



south dakota
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2294

T 605.773.3134
F 605.773.6139
www.doe.sd.gov

June 11, 2014

Karen Blume, Chairperson
Douglas County Commission
P.O. Box 159
Armour, SD 57313-0159

Skip Guindon, Chairperson
Aurora County Commission
P.O. Box 397
Plankinton, SD 57368-0397

John Claggett, Chairperson
Davison County Commission
200 East 4th Ave.
Mitchell, SD 57301-2692

Jeremy Wright, School Board President
Corsica School District 21-2
39168 269th Street
Corsica, SD 57328

Lloyd Persson, School Board President
Stickney School District 01-2
26680 388 Avenue
Stickney, SD 57375

Dear Presidents Wright and Persson and Chairpersons Blume, Guindon and Claggett:

Upon review of the reorganization plan submitted by the Corsica and Stickney school districts, I find it is in compliance with the requirements for school district reorganization, and according to procedures set forth in SDCL 13-6-41, the proposal will be submitted to the voters of the Corsica School District and the Stickney School District in special elections called by the two school boards.

The Department of Education and its Secretary have carefully examined this plan. The department and Secretary have NOT, however, inspected facilities, obtained maps or plats of the counties involved, and have not verified the correctness of legal descriptions and other details contained in the plan. Insuring the accuracy of all such matters is the responsibility of the two school districts involved, and the department gives notice that it assumes no liability for the accuracy or correctness of such matters. The department finds only that the plan, if accurate and correct, complies with legal requirements for a school reorganization plan set out in Title 13 of the South Dakota Codified Laws.

SDCL 13-6-18 states, in part, that I may deny approval of a plan when in my judgment "the proposed district does not contain enough valuation or enrollment to provide an adequate educational program." In addition, a 13-part reorganization plan must be submitted pursuant to SDCL 13-6-13.

I find that the elements of the 13-step reorganization plan, set out in SDCL 13-6-13, have been satisfied. It is my conclusion that the proposed new district contains enough valuation or enrollment to “provide an adequate educational program.”

In my judgment, the provisions of SDCL 13-6-18 and SDCL 13-6-13 have been met by the reorganization plan submitted by the Corsica and Stickney school districts. Having made that determination, I hereby call for a vote by the residents of the Corsica and Stickney school districts to decide this matter. The vote requires a simple majority in each district to pass.

In order to provide opportunity for all interested and eligible residents of Corsica and Stickney school districts to register to vote and otherwise meet South Dakota election requirements, the following timetable is established in accordance with applicable statutes:

- June 23-27: First notice of voter registration deadline
- June 30-July 4: Second notice of voter registration deadline
- July 14: Voter registration deadline; first day for absentee voting
- July 14-18: First notice of special elections
- Week of July 21: Publication of a facsimile of the official ballot
- July 21-25: Second notice of special elections
- July 29: Election day
- August 11: Certification and canvass of votes by the Corsica School Board and the Stickney School Board at their regular meetings, after which results of the election will be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department of Education
- September 8: Deadline to submit results of election to the Secretary of Department of Education
- October 13: Deadline for the Department of Education Secretary to issue a reorganization order that is effective July 1, 2015.

Here are the final steps in the process:

1. Receipt and review of the results of the elections by the Secretary of the Department of Education.
2. Notification of approval or rejection of the plan by the voters is sent to the school boards and the county commissions by the Secretary of the Department of Education.

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3. If approved, the order to give effect to the plan is issued by the Secretary of the Department of Education. The order will include:
 - a description of the boundary of the new school district;
 - the date that the district shall become operative;
 - the number of school board members to be elected; and
 - the county of jurisdiction.

4. Board of County Commissioners prepares directives regarding transfer of assets and liabilities; copy mailed to the secretary of the Department of Education.

It is my intent to have the effect of the vote operative by July 1, 2015.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melody Schopp
Secretary

cc: Vern DeGeest, Corsica School District Superintendent
Robert Krietlow, Stickney School District Superintendent
Susan Urban, Aurora County Auditor
Susan Kiepke, Davison County Auditor
Phyllis Barker, Douglas County Auditor