STATE OF ILLINOIS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

In re:

A PETITION TO FORM A COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSISTING
OF ALL OF ABINGDON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 217, AVON
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 176 AND BUSHNELL-PRAIRIE CITY
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 170

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

Pursuant to Section 11E-50 of the School Code, I received on November 8, 2011, the
record of the proceedings regarding the proposed formation of a community unit district
from all of Abingdon Community Unit School District 217, Avon Community Unit
School District 176 and Bushnell-Prairie City Community Unit School District 170.

I have reviewed the entire record of the proceedings held before the Regional
Superintendent, including the transcript of the hearing and all evidence presented at the
hearing, and based upon the record, I make the following findings and conclusions.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

1. The petition was filed in the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools of
Hancock/McDonough Counties on September 23, 2011. An amended petition was
filed on October 5, 2011. Notice was given and a hearing was convened in
accordance with Article 11E of the School Code.

2. The Regional Superintendent of Schools issued approval of the petition on
November 8, 2011.

3. The record indicates that the approved petition:
   
a) requests the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election (on
March 20, 2012) for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a
community unit school district in the territory;

b) requests the proposition to include the election of school board members by
district rather than at large at the same election as the consolidation question;

c) describes the territory comprising the proposed district;

d) sets the maximum tax rates for educational, operations and maintenance, and
pupil transportation purposes the proposed district shall be authorized to levy, as
required by statute;
e) also sets the maximum tax rate for working cash purposes, as permitted by statute;

f) does not include a description of how supplementary State deficit difference payments made under subsection (c) of Section 11E-135 will be allocated among the new district or districts proposed to be formed, the non-inclusion of which I do not believe fatally flaws the petition as any deficit difference payment would be paid to the new resulting district as required by statute;

g) was filed by the Board of Education of Abingdon Community Unit School District 217, the Board of Education of Avon Community Unit School District 176 and the Board of Education of Bushnell-Prairie City Community Unit School District 170; and

h) designates a Committee of Ten of the petitioners.

4. The record indicates that the territory described in the petition consists of three entire contiguous unit districts.

As reported by the proponents of the petition, the consolidation of the districts into a community unit school district will result in the following:

a) the ability to increase curricular offerings.

b) the ability to increase extra-curricular offerings.

c) the opportunity for teachers to work in their major field of study.

d) the opportunity for efficient use of current buildings.
DECISION

Having reviewed the petition, transcript of the hearing and supporting evidence, and the Regional Superintendent's decision, and taking into consideration the school needs and conditions of the affected districts and in the area adjacent thereto, the division of funds and assets that will result from the action described in the petition, the best interests of the schools of the area, and the best interests and the educational welfare of the pupils residing therein, I hereby approve the petition. Approval of this petition will allow the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election on March 20, 2012, for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a community unit school district in the territory.

Christopher Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

DATED: 1/24/11