STATE OF ILLINOIS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

In re:

A PETITION TO FORM A COMBINED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSISTING OF ALL OF EAST COLOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT 12 AND NELSON SCHOOL DISTRICT 8

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

Pursuant to Section 11E-50 of the School Code, I received on November 26, 2012, the record of the proceedings regarding the proposed formation of a combined elementary school district from all of East Coloma School District 12 and Nelson School District 8.

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 Whiteside County on September 27, 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 November 20, 2012.

3. The record indicates that the approved petition:

   a) requests the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election (on April 9, 2013) for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a combined elementary school district in the territory;

   b) requests the election of board members on an “at large” basis 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) describes 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;

g) was filed by the Board of Education of East Coloma School District 12 and the Board of Education of Nelson School District 8; 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 elementary districts.

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

a) the opportunity to achieve ideal class sizes.

b) the opportunity to provide students more exposure to intervention programs.

c) the opportunity to provide more electives.

d) the opportunity for teachers to work collaboratively.

e) financial stability while maintaining local control.
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 April 9, 2013, for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a combined elementary school district in the territory.

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

DATED: 12/5/12

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.