

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Brent Rademacher

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Alternatives in Illinois Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-024

Brent Rademacher, a high school principal at Bismarck-Henning & Rossville-Alvin Cooperative High School (BHRA), was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Apr 27, 2018 Location: Bismarck-Henning & Rossville-Alvin Cooperative High School (BHRA), Bismarck, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:09 / 1.15 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 11, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Brent Rademacher, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-024

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Brent Rademacher was born in Danville, Illinois in 1971. He grew up in the small community of Fithian and graduated from Armstrong High School in 1989. Brent played baseball, basketball and ran cross country while in high school. Following high school Brent attended Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. In his Junior year he switched to Eastern Illinois University and graduate in 1994 with a major in Science Education. His first teaching position was at Bismarck-Henning High School where he both taught and coached varsity baseball and assisted in basketball from 1994-2002. He then moved to the Bismarck-Henning Junior High School where he taught science and coached baseball along with girls' basketball and 8th grade basketball from 2002-2007. In 2007, after earning a MA from Eastern Illinois University in educational administration, Brent became dean at the high school. From 2008-2009 he was the school's assistant principal and in 2010 he became the principal, where he continued to serve at the time of the interview. In 2017, the deactivated Rossville-Alvin High School joined Bismarck-Henning in the state's second Cooperative High School after a successful referendum.

Rademacher reviews the history of the deactivation of Rossville-Alvin in 2005 as well as the Cooperative High School between Bismarck-Henning and Rossville-Alvin (BHRA), which began in 2017. This was the second Illinois high school using this reorganization method. He 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. The change allowed for the addition of agriculture to the curriculum in 2018-2019. Rademacher also discussed referendum public meeting questions, feedback from students on the proposed merger and the quick turnaround time from the spring to July for the new cooperative high school to function. Their communicating with Paris (at that time the only high school Cooperative in Illinois) was very important to their success.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Cooperative High School between Bismarck-Henning and Rossville-Alvin; Rossville-Alvin High School; the reorganization referendum campaign; selection of the Cooperative High School nickname, school colors, school name; Bismarck-Henning and Rossville-Alvin agricultural program;

Notes 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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