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## What about the debt of each District?

The SCMT Community School District will have an approximate \$1.2 Million of bonded debt remaining to be paid over the first six years of reorganization. The Rockwell-Swaledale Community School District will have an approximate \$850,000 of debt in the form of revenue bonds to be payable from proceeds from the state penny(sales tax). These debt totals are the result of providing for school building needs of students of both districts. In addressing this item in the reorganization petition, both Boards felt it was unproductive to get caught up in worrying about “whose debt was whose” given that the resources to pay for these debts will be used to benefit all our students.

## What is the timeline for reorganization?

If patrons vote to reorganize in September of 2010, the reorganization will be effective beginning in the 2011-12 school year.

## When and where will the vote take place?

The date and location of an election is determined after hearing by AEA 267. The date and voting location will be published by the AEA in area newspapers. It is expected that current voting locations will be used. The second Tuesday in September is a likely date for voting if the petition and an election is approved to be held by the AEA.

## Who can I contact for more information?

Darrin Strike, Superintendent,  
SCMT Community School District  
641-892-4459

Tom Fey, Superintendent  
Rockwell-Swaledale Community School District  
641-822-3236

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## Thank you for your consideration.

### Rockwell-Swaledale Board of Directors

Arlyn Butler, President  
Mary Ingham, Vice President  
Todd Liekweg  
Rob Heimbuch  
Lisa Schultz

### SCMT Board of Directors

Mary Amsbaugh  
Christy Engebretson  
Betty Jensen  
Kathy Miller  
Mary Schlichting  
Mary Beth Sukup, President  
Jim Tuttle, Vice President



# WEST FORK

**Preserving our history...  
securing our future  
for students**

Questions and answers  
about a proposed reorganization of  
**Sheffield-Chapin-Meservey-Thornton  
and Rockwell-Swaledale**  
Community School Districts

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## Before the Board of Directors of Area Education Agency 267 Petition for Reorganization\*

We, the undersigned eligible electors of the Sheffield Chapin Meservey Thornton Community School District and the Rockwell-Swaledale Community School District, hereby petition the AEA 267 Board of Directors pursuant to Chapter 275, Code of Iowa, to conduct a hearing pursuant to section 275.15, Code of Iowa, and at that time to consider and approve the following petition. In support thereof Petitioners state:

1. The Sheffield Chapin Meservey Thornton Community School District and the Rockwell-Swaledale Community School District should be reorganized into a new community school district known as the West Fork Community School District to include all of the current area of the two existing districts as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.
2. We believe that the proposed school district is not inconsistent with the reorganization plan developed by the AEA, but if the proposed reorganization does not conform in any way, we pray that the reorganization plan of the AEA be changed to conform to the proposed district.
3. That the Petitioners believe that all necessary studies and surveys that are a prerequisite for this proposed reorganization have been conducted.
4. The number of directors on the initial board shall be five and they shall be selected pursuant to section 275.41, Code of Iowa (the alternative method of carryover appointments), three (3) directors initially appointed from the Sheffield Chapin Meservey Thornton Community School District Board of Directors and two (2) initially appointed from the Rockwell-Swaledale Community School District Board of Directors. The number of directors on the regular board shall also be five and shall be elected pursuant to section 275.12(2)(c) of the Code of Iowa, i.e. electors from the entire district voting for each director and division of the new district into two multi-member director districts, two member director districts represented by residents of that director district and a fifth member elected at large.



5. That neither of the Districts involved has approved the issuance of general obligation bonds at election pursuant to section 296.6, Code of Iowa in the preceding six months prior to the date of submission of this petition.
6. That the entirety of the assets and liabilities of the two Districts shall become the assets and liabilities of the newly reorganized district effective July 1, 2011, the proposed effective date of the reorganization. (Note: After the effective date of the reorganization all of the taxpayers residing in the territory of the newly reorganized District will pay for the previously authorized Sheffield Chapin long-term bonded debt inclusive of those residing in historical Meservey-Thornton territory.)
7. That the proposed school district will have a combined enrollment in excess of the minimum enrollment prescribed by section 275.3, Code of Iowa.
8. That following hearing as required by section 275.15, Code of Iowa, and the approval of the AEA 267 Board of Directors, a special election should be held as required by section 275.18, Code of Iowa and that such other proceedings should be held as are required by Chapter 275 of the Code of Iowa in order to effect the reorganization that is requested in this petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Engel, Attorney  
Engel Law Office  
6969 University Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
Telephone: 515.279.4324  
Facsimile: 515.279.3642

On Behalf of the Following Eligible Electors of the Sheffield Chapin Meservey Thornton Community School District and the Rockwell-Swaledale Community School District

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## Relevant questions regarding reorganization:

1. Will greater student numbers through reorganization provide for operational economies of scale?
2. Will greater student numbers and reorganization provide longer term stability/viability and the ability to better plan, long term?
3. Will greater student numbers through whole grade sharing / reorganization allow for increased educational offerings?
4. Will reorganization provide for efficiencies such as one Board, one set of meetings, reduction of paperwork, one Superintendent, one Board Secretary, and other possible staffing efficiencies?
5. Are statutory incentives relating to reorganization of interest, i.e. supplemental weighting providing for increased revenue and foundation property tax breaks?
6. Do you favor self determination of the Districts' future in SCMT and Rockwell-Swaledale versus potential state mandates?

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## What are the incentives from the State for Reorganization?

Subject to certain restrictions and requirements, districts that whole grade share and make progress toward reorganization are allowed to claim supplemental weighting and thereby receive additional funding for a maximum of three years. In the event the Districts then vote to reorganize, the Districts can claim an additional three years of supplemental weighting. Also, certain Districts of less than 600 students that reorganize are allowed a foundation property tax break over three years reducing the foundation levy by \$1 per \$1000 of assessed valuation in the first year, fifty cents in the second year and twenty five cents in the third year.

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