

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Beau Fretueg

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education in Illinois – Public School Funding Oral History project

Interview # EF-A-L-2019-101

Beau Fretueg, Schuyler-Industry Community Unit School District #5 superintendent, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education in Illinois – Public School Funding Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec. 9, 2019

Location: Schuyler-Industry District Office, Rushville, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:17 / 1.28

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 11, 2020.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Beau Fretueg, Education in Illinois – Funding, EF-A-L-2019-101

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Beau Fretueg was born in Rushville, Illinois in March 1979. He graduated from the Schuyler County High School (before consolidation with Industry) in 1997. While in high school Beau participated in football and basketball. Beau graduated in 2000 from the University of Illinois-Champaign, majoring in elementary education. He later earned his Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Illinois. At the time of the interview he was working on his Ed.D. degree from Aurora University with his dissertation work in school consolidation. Upon graduation with his teaching certificate, Beau taught and coached at Catlin, Illinois. He then took an assistant principal's position in Westville High School before returning to Catlin as the K-8 principal. He then became superintendent at Illini Central (Mason City) before returning to his home high school district, Schuyler-Industry, where he served as superintendent at the time of this interview.

Fretueg discussed school funding for a Tier 2 rural school in the west central unit school district. He reviewed school funding prior to the new Evidence Based Funding (EBF) Model which was in its third year, and discusses the earlier consolidation with the town of Industry. Fretueg also examined the challenges in finding teachers for certain fields (special education, foreign language), the impact of the new law on minimum teacher salary and minimum wage, the cost of transportation (over 400 square miles) and the growing high-needs student population. He talked about the use of funds under the new Evidence Based Funding Model, and how that has created a stable environment for budgeting. State aid payments are now more timely, and are not pro-rated. The district has added an elementary school counselor, an English Language Learner teacher/director, and a school nurse. Reduction in class size for the middle school is the next target, as well as an instructional coach in either math or literacy. Beau also discussed the importance of an anonymous donor who has helped both the city and school district with funding for a performing arts center (opening 2021), a fitness center, a swimming pool, and the purchase of new police vehicles. Also discussed was the move to leased buses which helps spreading out costs and maintaining a current new fleet.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Evidence Based Funding (EBF) Model; Schuyler-Industry Community Unit School District #5; County School Facilities Sales Tax; challenges facing rural west central school districts; funding sources for rural Illinois school districts

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