

Caledonia School District Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: April 13, 2009

Location: East Side Caledonia Community Center, 6156 Douglas Ave., Racine, WI

Meeting Stared at 7:05pm.

Attendees: Austin M., Brian D., Jerry O., Angie M., Pagette F., and 8 from general public

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **There will be a Petition Drive on Saturday, April 25th at Eastside Community Center (6156 Douglas Ave) from 9:00am to 2:00pm.**
- **We have 1565 signatures, but need to average 126/day to meet our 9,700 goal by July 1, 2009.**

- As of tonight we have 1565 signatures turned in.
- We have 78 Days to go until July 1
- This means we need ~126 signatures per day / 8.4 full petition sheets per day
- **WE NEED AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP GET THESE SIGNATURES!**

- If we do not turn in signatures this July 1st, we will need to push until July 1st 2010. Technically there is no time limit for collecting signatures, but Brian is checking for a legislative opinion on any expiration date for signatures.
- RUSD has still publicly stated that they are not interested in discussing the issue unless the petition signatures are presented.
- There is still a lack of understanding and information in the public. The website and yard signs will only get us so far. Brian has sent news releases to media outlets, but so far since there is no buzz right now they are not passing it along to the public. WTMJ and WRJN are very interested in this story and are willing to listen, but **it is highly unlikely that this will make the news until our signature number hits 5000 or more!**
- News has been able to spread to other communities (Mount Pleasant, Wind Point and even Pleasant Prairie), and the feedback from outside Caledonia has been

incredibly positive and supportive.

- We need volunteers to get out into the public to draw awareness and and help collect signatures:
 - Parents are in the public at youth soccer events (Field is near Dunkelow & Nicholson) and baseball. ***Brian D. has already talked with the organizations for these sports and they have said it is okay for volunteers to petition for signatures at events.***
 - Attempt to get a list of events and ask people to sign up for events. We need responses from volunteers to confirm that events are being covered.
- Volunteers can help put emphasis on the Paulin Study saying that RUSD needs \$395 Million dollars (in 2005 dollars), and a referendum for this will be coming, in addition to additional referendums to help offset other operational losses (the current \$3.5Million budget deficit, the loss of 500 students in 2008-09, etc.).
- A question was asked about voting. The vote would be within Caledonia only, unless RUSD is able to collect 20%
- A lot of the ideas for advertising and signs, but these ideas cost money. The CSDSC is made up of Caledonia citizens and is not funded in any way by the village or any other government entity. We are looking for donations from people, and any dollar amount will help!
- Yard Signs have been preliminarily priced out to be approximately \$335. Austin will get a price quote from a local sign fabricator to bring to the CSDSC for vote and approval.
- A question about who on the Village Board are in favor of a CSDSC. Brian S. was able to say that 1 member is against, 4 are in favor, and he is unsure on the rest of the board members.

Meeting concluded at 8:25pm.

Action Items

1. Brian D. to check on the following petition questions:
 - a. Can signatures collected at anytime be submitted to the clerk at anytime in the future?
 - b. Can people who own property within RUSD with a physical street address – but not have houses built on the property – sign the petitions?
2. Austin will get a price quote from a local sign fabricator to bring to the CSDSC for vote and approval.