey Run Community would lose their school.

Irene Wirth: If necessary, eliminate sports programs and put the funds into the classroom. Wilma Wooten stated that both boards are willing to work together to keep as many programs as possible.

Roberta Hobbs: If our school would close, we would lose the teachers and their families, some of the best educated people in our community.

Rusty Akers: The Boards are trying to be proactive rather than reactive.

Mark Spelbring: Complimented the Boards on being proactive; Stated that Reorganization was recommended in the unification study previously done in the county

Ader: Losing programs may lead to losing additional students

Gambaiani: Wishes our community was as vibrant as it was in the 60’s and 70’s

Hanner: The State is controlling schools through funding

Craycraft: The committee had the easy job; the school boards will have the more difficult job

Harbison: Our schools are very important to the development of the community

A motion to adopt the Reorganization plan was made by Harbison, seconded by Ader. The motion passed unanimously. The Presidents of the two school boards took the plan under advisement and thanked the committee for their work. The committee members complimented the boards for having the best interest of the students at heart and going forward with a Reorganization plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Rode, Secretary