

**Odebolt-Arthur and Battle Creek-Ida Grove Community School Districts  
Office of the Superintendent**

**September 2, 2016**

**To: Odebolt-Arthur and Battle Creek-Ida Grove Board Members, Staff and Patrons**  
**From: Terry Kenealy**  
**Re: Summary of Community Meetings on Reorganization**

The following is a summary of the items discussed, questions that were asked and information that was provided at the Community Meetings on Reorganization held in Arthur, Battle Creek, Ida Grove and Odebolt. Much of the information included in this summary is combined from each meeting since most of the discussion items were addressed at each meeting. Also, the format for this summary is not a work of art, so I apologize if it is confusing at times. I was trying to reflect what was discussed to the best of my ability from four different meetings.

**Arthur Community Meeting August 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall**

**Board Members Present:** OA Board: Brad Lundell and Stacy Raasch. BCIG Board: Tony Bennett, Ryan Goodman, Crystal Endrulat, Stephanie Konradi and Jeff Rasmussen.

**Other Administrators Present:** Doug Mogensen and Kathy Leonard

**Patrons Present:** Approximately 15 patrons attended

**Ida Grove Community Meeting August 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School**

**Board Members Present:** BCIG Board: Jeff Rasmussen, Ryan Goodman, Stephanie Konradi and Danika Hinkeldey

**Other Administrators Present:** Patrick Miller, Alan Henderson and Kathy Leonard

**Patrons Present:** Approximately 17 patrons attended.

**Odebolt Community Meeting August 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School**

**Board Members Present:** OA Board: Joey Hoefling and Brad Lundell. BCIG Board: Tony Bennett, Crystal Endrulat, Ryan Goodman, Jeff Rasmussen, Myra Meek, Stephanie Konradi and Danika Hinkeldey

**Other Administrators Present:** Doug Mogensen, Alan Henderson, Patrick Miller and Kathy Leonard

**Patrons Present:** Approximately 225 patrons attended.

**Battle Creek Community Meeting on September 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center**

**Board Members Present:** BCIG Board: Crystal Endrulat, Ryan Goodman, Stephanie Konradi and Jeff Rasmussen.

**Other Administrators Present:** Kathy Leonard

**Patrons Present:** Approximately 7 patrons attended.

Mr. Kenealy welcomed everyone and thanked them for being there. Mr. Kenealy mentioned the documents that were available on the tables, invited patrons to take any of them that they would like. If we run out of documents, let us know and we will get you copies of whatever document you may want.

Mr. Kenealy indicated that he would serve as the facilitator for the meeting. He would make a presentation on a number of issues, discuss answers to questions that have come up over the past 8 months or so and take questions and give individuals an opportunity to address issues of concern.

The documents were developed from a variety of sources: The Department of Education, the Department of Management, Codes of the State of Iowa, Financial Audit reports, the Iowa School Board Association, the Iowa School Finance Information Service and financial information and documents from the district.

**There are three issues on the September 13 ballot that you are being asked to cast your vote on:**

- The first issue is the Petition for Reorganization. That is Proposition A and you will be asked to cast a vote, yes or no, on the question as to whether or not the two school districts should reorganize and become one school district known as the Odebolt Arthur Battle Creek Ida Grove Community School District.
- The second issue is the question of approving a Revenue Purposes Statement for the new school district. That is Proposition B and you will be asked to cast a vote, yes or no, on the question as to whether or not you approve of the Revenue Purposes Statement as presented for the new school district. A Revenue Purposes Statement would be needed by the new district, if reorganization is approved, to allow the new district to spend the Sales Tax revenues it would receive from the State of Iowa each year. The Sales Tax revenues are used to purchase buses and vehicles, purchase technology and computers, and helps to fund building improvements and repairs. If you vote yes for reorganization you need to vote yes on Proposition B so that the new district can use the Sales Tax revenues it would receive from the state.
- Each school district has a board vacancy to fill on this ballot. For Odebolt-Arthur the patrons are being asked to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of board member Naomi Lozier. Two candidates have filed for the position, Ryan Schroder and Deb Bengford. (According to state statutes there would be no conflict of interest for Deb Bengford to run for the Odebolt-Arthur school board. Deb Bengford is employed by the Battle Creek-Ida Grove School District and works at the elementary school. The Odebolt-Arthur school board makes no decisions related to the Battle Creek-Ida Grove Elementary School. If Deb Bengford were to be elected to the Odebolt-Arthur school board and reorganization were to be approved a conflict would exist only if Deb Bengford was appointed and accepted the appointment to the initial school board of the new district. To serve on that board she would have to resign her position with the Battle Creek-Ida Grove School District.)

