

JOINT MEETING OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SMITH
AND ROBB TOWNSHIPS AND THE CENTER-ROBINSON CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOLS OF POSEY COUNTY -- August 29, 1956.

A joint meeting of the school trustees of Smith and Robb Townships, and the Center-Robinson Consolidated Schools, Posey County, was held at the Robb Township School on Wednesday, August 29th, at 8:00 P.M.

Attending this meeting were Gordon Rogers, Trustee of Smith Township, Mason Price, Trustee of Robb Township, and Carl Kohlmeyer, Eugene Morlock, Norman Wade and Allen Hicks, members of the Board of School Trustees of the Center-Robinson Consolidated Schools; also Eldon R. Crawford, Supt. of Posey County Schools, Robert Redman, Trustee of Bethel Township, Charles Roberts, Principal of the Wadesville School, and Ralph Schuler, School attorney for Robb Township.

The Purpose of this meeting, as originally planned, was to take final action in the reorganization of Smith School Township, Robb School Township, and the Center-Robinson Consolidated School District, into a single Metropolitan school district, provided no protest petition calling for a referendum was filed within 30 days following the initial action of signing the joint resolution on July 28, 1956.

It was reported that a protest petition had been filed on Monday, July 27th. Copies of the petition and the names which appear on it from the various townships were distributed to the school trustees. It was determined that the number of signatures appearing on the petition from each school corporation exceeded 5% of the votes cast for Secretary of State in the last general election from each of the separate corporations.

Two questions were raised concerning the protest petitions. They are as follows:

1. Since there are no affidavits attached to the petition concerning the authenticity of the signatures does the petition have to be considered as legally binding on the school officials to whom it is directed?
2. Since it is assumed that the petition and its various parts were originated and circulated by persons residing in Smith Township, do signatures of residents of Robb School Township and the Center-Robinson School District on such petitions have a legally binding effect on the school trustees of Robb and the Center-Robinson School district?

Mr. Schuler advised that although it is general practice to attach verification affidavits to petitions the law did not seem to require it, in this particular case. Also, he stated that the law did not stipulate that the petitions must originate in the school district where they are circulated, and be circulated by residents of such districts.

Mr. Schuler also pointed out that contesting the validity of the petition might create more widespread opposition and serve to delay decision of the matter indefinitely.

It was agreed that perhaps, under the circumstances, the best procedure would be to plan for an election.

Motion was made by Mr. Kohlmeyer and seconded by Mr. Morlock that the County Election Board be asked to arrange for holding a special election as soon as legally possible. Motion carried. It was planned that this request be put in writing, and sent to each member of the County Election Board and that each of the requests be signed by all school officials involved.

Plans were also agreed upon to call a meeting on Tuesday evening, Sept. 4th, at the Robb Twp. School, for the purpose of discussing plans for a pre-election campaign for education of the voters concerning the proposed school reorganization and its desirability. Chairmen of the various groups of official delegates will be asked to attend the Sept. 4th meeting and to invite a committee to attend with them.

Signed this 29th day of August, 1956.

Mason Price, Trustee of Robb Township
Gordon Rogers, Trustee of Smith Township
Carl Kohlmeyer, Pres. of Center-Robinson Consolidated School Board
Allen Hicks, Vice-Pres., Center-Robinson Cons. School Board
Norman Wade, Secretary, Center-Robinson Cons. School Board
Eugene Morlock, Treas., Center-Robinson Consolidated School Board