



JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN!

February 26, 2016

To: The Albion Public School Board of Education

From: Jeff Beal
Superintendent
Jackson Public Schools

Re: Proposed Shared Service Agreement

On Behalf of the Jackson Public Schools, we formally withdraw our shared service proposal at this time.

When I first spoke at the community forums in November 2015, I was adamant I did not want to be a divisive force within the Albion Community. I do not envy the Board of Education, the employees of Albion Public Schools, or the constituents of Albion on the decision they have to make in just a few months. It has come to my attention that the Shared Service Agreement proposed by Jackson Public Schools is being presented by some as standing in stark opposition to the actions of the Albion Public School Board. That was never the intent, nor is it productive for us to work against each other.

The draft proposal we submitted cannot be guaranteed to work at this time for a couple of reasons:

*We have yet to finalize details with Treasury to restructure the Albion Public Schools' debt. This would be essential to providing for Albion Public Schools moving forward.

*The vehicle for paying off the debt proposed in the JPS Shared Service Agreement relies solely on the renewal of the 18 mil non-homestead levy. Without this levy, APS would not be able to pay off its debt and would cease to exist.

The stakeholders of Albion have a difficult decision in front of them and the grant money awarded to Marshall for the annexation should not be taken lightly. This is the first year that State tax dollars can be used to pay off local debt in this fashion and in my years of public education, I can't recall an award large enough to support such a venture and commend the Marshall Public Schools for their efforts in securing the grant funds.

Jackson Public Schools has always been and continues to be strong supporters of Albion Public Schools, the Board of Education, and sensitive to the needs of your community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Beal
Superintendent
Jackson Public Schools