**Mr. Kenealy reviewed the questions that have come in over the past months.**

- Why reorganize when Whole Grade Sharing is working? Financial trends showed that both districts were trending downward in Unspent Authorized Budget Authority. Financial records today demonstrate that the trend has improved significantly since Whole Grade Sharing started in the 2009-2010 school year.
- Student enrollment also was dropping and the past five to six years it has stabilized.
- Student achievement and scores are strong. Academically our students are doing very well and compare favorably to neighboring school districts and statewide.
- Students are great. They seem to be getting along well in year eight of whole grade sharing

- Facilities are in great condition and they are being improved and updated on a regular basis. Invited the patrons to tour the buildings to see the improvements.
- Administration and staff are talented and committed to the students they serve.
- The school boards have done an outstanding job in leading our school districts and made good decisions to help put these districts in such a good position.

**There are challenges that each district faces ahead as will most school districts across the state.**

- Demographics in our society are changing. BCIG Elementary has a Free & Reduced Lunch ratio of over 50%. Times are changing. Enrollments have declined and that decline could begin again if the economy struggles like it did back in 2008. However the enrollment trends for the two districts have stabilized but both districts were declining for a period of ten years prior to whole grade sharing but now has leveled off. When whole grade sharing began the combined certified enrollment for the two districts was 980 students K-12 and there were 978 students certified last fall in grades K-12. This has helped stabilize things.
- More single parent families now live in our communities. Our special education numbers are higher than the norm.
- Available resources to fund our school programs continue to get tighter and that doesn't look to improve in the future. Average cost to run a school district on average increases around 3.5% each year. The state used to increase Supplemental State Aid by 4% each year and that was consistent for many years. The last ten years Supplemental State Aid has averaged just under 2% each year. There are a number of costs that a school district has very little control over. Approximately 75% or more of the General Fund budget pays for salaries and benefits for staff members. School districts are dependent on quality staff and are people driven. Contract negotiations with the teacher association have strict rules to follow and those rules make it difficult for school districts to reduce costs because at the end the system isn't allowed to consider ability to pay as a criteria in settling negotiations. The reality is that school districts rarely win and settle at increases that are in the neighborhood of comparable settlements at other school districts across the region and the state.
- State mandates make it tougher to meet the challenges facing each district. The state makes changes in a "one size fits all" scenario that don't match up with the needs of rural schools and makes it difficult for our districts to fund and implement the new mandates and maintain our current programs.
- All of these challenges and more will make it difficult for our school districts and districts across the state to be able to continue to provide quality programs well into the future unless steps are taken to solidify the foundation of our schools.

**Comment from a Patron:** Appreciated Mr. Kenealy's comments about being respectful to those speaking and in attendance. These are our opinions. Read text from Iowa Code about school board members running and earning compensation. If reorganization passes, Deb Bengford, if elected to the OA board would have to decline a position on the new initial board or resign from her position at BCIG.

**Why we should consider reorganization today?**

- Long term stability. Best education and best facilities. One district would be a fiscally viable district that will be able to survive the difficult challenges that are ahead. Many times school districts attempt to reorganize when their districts are in financial need, when they are in crisis. In this case our school districts would be making the decision to reorganize from a position of strength, a much better time to make this type of decision.

- Better chance to hire district staff members in a stable school district. It's become a much more competitive market to attract and hire new teachers. Candidates are looking for school districts that are financially sound with strong community support and they are starting to avoid districts that whole grade share due to the uncertainty of the future of the agreement. Reorganization makes it more attractive for people to apply.
- When people are looking to relocate, they will check out the school district's stability. Makes the area more attractive. Same with businesses that are looking to expand. They need to have communities that are attractive to move to.
- Mr. Kenealy used an example from when he taught government as a high school teacher to give stability a different perspective. When the United States was founded, the 13 colonies approved the Articles of Confederation for the central or federal government and the new country was basically a loose organization of states. States had the power, federal government had little power. When the country was presented with challenges, not all states participated in helping to solve the problem because they didn't have too. This became a problem for the new country and after a short period of time the states called for a Constitutional Convention to fix the problems with the federal government and created the United States Constitution which established the current authority of the federal government and the country prospered. Whole Grade Sharing is a written agreement between two school districts that depends on the cooperation of the two partners to make it work but either district can vote to terminate the agreement at any time. All a school district board needs to do is vote to terminate the agreement by November 1 and the agreement would end at the beginning of the next school year. Reorganization provides long term stability.

