

DISTRICT TALK

By

Russ Freeman
BCIG Superintendent

Dani Trimble
O-A Superintendent

Over the past several months the school boards of the Battle Creek-Ida Grove and Odebolt-Arthur School Districts have reviewed, revised and sometimes created items for a Whole Grade Sharing Contract. It is now time to review this contract with the public of both school districts and to gather input on the Whole Grade Sharing Plan. Following is a list of dates for the Public Hearings, information on the procedures that will be followed and how the public can submit questions or share their thoughts on the plan.

Battle Creek-Ida Grove & Odebolt-Arthur School Districts Public Hearings on Whole Grade Sharing

Wednesday, January 2, 2008

Sunday, January 6, 2008

Monday, January 7, 2008

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Odebolt, Odebolt Community Center

Battle Creek, BCIG MS

Arthur, Arthur Community Center

Ida Grove, Early Childhood Center Auditorium

All Public Hearings will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Public Hearing Procedures:

- A Board Meeting is a meeting **in** the public, **not of** the public according to the guidelines established in Iowa Code and affirmed by the Iowa Supreme Court. It is the wish of the Battle Creek-Ida Grove and Odebolt-Arthur School Boards to have open and frank input from the public before making a decision on Whole Grade Sharing beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. This forum will serve as a vehicle to provide patrons with the opportunity of presenting their thoughts and opinions concerning Whole Grade Sharing.
- In order to maintain an orderly meeting, the Boards would like anyone that addresses the topic of Whole Grade Sharing to follow the procedure listed below:
 1. The purpose for public input is to allow the Boards to gather information by allowing patrons to share their thoughts, preferences, and ideas for Whole Grade Sharing
 2. Each patron that desires to speak will sign in and be recognized by the Board prior to speaking. Any patron will be allowed the opportunity to sign in up until the district presentation ends and public input is about to begin.
 3. Each patron will be allowed adequate time (3-5 minutes) to express their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions at the microphone. Board Members will probably not respond to any input at this time.
- Public Hearings will be conducted using the following outline:
 - I. Welcome Patrons
 - II. Review Procedures
 - III. District Presentation
 - IV. Public Input
- All comments will be recorded for Board consideration.

Questions Prior to Public Hearings:

Patrons of both Districts will be invited to mail or email WGS questions to either of the following:

Mrs. Dani Trimble
Odebolt-Arthur Schols
P.O. Box 475
Odebolt, IA 51458

danitrimble@odebolt-arthur.k12.ia.us

Mr. Russ Freeman
BCIG Schools
301 Moorehead Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445

rfreeman@bc-ig.k12.ia.us

We plan to utilize our District web pages and local newspapers to invite questions. After the WGS Presentation has been prepared, all questions will be reviewed. If a theme of questions surfaces that does not appear to be addressed in the presentation, an effort will be made to address the theme in the presentation. The purpose of this forum is to gather questions only. No questions will be answered directly via mail or email at this time.

Communication Following Public Hearings:

After the conclusion of all four Public Hearings, the Boards will consider public input. The Superintendents will prepare responses to questions raised either from emails or the Public Hearings. A thematic approach will be used in these responses. Responses will be shared through media and District web sites.