



Summit Hill School District 161

Arbury Hills School ■ Frankfort Square School ■ Indian Trail School
Dr. Julian Rogus School ■ Walker Intermediate School ■ Summit Hill Jr. High

www.summithill.org

September 27, 2018

Joseph Kirkeeng
President - Lincoln Way District 210 Board of Education
201 Colorado Avenue
Frankfort, L 60423

Mr. Kirkeeng,

As you may be aware, Summit Hill, District 161 has formed an exploratory committee, the Summit Hill Unit District Committee, to gather facts related to the formation of a unit school district to serve the area currently served by the Summit Hill and Lincoln Way school districts. In determining the path forward for this effort, the committee reached out to the Illinois State Board of Education to determine what the basic and next steps should be in the information gathering process.

A representative from ISBE presented to the Summit Hill Unit District Committee and public in attendance on Wednesday, August 15, 2018. The ISBE representative did not speak to the benefits, detriments, or likely success of the noted consolidation, only to the process and path forward for consolidations in general. The primary next step identified by the presenter was the completion of a feasibility study by an external consultant that specializes in the consolidation of school districts. This study would collect base, non-confidential information from all impacted school districts, in this case Summit Hill and Lincoln Way, and provide an opinion as to the feasibility and possible advantages or disadvantages of such a consolidation.

While ISBE does not directly conduct or participate in feasibility studies, they do have an allocated budget to partially reimburse school districts that have studies completed, in cases where all impacted school districts have agreed to participate in the study. ISBE also maintains a list of feasibility study consultants and guidelines for the information to be covered in any completed feasibility study.

At the Summit Hill Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, the Summit Hill Board determined that moving forward with a feasibility study as described above was the appropriate next step in addressing the gathering of information related to a possible consolidation. Specifically, the Summit Hill Board authorized the release of an RFP for

consulting services related to the creation of a feasibility study and the submission of a request for feasibility study participation to the Lincoln Way District 210 Board of Education.

Feasibility study participation by District 210 is being sought to minimize the impact of information collection to District 161 and 210 (the provision of information can be scheduled by participants with the consultants) and financial impact to District 161 (participation by District 210 will allow District 161 to seek reimbursement of consulting fees from the state). Participation by District 210 is not being sought to directly offset any of the feasibility study costs (all costs not reimbursed by the state will be the responsibility of District 161) or to share the RFP responsibility and consultant selection effort. Also, it is understood that any participation in the feasibility study by District 210 or District 161 would not endorse or otherwise support a possible future consolidation effort; the collection of information and an examination of the possible is all that is being proposed at this time.

On behalf of the Summit Hill Board of Education, I would ask that this item be added to the agenda for the October 2018 Lincoln Way Board of Education meeting for discussion and consideration. I would be happy to discuss this item with you or provide any additional information as you may feel beneficial. I would also ask that if the decision is made to not add this to the District 210 Board of Education agenda for any reason, that you communicate this to me so that I may set expectations for the Summit Hill Board accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Richard Marron

President – Summit Hill District 161 Board of Education