

# Minutes of the Rockville-Turkey Run School Reorganization Committee

October 24, 2011

The Reorganization Committee met at 6:30 p.m., October 24, 2011 at the Rockville Schools' Central Administration Office. All members of the committee were present, Ader, Craycraft, Gambaiani, Harbison, Rode and Wrightsman, as well as Dr. Tom Rohr and Dr. Randy Kerkhoff. The DLGF responded to the committee's question concerning budgets in the year prior to the reorganization. The school district can create three budgets, one for each current school and one for the new combined district, publish all three, then use whichever budget/budgets are needed following the vote on reorganization. This process might be confusing to the public and three budgets would create additional work. Dr. Kerkhoff mentioned the possibility of obtaining a special exception from the legislature so the budget/budgets would not have to be published until after the election. Gambaiani will discuss this possibility with some of our representatives.

A discussion concerning board member requirements ensued. Gambaiani recommended keeping the current requirements used by both schools: must live within the voting district they represent for two years prior to running, be a registered voter, and be the age required by state law. If a board member moves outside the school district, they must resign; if they move within the school district, they may complete the remainder of their term. Districts were numbered alphabetically: 1=Adams (excluding Rockville), 2=Liberty/Sugar Creek, 3=Penn/Howard, 4=Rockville, 5=Union, 6=Washington/Green and 7=At Large.

Both schools have holding corporations that own all or part of the real estate. The holding corporations, with their debt, would remain separate but would lease the buildings to the new district. All assets not subject to debt, everything within the buildings, the school buses, etc. could be transferred to the new district. Differences in fund balances and contracts between the two schools will have to be addressed, i.e. Rockville has a retirement bond while Turkey Run is holding money in the general fund, the use of accumulated funds for future capital projects, integration of the current three year plans, and the contractual obligations for bus drivers and teachers. Bus fleet contracts for both schools are on the same four year period. Current contracts will need to be honored; future contracts will be determined by the new school board and central office. School treasurers, Sally Burgess and Terri Veach, will be invited to the next meeting to present current budget figures and other pertinent data, as well as Diana Hazlett and Pam Adams to answer questions on taxation for the future district.

Any future school board cannot override the reorganization plan so all important issues such as separation/consolidation of funds need to be included in the plan.

Wrightsmen opened a discussion on the name of the possible new school corporation. Ader commented that we have two choices, a combination of the two schools' names or something entirely new. Craycraft suggested using the county name to better locate the school to others. Gambaiani liked a combination of the two school names, feeling names including North Central or North were too generalized. Wrightsmen asked each committee member to send him two-three names prior to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the reorganization committee will be held on November 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Turkey Run Schools' Central Administration Office. On November 21, 2011 a meeting will be held in the Rockville Schools' Central Administration Office at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Rode, Secretary