

West Fork Reorganization Information

There seems to be some misinformation concerning the reorganization petition that is being circulated around the school districts.

The reorganization petition - the petition is a means to bring forth a vote for school reorganization. In order for this issue to be put to a vote of the residents, SCMT must gather a minimum of 434 signatures and RS must gather a minimum of 291 signatures. Both School Boards voted to gather the appropriate signatures so that the residents of the districts can determine reorganization.

Grade placement – grades 9-12 are housed at the Sheffield campus, grades 4-8 are housed at the Rockwell campus, both campuses house grades Pre-K thru 3. There is nothing in the whole grade sharing agreement that allows for individual aspects of the agreement to change without nullifying the entire agreement. There was discussion of the SCMT 4th graders being educated at the Sheffield campus; should reorganization occur this is a mute issue.

Board Members - the number of directors on the initial board shall be five and they shall be selected pursuant to section 275.41, Code of Iowa (the alternative method of carryover appointments), three (3) directors initially appointed from the Sheffield Chapin Meservey Thornton Community School District Board of Directors and two (2) initially appointed from the Rockwell-Swaledale Community School District Board of Directors. The number of directors on the regular board shall also be five and shall be elected pursuant to section 275.12(2)(c) of the Code of Iowa, i.e. electors from the entire district voting for each director and division of the new district into two multi-member director districts, two member director districts represented by residents of that director district and a fifth member elected at large.

Cost Savings to the Districts – should the districts reorganize, substantial cost savings would be experienced including one superintendent, one business manager, transportation expenses, program and personnel savings.

Tax Levy & Debt – the proposed tax rate (based on FY 2010 information) for the reorganized district would be \$12.85/1000 for all district (West Fork) patrons. The current rates we are paying as separate districts are as follows: RS-\$13.77, SC-13.28, MT-11.30. If reorganization were to occur, the estimated rate of \$12.85 would be reduced due to state incentives to an estimated \$11.85 during FY 2012, \$12.35 during FY 2013 and \$12.60 during FY 2014.

School Debt- if reorganization were to occur beginning in FY 2012, Rockwell Swaledale would have roughly \$854,000 in remaining debt that will be paid off over three years using Local Option Sales Tax revenue generated by all West Fork students. The SCMT district would have roughly \$1,283,000 of bonded to be paid off by all West Fork property owners over the next six years. This property tax would comprise .71299 / \$1000 of the estimated \$12.85 rate. If the newly elected board chose to, they could shift this debt or a portion of it to Local Option Sales Tax Revenues and reduce the tax rate for the remaining three years of the six year debt obligation by .71299 / \$1000 which would lower the proposed tax rate beginning in FY 2015.

Timeline for petitions – if you wish to sign the petition signature page, please do so in your resident district by March 15th. Petitions are available in both district offices and at various locations in the communities. If you wish for more information or a petition, feel free to contact Tracy Schreckengost, Dawn Floy, Amy Symens, or Rhonda Younge.