



Renville County West

Independent School District No. 2890
301 Northeast Third Street – PO Box 338 Renville, Minnesota 56284



Michelle Mortensen, Superintendent

Phone: 320.329.8362/Fax: 320.329.3271

Date 11-9-15

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing 560 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least 500 inmates by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking \$141.5 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a 500-bed expansion at Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City to accommodate projected prison population growth; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota would incur additional costs such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with expanding Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained 1,600-bed prison; and

WHEREAS, 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

WHEREAS, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

WHEREAS, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-8 million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on 11-9-15 the Renville County West School Board declared its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much-needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

Signatures:


_____ Chair


_____ Clerk


_____ Superintendent

RCW Elementary School

Gina Hagen, Elementary Principal
301 NE Third Street – PO Box 338
Renville, MN 56284
320.329.8368 * 888.299.0822
Fax: 320.329.8191

RCW High School

Richard Schrupp, High School Principal
301 NE Third Street – PO Box 338
Renville, MN 56284
320.329.8368 * 888.299.0822
Fax: 320.329.8191