STATE OF ILLINOIS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

In re:

A PETITION TO FORM A COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSISTING OF ALL OF CHRISTOPHER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 99 AND ZEIGLER-ROYALTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 188

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

Pursuant to Section 11E-50 of the School Code, I received on June 27, 2012, the record of the proceedings regarding the proposed formation of a community unit district from all of Christopher Community Unit School District 99 and Zeigler-Royalton Community Unit School District 188.

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 Franklin/Williamson Counties on May 3, 2012. Amended petitions were filed on June 11, 2012 and June 20, 2012. 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 June 25, 2012.

3. The record indicates that the approved petition:

   a) requests the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election (on November 6, 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, but does not request the election of board members at the same election as the question to form the new district;

   c) describes the territory comprising the proposed district;

   d) requests an effective date of July 1, 2014, for the new district, which could be subject to change if House Bill 4043 becomes law;
e) sets the maximum tax rates for all purposes the proposed district shall be authorized to levy, specifies the aggregate extension base the district will seek to establish, as required by statute, and specifies the debt service extension base the district will seek to establish, as permitted by statute;

f) addresses the payment of the supplementary State deficit difference under subsection (c) of Section 11E-135;

g) was filed by the Board of Education of Christopher Community Unit School District 99 and the Board of Education of Zeigler-Royalton Community Unit School District 188; and

h) designates a Committee of Ten of the petitioners.

4. The record indicates that the territory described in the petition consists of two 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 expand curriculum, advanced studies, and vocational education.

b) the ability to provide students more educational opportunities.

c) the opportunity for economies of scale in purchasing.

d) the opportunity for curriculum articulation in the new district.
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 November 6, 2012, for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a community unit school district in the territory.

Chris Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

DATED: 7/7/12

This is a final administrative order and is subject to review under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law, 735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.