

A Message from Terry Kenealy: Petition for Reorganization Signature Collection Process:

At the Joint Regular Board Meeting of the Odebolt-Arthur and the Battle Creek-Ida Grove School Boards held on Monday, March 14, 2016 the board members approved the final draft of a Petition for Reorganization. The action taken by the two school boards initiates the process of collecting signatures on district designated signature pages. There is a signature page for patrons of the Odebolt-Arthur school district and there is a signature page for patrons of the Battle Creek-Ida Grove school district. In the near future it is possible that you will be approached by members of the communities asking that you consider signing the petition.

If enough valid signatures are collected in each district then the Petition for Reorganization would move forward to the Northwest and Prairie Lakes Area Education Agencies Board of Directors for their consideration. The two AEA's would then publish a notice that a Public Hearing will be held on the Petition for Reorganization and that prior to the hearing they will receive protests related to the petition and consider requests to move property out of the proposed new school district.

If the two AEA Boards of Directors, after hearing all protests and considering all requests to move property out of the proposed new school district, approve the Petition and vote to call for an election to be held on the question of reorganization they would send the Petition to the Ida County and Sac County Auditors to begin the election process. The proposed date for the election is Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

At the Joint Regular Board Meeting on March 14, 2016 the majority of the school board members voted in favor of the Petition for Reorganization for two primary reasons. First they all acknowledged that the two school districts are better off together than they would be as separate, independent school districts. In addition the majority of the board members indicated that the patrons of the two school districts should be provided the opportunity to vote on the question of reorganization; that the patrons needed to be provided the opportunity to have their voices heard at the ballot box.

Signing the petition will provide the patrons of the two school districts the opportunity to vote on the question of the proposed reorganization of the Odebolt-Arthur and Battle Creek-Ida Grove School Districts into a new district called OA-BCIG. That is why we would like you to consider signing the petition when you are offered the chance to do so by a member of your community. The target date to complete the petition signature process is the end of April.

In the meantime, from April through the first half of September, we ask that you do all that you can to become informed on the issues surrounding the question of reorganization, ask us questions, attend community forums and meetings designed to provide district patrons an opportunity to discuss and debate the pros and cons related to the issue and truly utilize the next five and a half months to weigh the merits of the question before voting on September 13.