**Reasons to not consider reorganization:**

- When two school districts begin whole grade sharing the two districts make decisions as to where students will be educated. In most cases the school district that lost the high school has the hardest time in accepting reorganization. Losing the high school is an emotional and difficult time for most communities.
- There are concerns about going from two school boards to one school board for the new district. It is especially difficult when one district is larger than the other and would probably end up with more positions on the board representing territory of the former larger district. Mr. Kenealy reviewed the process of moving to one school board as determined by state statute. If reorganization is approved an initial board for the new school district would need to be created within just a few weeks. By statute the BCIG school board would appoint four of the seven members on the initial board and the OA school board would appoint two. That number is determined by the population of the two school districts based on the 2010 census. The seventh board member would be chosen by the six appointed board members but the vote to select the seventh member must be a unanimous vote. If the initial board cannot get a seventh board member approved by a unanimous vote then the seventh board member would be selected by special election and would be voted on by the electors of the new district. That initial board would exist from October, 2016 to September, 2017. The new board election rotation would be determined by the initial board and the first group would stand for election in September of 2017. (Either 3 or 4 members in September 2017, the others would be elected in September of 2019.)

The school board of the new district would be a seven member board with six board members selected from six individual director districts that the initial board would create. The director districts must be large enough to represent at least  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the new district's population or approximately 945 residents per district. A board member must reside in the director district to be eligible to run for that position. Each of the six director district board members would be voted on by all of the voters of the entire school district. The seventh board member would be selected at-large so that board member can reside anywhere in the school district and again all voters would be able to vote for that position as well.

- Some fear the building in OA will be closed if reorganization is approved and will not support reorganization as a result. Closing a building is a difficult and challenging decision. It would have to be based on a major drop in enrollment and a major drop in revenues which would put the district in a position to have to find ways to reduce costs. At this time there are nearly 400 students attending school in OA in grades PK-8 and that building is essential to the district's ability to adequately offer programming for all of the students. Without that building there would be no place for those programs to be offered in the district.
- There are some who are concerned that staff would lose their positions if reorganization is approved. Mr. Kenealy stated that typically two factors cause the decision to cut staff. Declining enrollment and declining revenues. Approving reorganization will not cause anyone to lose their position with the district.
- There is a notion that property taxes will increase as a result of reorganization. Mr. Kenealy referred the patrons to the documents provided. One document prepared by Mrs. Leonard, the shared Business Manager of the two districts charted the property tax rate for each district for nearly twenty to thirty years. The document shows that through the BCIG reorganization and the years of OA-BCIG whole grade sharing that property tax rates have gone down and are relatively steady today. Property valuations and decisions made in Des Moines typically impact tax rates more than the local budget itself. The projections for the new district show that property tax rates look to stay at the same level. Currently BCIG has a property tax rate of \$12.31476 per each thousand dollars of property value and OA has a property tax rate of \$12.31358.

In the initial years of a reorganization there is an incentive program from the state for three years just like with whole grade sharing there was an incentive program for three years. The reorganization incentive is a lowering of the school district's mandatory Uniform Levy Rate from \$5.40 per each thousand dollars of valuation to \$4.40 per each thousand dollars of valuation. The property tax reduction in the OA district that first year would be around \$153,260 and for BCIG is would be approximately \$261,912. The state Increases state supplemental aid to make up the difference in the general fund budget.

The second year of reorganization the Uniform Levy Rate would increase from \$4.40 to \$4.90 and in the third year the Uniform Levy Rate would increase from \$4.90 to \$5.15. The estimated total savings in property tax dollars due to the reorganization incentive over the first three years is estimated to be approximately \$700,000 for the new district's taxpayers.

