



KEOKUK COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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President, Board of Education
Ft. Madison Community School District
1930 Avenue M
Ft. Madison, IA 52627

Bill Young
President, Board of Education
Central Lee Community School District
2642 Highway 218
Donnellson, IA 52625

March 25, 2026

Dear Members of the Central Lee and Ft. Madison Boards of Education,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Keokuk Community School District Board of Education. As neighboring districts within Lee County, we have a long and storied history of friendly rivalry on the athletic fields, but also share a deep and mutual commitment to the success of students - of all students. We share challenges while striving to provide the best possible education and opportunities for students, against the backdrop of changing demographics, declining enrollments, increasing financial constraint, and ever-changing legislation; all while geographically located in an area with diminishing economic resources.

The Keokuk Community School District Board continues to take a hard look at our long-term success, how we can best serve the next generation, and be stewards of our larger school community. The time may be right to have a candid, forward-looking conversation about our future, our impact on the economy and families in Lee County, and to reach out and gauge your interest in exploring a potential consolidation, or at the very least, comprehensive sharing agreements between our three districts.

By coming together to discuss this possibility, we could explore several shared opportunities:

- **Expanded Academic Offerings:** Pooling our resources could allow us to offer a wider array of advanced placement courses, vocational training, and arts programs that can be costly and difficult to sustain individually.
- **Financial Stability:** Combining administrative costs, transportation routes, and facility maintenance could free up critical funds to reinvest directly into our classrooms and student services. These efforts demonstrate a commitment to our communities to maximize available resources and lessen the tax burden.
- **Recruitment and Retention:** A larger, more financially secure and unified district would be highly competitive in attracting and retaining top-tier educators and staff.

- **Enhanced Extracurriculars:** Combining our student bodies could stabilize participation numbers in athletics, band, drama, and FFA, ensuring these vital programs continue to grow and flourish.

To be clear, I know that our schools are the heartbeats of our respective communities. The colors we wear and the mascots we cheer for are deeply tied to our identities. The thought of consolidation might be emotional, and any path forward would require care, community input, and transparency. This letter is not a formal proposal, but rather an invitation to start a conversation.

Please let me know if your boards are open to discuss the feasibility of this idea and whether or not there is interest in forming an exploratory committee. We look forward to the possibility of working together to increase opportunities for all students and families in Lee County.

Sincerely,



Clint Wray
President, Board of Education
Keokuk Community School District
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