

To: Community Members of Benson, Congerville, Eureka, Goodfield, and Roanoke
From: Bob Bardwell, CUSD 140 Superintendent
Rohn Peterson, CUSD 60 Superintendent
Date: August 14, 2017
Re: Upcoming Special Joint Board Meeting

On August 21, 2017 the School Boards of District #140 and District #60 will hold a special joint school board meeting to consider whether the two districts should engage in a school consolidation study. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be held in the Eureka High School Auditorium. Present at the meeting will be Dr. Bill Phillips, one of Illinois leading authorities on the topic of school reorganization. Dr. Phillips will present what a school consolidation study would entail, the costs involved, and what information would be investigated. The agenda will not have a public comment section but the public is invited to attend.

Both districts desire to develop long-range plans for curriculum and facilities. When developing these plans all options will be considered including consolidation. In order to develop these plans, each district will need as much information as possible to make the best decisions for their respective district. Enrollment projections indicate declining enrollment over the next 10 years for both school districts and the revenue streams from the the State of Illinois have been declining and inconsistent at best. A consolidation study will give some insight into the future of each district and will help identify the areas of strength and areas that need improvement for both districts.

It will take approximately four months to complete the study. The results of the study will be presented to each board at a joint meeting and it will be open to the public. Each board will determine whether to take further action once the study is complete.

The topic of school consolidation can elicit varying types and degrees of emotions. **It is important to understand that this is only a study.** The majority of school districts who go through this type of study never move on to any reorganization because of the complex nature of consolidation. We believe the information that the study will provide will be helpful to both districts in the future even if consolidation never happens.

We will continue to keep the public informed as things progress. Please feel free to contact either one of us if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Bob Bardwell, Superintendent, School District #140
Rohn Peterson, Superintendent School District #60