- There are those who are concerned that each district would lose Operational Sharing Incentive dollars that combined this year total \$278,000. Mr. Kenealy explained the operational sharing program and how it works and the options available to the districts.
- The current operational sharing legislation went into effect at the beginning of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The initial year of sharing incentives were based on the Fall BEDS submission that each school district completed the previous fall which would be the 2013-2014.
- The legislature identified certain staff positions that qualify for operational sharing incentives. Each qualified position that is shared counts towards a determined number of additional 'students' added to the certified enrollment in the state supplemental aid formula.
  - Superintendent = 8 students
  - Transportation Director = 5 students
  - Business Manager = 5 students
  - Curriculum Director = 3 students
  - Maintenance Director = 5 students
- The maximum number of additional equivalent 'students' is 21. The two districts share all five of these identified positions so they have each maxed out at 21. 21 students multiplied by the state cost per pupil for 2016-2017 (\$6,591) = \$138,411 per district that will be added to each district's general fund revenues this fiscal year or a total of \$276,822. The new program was written to last for five years with the clock on the program starting with the 2014-2015 fiscal year whether you were taking advantage of the program or not. So, in essence, school districts could receive operational sharing incentives in fiscal year 2015, fiscal year 2016, fiscal year 2017, fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019. The program as written is scheduled to sunset or terminate at the end of fiscal year 2019.
- As was indicated earlier the first year's incentives for fiscal year 2015 were based on the Fall BEDS submitted in 2013-2014. This past year, 2015-2016, our school districts received incentives based on the Fall BEDS submitted in 2014-2015. In this current fiscal year, 2016-2017, the districts will receive incentives based on the Fall BEDS submitted in 2015-2016. In fiscal year 2017-2018 (the first year of a potential reorganized school district) the new district would receive incentives from the 2016-2017 Fall BEDS submission. In fiscal year 2018-2019 the district would not receive incentives based on our current sharing arrangements between Odebolt-Arthur and Battle Creek-Ida Grove, the last fiscal year scheduled for operational sharing incentives in the state of Iowa. If the new district could enter into sharing arrangements with other neighboring schools for the 2017-2018 school year they would be able to qualify for the last year of incentives in fiscal year 2018-2019. If no new arrangements could be found the new district would lose the last year of operational incentive money in the 2018-2019 fiscal year or approximately \$280,000. In fiscal year 2019-2020 operational sharing incentives are scheduled to no longer be available.

**A question came from a Patron:** How are teachers wage and contracts going to be determined between the two districts? Mr. Kenealy explained that by statute the master contract from the school district with the most students at the time of a reorganization becomes the initial master contract for the purpose of contract negotiations. The association and board members

negotiate the contract including the salary schedule. Statute says no one can be hired for less than their current salary when districts reorganize.

**Another Patron Question:** If reorganization passes who pays for the BCIG elementary. If the addition was being paid for through a General Obligation bond, a bond that had been voted on and approved by at least 60% plus one of the eligible voters that would have to be included in the ballot language. The BCIG addition is not funded by General Obligation bonds it is paid for with revenue sales tax bond/funds which would continue to be paid from Sales Tax Revenue under reorganization. No property tax dollars are used to pay for the addition.

**Patron Question Concerning the Talk of a Bond Issue to Upgrade Facilities:** Over the past school year a Combined Facilities Committee has been working to identify priorities for the facility in Odebolt and the high school facility in Ida Grove. Minutes of that committee work were shared as one of the documents available to the patrons. In order for a General Obligation Bond Referendum to pass to address facility needs in both communities the district would have to present a case to the voters of the entire district that there truly is a need for the work to be done and convince the voters to support the referendum by casting a super majority vote of 60% plus one to approve the bonds. It would take overwhelming support from each community to get to the 60% super majority. The only way to accomplish that is to prove that the work is really needed and it is worth raising your property taxes to pay for it. That is a hard sell.

**A patron commented that isn't it difficult to address a bond issue when districts are whole grade sharing? There is too much uncertainty from year to year.**

**Patron Randy Miller made a statement to the group:** Mr. Miller stated he was a member of the Ida Grove board in 1993 when Ida Grove reorganized with Battle Creek. He clarified that no promise was made to keep the Battle Creek building open. He confirmed that with a Battle Creek board member at the time just to be sure. Mr. Kenealy explained that school boards do not have the authority to make a promise or pass a resolution that they will not close a building because boards cannot tie the hands of a future board to make governmental decisions by statute. Making a decision to close a building or keep a building open is a governmental decision. No one can guarantee that any building will stay open forever.

