

Caledonia School District Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: April 27, 2009

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

Meeting Stared at 7:20pm.

Attendees: Austin M., Brian D., Pagette F., Kathy B., John L., Theresa R., Lisa B. and 5 from general public.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ***WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO GO DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTING SIGNATURES! ANY RESIDENT IN RUSD CAN SIGN!***
- ***We have 2350 signatures, but need to average 124/day to meet our 9,700 goal by July 1, 2009.***
- ***If all 200 people who receive our emails turn in 3 petition sheets (45 signatures), we will reach our goal!***
- ***NEXT PETITION DRIVE – SAT & SUN, MAY 16 & 17***

- As of tonight we have 2350 signatures turned in.
- We have 64 Days to go until July 1
- This means we need ~124 signatures per day / 8.3 full petition sheets per day
- **WE NEED AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP GET THESE SIGNATURES!**

- The Journal Times printed a commentary from a former RUSD teacher that lambasted the Caledonia School District efforts. There were many statements that the CSDSC considers as wrong, incorrect or skewing of actual data. Brian has prepared a commentary response to refute the commentary's arguments and strengthen the case for a Caledonia School District. The response will not be directed at lambasting RUSD but countering the arguments of the commentary and focusing on the benefits of a Caledonia School District.
- **People who support a Caledonia School District are HIGHLY URGED to send letters to the Journal Times.** We know that previous letters have not been

published in the Journal Times, but the editors have been made aware that we are paying attention to them and know that they are holding letters supporting CSD.

- This weekends Petition Drive generated 5 signatures due to weather, but 120 signatures were turned in via petition.
- We need an army of volunteers to go door-to-door collecting signatures in order to hit our 9,700 signature goal by the July 1st target. If we have all 200+ people who receive CSDSC emails turn in 3 full petition sheets (45 signatures), we can reach our goal!
- We are collecting signatures from all over the RUSD area, including Racine, Franksville, Mt Pleasant and Sturtevant. We do have volunteers canvassing these areas. This shows that there is wide support for a Caledonia School District.
- Starting this weekend (Fri 5/1 and Sat 5/2) is the start of Caledonia Baseball. **ANY VOLUNTEERS MAY COLLECT SIGNATURES AT THE LOCAL BALL PARKS.**
- Opposite to previous discussions with Dr. Shaw (Superintendent, RUSD), he is now leaning toward opposing the Caledonia School District. The cause for the change in thoughts is unknown.
- Ideas for Community Involvement and Education:
 - Having volunteers attend “Petition Training Sessions” in order to prepare volunteers for the process. This is meant to help people feel comfortable with talking with people and answering questions.
 - We need volunteers attending Village Board meetings to help educate citizens who attend these meetings and do not understand the issues and benefits.
 - Having volunteers posted at public events (RASA, Caledonia Baseball, etc.) will help generate interest and signatures. If volunteers need signs or banners, these can be loaned by the CSDSC (please contact Brian D. or Austin M. for more information, or go to <http://www.caledoniaschooldist.org> to find contact information).
- Brian will be setting up meetings with community groups (Rotary, Racine Taxpayers Alliance, Realty Association, etc.) and local businesses in order to discuss the Caledonia School District issues and how this will be a benefit for all communities within the Racine area.
- John L. prepared a rough-draft FAQ document from the “Outside of Caledonia” point of view. This draft was circulated for review by the CSDSC and will be

edited before any potential release.

- One common misconception about creating a Caledonia School District is that the remaining RUSD district will receive less funding. The CSDSC's research shows that RUSD stands to receive substantial funding from state Equalization Aid, Title 1 and P-5. This funding may be equal *or greater than* the funding RUSD currently receives with Caledonia in the district.
- Lisa B. charged the CSDSC with pushing our elected officials to come out and publicly support a Caledonia School District. Some officials make comments behind-the-scenes or off-the-record regarding the issues Caledonia is facing and how a Caledonia School District would benefit the area, but these issues need to come to the surface and gain more support from our officials.
 - We also need to get surrounding business and community leaders to become vocal and help support this issue.
- A new Petition Drive will be scheduled for May 16th and 17th. We have some paper supplies available for donation but will need to cover printing costs.
- A Rally in front of RUSD's Central Office would help provide news-worthy publicity and highlight that this is an issue that RUSD needs to address.
- Petition Canvassing Ideas for Volunteers:
 - Select a weekend for people to come out to Eastside and caravan or carpool to areas of RUSD and go door-to-door collecting signatures. A date & time (likely on a Saturday in early May) will be selected and communicated via the email distribution lists.
 - Canvassing volunteers are urged to collect signatures whenever they want! They can go out in pairs and cover the same area in half the time!
- **MOTION:** Austin M. put forth a motion to purchase yard signs and wires for an amount not to exceed \$400. Discussion was held regarding placement, and it was clarified that signs must be placed inside of utility easements. Kathy B. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **MOTION:** Kathy B. put forth a motion to close the meeting. Pagette F. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Motions

1. Austin M. put forth a motion to purchase yard signs and wires for an amount not to exceed \$400. Kathy B. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Kathy B. put forth a motion to close the meeting. Pagette F. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

1. CSD friends and volunteers to write letters to the editor to support a Caledonia School District.
2. Brian D. to begin discussions with community officials and leaders regarding support for CSD.
3. A new petition drive will be held May 16th and 17th.