

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Dale Hastings

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-School Reorganization Oral History project

Interview # AI-A-L-2013-011

Dr. Dale Hastings, Superintendent of the Milford Area Public Schools District #124, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's - *Education is Key-School Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: Milford, Illinois (School District Office)

Date: Feb. 26, 2016

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

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

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Abstract

Dr. Dale Hastings, *Education is Key-School Reorganization*, AI-A-L-2013-011

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Dale Hastings was born in Highland, Illinois in 1957. Due to his parents' involvement in education, Dale attended schools in Villa Park, Ottawa, and Highland. He was a graduate of Highland High School (1975). He earned his bachelor's degree from Greenville College in 1979 in the field of education. His teaching/coaching career began in Clifton Central High School, where he spent fourteen years. In 1995 he earned a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in school administration. Dale then moved into administration when he took a position at Manteno as Dean of Students and Athletic Director. Later, he served as a junior high school principal in Watseka and high school principal in Grant Park. Dale's education continued with a CAS degree from Lewis College and then an Ed. D from National Louis University in Chicago. He came to Milford as Superintendent of both the elementary and high school districts in 2005. Those districts then became a Unit District in 2014, Milford Area Public Schools District #124. Iroquois County is located in east central Illinois and borders with Indiana.

In this interview, Hastings explores the five reorganizations that shaped the current boundaries of District #124. These reorganizations included parts of Wellington and all of Stockland, Bryce, Ash Grove, and Sheldon. In 2014 Milford voted to become a unit district. In addition, Hastings discusses the recent passage of a high school building referendum that allowed the district to replace the 115 year old high school structure. Finally, the interview explores why the idea of a county-wide Iroquois High School or a regional high school currently is not possible at this time. The county is one of the largest of Illinois's counties in square miles, but is sparsely populated; residents work some of the best farm land in the world.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Milford Area Public Schools District #124; school district reorganization in District 124 from 1987-2014; reorganization from a dual to unit school district in Illinois; District 124's High School Building referendum; state of Illinois school reorganization incentive programs; athletic co-ops in east central Illinois; special education/pre-kindergarten cooperatives; impact of school building project on improved programs; funding challenges for small Illinois school districts; pension cost shifting

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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Dale Hastings Excerpts

School Reorganization

EXCERPTS

45-Can a school save a town

13-shared services in a rural district

22-working with Indiana schools due to Indiana's borderless district boundaries

24-difficulties in forming a county wide high school

37-what a new high school can bring to students