**A patron asked a question about the configuration of the new board and whether or not it could have been configured differently.** Mr. Kenealy reviewed the five formats that the state provides for the makeup of a school board. All five options were discussed and debated until they eventually arrived at the format that was included in the petition. Any changes to that configuration would need to be approved by the voters and that could be done if there is a sense that after working with the initial format some changes need to be considered.

**A patron commented that knowing there is a concern about the balance of power on the board isn't it reasonable to think the newly organized board would vote as a unified board.**

**A patron asked what changes would we see if we reorganize?** Mr. Kenealy indicated that the current grade level configurations would stay the same, students would still attend middle school in Odebolt and students would still attend high school in Ida Grove. The school name decals would change on our buses and support vehicles, there would be some new signage on the outside of the buildings, etc to reflect the OABCIG School District name. There would be one master contract, one official set of board policies, memberships in state organizations and professional associations would be combined, General Fund duplicate charges would go away

saving the district approximately \$50,000. Health insurance costs might be reduced as the new district would have a larger pool of employees to cover and several entities may compete for that business. Right now the premium cost for health insurance is much lower in OA when compared to the BCIG premium cost and we anticipate that the premium cost would go down, perhaps as much as \$200,000 in total cost to the district.

**If the vote for reorganization does not pass what options would the school districts have?** Mr. Kenealy explained that the boards would have to evaluate the results, how close was the vote? Should the boards consider bringing the question back for another vote? At minimum the districts would need to wait at least six months.

The boards could also chose to terminate the Whole Grade Sharing Agreement and both districts would then go on their own. If one or both boards voted to terminate the agreement by November 1 then the agreement would end and each district would be on their own by July of 2017. The boards could consider a one-way share with other districts or other sharing partners.

Mr. Kenealy stated that we have been getting questions about open enrollment? Especially if the vote fails and at least one of the two districts chooses to terminate the agreement by November 1. In talking to the Iowa High School Athletic Association they have shared with us that students who open enroll into BCIG for high school by March 1, 2017 would not lose eligibility to compete in varsity competition due to the fact that they began their high school eligibility at OA-BCIG High School.

Mr. Kenealy also discussed the status of elementary aged students who are currently open enrolled to OA from BCIG or to BCIG from OA. At this time, because the two districts are transporting students in grades 6-12 we have provided transportation for elementary students also. If the whole grade sharing agreement were to be terminated there would have to be an inter district agreement between the two districts to allow buses into the other district to pick up students who open enroll between the two districts. Currently there is no agreement between any of the districts to allow this and most districts do not enter into these agreements to protect their student enrollment.

**A patron asked why the superintendent salary and benefits are split 50/50 when OA is the smaller district?** Mr. Kenealy explained his work schedule that includes half his time working in the OA district and that his work as superintendent is basically the same for each district even if one district is smaller than the other. Each district has the same reports to be submitted, each district has contracts and policies to maintain. It all takes time. In addition Mrs. Leonard explained that a change in the percentage split for superintendent has been discussed twice in recent years. The OA board chose to keep the split 50/50.

**A patron asked about space available in any of the district buildings?** Mr. Kenealy stated that the BCIG addition, when it is finished will be filled with the current student population attending BCIG elementary. Some programs and staff will have better spaces to work in than they currently have. The Odebolt building is basically fully utilized and the high school is also fully utilized and getting crowded.

**A patron stated that there are students in the audience tonight.** She is concerned with propaganda that circulated this summer. Will get mixed answers from the students on how Whole Grade Sharing is going. The patron questioned the availability of college courses if districts are separate, questioned the status of staff members from OA, students stated they



won't get to see their friends. Stated that as we (patrons) are making the decisions, don't put fear into students. Again asked: Will students still be able to get access to college classes?

Mr. Kenealy indicated that if the districts go on their own, each district will have to make decisions on what programs can be offered within the confines of the available budget to fund school operations. If they end up separated and on their own it will change things. However high school students will still be able to access college level courses that are offered by WIT or other online institutions like they do now. However the district will be strapped in their ability to offer upper level courses in science, math, literature, social studies, etc. because neither district would have the same resources they have now as partners. The individual districts would need to look for ways to share programs or staff with other districts. It is also difficult to find certified teachers who are licensed and willing to teach multiple core class areas such as science and math. If the two districts move forward on their own the number of staff members will go down. Also would have a short time frame to get everything prepared for the 2017-2018 school year.

