STATE OF ILLINOIS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

In re:

A PETITION TO FORM A COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSISTING OF ALL OF PANHANDLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2 AND MORRISONVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 1

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

Pursuant to Section 11E-50 of the School Code, I received on November 1, 2013, the record of the proceedings regarding the proposed formation of a community unit school district from all of Panhandle Community Unit School District 2 and Morrisonville Community Unit School District 1.

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 Christian/Montgomery Counties on September 19, 2013. 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 October 31, 2013.

3. The record indicates that the approved petition:

   a) requests the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election (on March 18, 2014) for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a community unit school district in the territory;

   b) does not request the election of board members at the same election as the question to form the new district; if the question to form the new district is approved at referendum, the Regional Superintendent shall call the election of board members on an at large basis at the next regular scheduled election (on November 4, 2014);

   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 health and life safety 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 Panhandle Community Unit School District 2 and the Board of Education of Morrisonville Community Unit School District 1; 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 opportunity to offer more educational choices and extracurricular activities while keeping a small school setting.

b) the ability to offer multiple sections of core, elective and advanced-level courses to allow flexibility in student scheduling.

c) the ability to keep local control in school board decisions.

d) the ability to accommodate all students in existing school buildings without additional construction.

e) economy of scale savings from larger volume purchases.
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 18, 2014, for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of a community unit school district in the territory.

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

DATED: 11/18/13

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.