

School Board Members received the attached e-mail from Dale Richard Powers, on behalf of the Clear Lake City Council on June 16th. The annexation of a block of territory from one school district to another is not permitted under state law. The process would require the support of the school boards involved, the support of legislators from the districts involved (15B, 14A, 14B, 13A, 13B), and special legislation.

The annexation is unlikely to occur because neither the Saint Cloud District 742 School Board nor the legislators representing Saint Cloud are likely support the loss of tax base from District 742. However, since the annexation would benefit the Becker School District, **it would be prudent for the Becker School Board to support the request from the Clear Lake City Council for Clear Lake to join The Becker School District.**

From: "Dale Richard Powers, MPA" <dale.powers@midco.net>

Date: June 16, 2016 at 11:23:16 AM CDT

To: <ajurek2@isd726.org>

Cc: <jkindred@isd726.org>, <lmolus@isd726.org>, <bolson@isd726.org>, <mswanson@isd726.org>, <rdemant@isd726.org>

Subject: Potential Detachment of Clear Lake from ISD 742 and Attachment to ISD 726

Good morning, Chair Jurek! My name is Dale Powers, a member of the Clear Lake City Council. At our last Council Meeting, we decided to investigate options to continuing to stay in ISD 742. As you and the Board may be aware, ISD 742 will be re-introducing a bond referendum for a new Tech High School that will be located near the intersection of Hwy 15 and 33rd Street South. This location will make our city's students travel a distance of 18 miles (one way) to attend high school. Of all the cities in Sherburne, Stearns, and Benton Counties, Clear Lake will be farther from its host high school than any other city. As a matter of fact, not only are Becker, Big Lake, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids closer to Clear Lake than the proposed location of the new Tech High School, St. Cloud Apollo, at 15.1 miles away, is actually closer to Clear Lake.

As you can imagine, this is creating some real issues for Clear Lake. As a city, we are always looking for opportunities to grow, thrive, and prosper. Having our host high school so far away does negative impact development. However, for our residents will K-12 students, a substantial number are already sending their children to Becker schools. I've been told than even parents of K-6 students are choosing to bypass Clearview Elementary and send their children to Becker. At a distance of 7 miles, our cities are closer geographically. A community of interest is already growing between our two cities than will only get stronger as time goes by and more and more of Clear Lake school-age children open enroll into Becker.

Just to let you know, the Clearwater City Council has been asked to join us in this effort; however, there is a good possibility that their vision is being cast to the south to the Annandale School District. Annandale's school district boundary come virtually to Clearwater's southern city limit – much as Becker's school district boundary comes within a ½ mile to the Clear Lake city limit.

One of the possibilities the City is looking at is to petition for detachment from ISD 742. While this doesn't automatically mean that attachment to ISD 726 will be the preferred option for our residents, that may very well be the result that is more easily attained. It is also recognized that the presence of a school building just outside the City limits in Clear Lake Township may present a logistical and financial problem. Since the building presently is outside Clear Lake's corporate limits, it could easily be excised from the territory to be transferred from ISD 742 to ISD 726.

Joining ISD 726 will require an affirmative response from you, the Becker Board of Education. It is understood and appreciated that a decision of this magnitude can't be made easily or quickly; a "ton" of due diligence by the Board will need to be performed. We understand that.

What I am asking the Becker Board of Education – on behalf of the Clear Lake City Council – is simple. Assuming that all of the legal, legislative, and financial obstacles can be resolved to the Board's satisfaction, would you as a Board entertain the possibility of Clear Lake joining the Becker School District?

Thank you in advance for your response.

Dale Richard Powers, MAPA
Council Member – City of Clear Lake
7805 State Street
Clear Lake, MN 55319
320-493-8930