

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Exploratory Committee for New Junior - Senior High School Formed**

*Independence, Iowa – March 14, 2011* – At the request of the Superintendent Jean Peterson, Independence Community School District, an exploratory committee was formed to examine the size, cost and funding sources for a new Junior-Senior High School. A broad cross section of the district is represented on the volunteer committee. It includes parents, teachers, administrators, board of education members, coaches, farmers, city officials and alumni. The committee also has representation from all towns within the district (Brandon, Rowley and Independence).

The exploratory committee has been researching sizes and features of new school facilities of similar size in eastern Iowa, as well as neighboring districts. The committee has toured the existing Junior-Senior High School to evaluate various aspects of a tentative design plan. Some of the committee members have also personally toured other new facilities in the area. Additional subcommittees have been identified to further research and analyze the project, such as a cost-benefit analysis committee and a marketing committee.

The committee recently met with the architectural firm of HSR & Associates to evaluate the most efficient and effective size of a new facility. One of the design goals is to utilize projected enrollment trends to ensure the structure is not too large yet allows for cost-effective expansion.

The committee recognizes that the help of teachers, parents and community members from Brandon, Rowley and Independence will be very important in accomplishing this project. “A new secondary educational facility is essential to the future of the Independence Community School District. Our exploratory committee is currently organizing our plans, and in the very near future we look forward to meeting with stakeholders to share proposed plans for a new facility,” said Superintendent Jean Peterson.

Please contact Superintendent Jean Peterson if you are interested in helping the district plan for our future. The exploratory committee expects to complete the tentative design plans in the next few weeks, at which time the efforts of the committee will be shared with the public.

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