

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Scott Watson

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

Interview # AIR-A-L-2018-023

Scott Watson, superintendent of the newly formed Bismarck-Henning and Rossville-Alvin Cooperative High School, 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:

Date: April 27, 2018 Location: Bismarck-Henning School District, Bismarck, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:14 / 1.23 hrs.

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

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## Abstract

### Scott Watson, *School Reorganization*, AIR-A-L-2018-023

**Biographical Information:** Scott Watson was born in November, 1971 in Decatur, Illinois. He graduated from Argenta-Oreana High School in 1989. While in high school Scott played football, baseball, basketball and track. He then attended and played football at Eureka College, graduating in 1993 with a degree in education, physical education and health. Scott's first teaching position was at Columbia High School (Illinois) teaching physical education, while also coaching football and girls' track. Scott then moved across the state to teach and coach at Hoopeston Area High School, serving as the school's head football coach. In 2001, Scott also earned a MA from Eastern Illinois University in educational administration and later specialist in education degree in 2003. In 2004, Scott became the principal of Bismarck-Henning Junior High School. In 2007, he would become the high school principal and then assistant superintendent. Scott became superintendent of Bismarck-Henning in 2010.

During the interview Watson reviews the deactivation of the Rossville-Alvin school district (created in 2005) and the creation a cooperative high school between Bismarck-Henning and Rossville-Alvin (BHRA), which began in 2017. This was only the second such high school using this reorganization method found in Illinois. Watson covers some of the early challenges when the deactivation occurred and how the deactivation actually led to a smooth creation of the Cooperative High School where few changes actually took place. Changes included a name change, collective bargaining unit, and the transition of teaching staff. The change allowed the addition of agriculture to the curriculum for the 2018-19 school year. Other topics discussed include prior county reorganization considerations (North Vermilion), the deactivation of Rossville-Alvin High School and the tuition for students to Hoopeston Area and Bismarck-Henning, transportation responsibilities, and the benefits of the deactivation method to Bismarck-Henning. Watson reviewed the campaign in Bismarck-Henning supporting the Cooperative High School, the advantages of this type of reorganization, and the increased board of education and superintendent responsibilities, who now served on both the Bismarck-Henning and the BHRA Cooperative High School Boards of Education.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** creation of Cooperative High School between Bismarck-Henning and Rossville-Alvin; deactivation of Rossville-Alvin High School; school reorganization efforts in Vermilion County; cooperative high school model for Illinois; agricultural programs in Illinois schools; Bismarck-Henning High School; Rossville-Alvin HS

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