**A patron read a comment/question from an alumnus Greg Simpson.** He asked that the patrons look out for all communities involved.

**Mr. Kenealy stated that there is a \$19 million figure that keeps surfacing regarding the total estimated cost of a possible bond issue that BCIG needs to address its facilities issues.** There was comprehensive facilities study completed for BCIG during the 2013-2014 school year. The total estimated cost of the 'wish' list of items that Mr. Kenealy reviewed from the committee report totaled \$17.8 million. That report included the BCIG Elementary Addition which is near completion, it included the Baseball/Football/Track complex lighting that are now completed, it included a new Football/Track scoreboard that due to a \$17,000 donation from United Bank of Iowa has been added to the sports complex at the high school. Other items on that list have been finished also and added up they total around \$5 million or more in improvements that are done or are nearly done. There are still a number of items that remain on that list but that total is closer to \$12 million if everything on the list were to be done but Mr. Kenealy stated that a number of items remaining would be hard to prove the need for in order to pass a bond issue. The list also didn't include any ADA non-compliance issues and there are some of those issues at the high school that need to be addressed.

**A patron stated that as a new district the buildings would be all of our buildings and we would want them all to be nice for all of our students.**

**Another patron stated, wouldn't reorganization mean the board would have concern for and control in decisions about all buildings?**

**A staff member asked why the BCIG board hasn't made more decisions to make improvements at the high school.** Mr. Kenealy explained that the BCIG board chose to get the elementary issues addressed first before making additional decisions on high school improvements.

**Mr. Kenealy addressed another question that has been raised as to whether or not the state closes down facilities?** Both the Odebolt building and the High School in Ida Grove have ADA compliance issues. Federal law dictates that districts have to be able to provide individual access to all of the educational programs offered in a building. In the High School the locker rooms aren't accessible since the only way to get to them is by taking a flight of stairs. If the Department of Education does a site visit, they will make a list of deficiencies and the school boards will have to establish a plan of correction with a timeline that explains how they will

address those issues, how they will pay for it and when it will be finished. The Department of Education has to approve the plan and they could send it back for corrections.

**A board member, Brad Lundell asked how many students are currently in the buildings?**

Mr. Mogensen indicated that last year there were 400 students in the Odebolt building. Mr. Henderson stated that BCIG Elementary had 370 students and Mr. Miller added that the High School has 285 students this year and expects to have 305 students next year.

**A patron asked if there would be committees created to help with the identity, name, colors, etc. How do we get students and community involved to unite?** Mr. Kenealy stated that the ballot language establishes the official school name as the Odebolt Arthur Battle Creek Ida Grove Community School District. If the vote to reorganize is approved that will be the name of the new district and that can't change without another vote of the patrons.

In addition Mr. Kenealy indicated that he supports having conversations with all involved, whether the vote passes or fails, to discuss issues designed to make our school even better than it is.

**During the course of the meetings Mr. Kenealy also addressed the following issues:**

- Summer Projects and Upgrades to the facilities in each district:  
This summer: OA: \$440,000 worth and BCIG: \$630,000 worth  
Since Whole Grade Sharing Began:  
OA: \$2,574,862 in improvements BCIG: \$5,345,458 in improvements
- SAVE Fund Information: In 2016-2017 each district will receive \$968.22 per weighted enrollment student in Sales Tax Revenues for the State. OA will receive approximately \$327,000 this fiscal year and BCIG will receive about \$615,000.
- Current Financial Statements were shared and discussed. Both districts have excellent cash balances and very good Unspent Authorized Budget balances.
- Since Whole Grade Sharing began and to address a comment that all the BCIG Board wants to do is get its hands on the OA money the following has occurred:  
From 2009-2015 Odebolt-Arthur has sent \$4,462,137 to BCIG to cover their share of high school expenses. During the same time BCIG sent \$5,804,148 to OA to cover their share of middle school expenses. Each district has financially benefited as partners.
- Discussed the special election on September 13 and how important it is for everyone to vote this year.

The Arthur Community Meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

The Ida Grove Community Meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.

The Odebolt Community Meeting ended at 9:08 p.m.

The Battle Creek Community Meeting ended at 8:29 p.m.

I hope that this very rough summary of the discussions from the community meetings is helpful. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

**Have a fantastic Labor Day weekend!**

