

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jennifer Hamilton

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
School Reorganization Oral History project

Interview # AIR-A-L-2019-028

Jennifer Hamilton, superintendent for dual school districts located in Ohio, Illinois, 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: Jun 4, 2019 Location: Ohio School District offices, Ohio, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:34 / 1.57 hrs.

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 22, 2019.

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

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Abstract

Jennifer Hamilton, *School District Reorganization*, AIR-A-L-2019-028

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jennifer Hamilton was born in Clinton, Iowa in 1966. She graduated from Fulton High School in 1984. Jennifer attended Mount Saint Clare College in Clinton Iowa for a year before transferring to Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. She graduated with a major in psychology. Her first job after college was at Lutheran Social Services of Iowa. She then moved to the Bloomington-Normal area where she spent the next twenty-two years. She earned a BS from Illinois State University in language arts and the social sciences and an MS degree in counseling, also from Illinois State. Jennifer worked at Heartland Community College in a variety of positions (education consultant, academic athletic advisor, and adjunct instructor) and at Gridley School District #16 as a counselor. She then worked at Bloomington School District #87 and Normal Community SD #5, including a position as the associate principal. During these assignments Jennifer earned her general administrative and superintendent certificates from Illinois State. In 2015, she became superintendent/principal in Damiansville School District # 62, a small prek-8 school east of St. Louis. In 2016, she became superintendent for the dual districts located in Ohio, Illinois (#17 and #505) located in northern Illinois.

Superintendent Hamilton discusses the very small dual districts located in Ohio, Illinois. The K-8 school has around eighty students; while the high school has between thirty-forty students. Supported by wind farms to meet financial needs, Hamilton looks at how the board of education and administration provide quality education for its students through athletic cooperatives, academic cooperatives, in house curriculum and grade structure, and through the local community college. She also reviews the challenges facing such small districts as well as the importance of the schools to the village of Ohio, to the community, and to the parents. Finally, Hamilton reviews past efforts to reorganize the district.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois school districts #7 and #505; curriculum offerings for small schools; shared teaching for small schools; cooperative athletics; cooperatives in vocational education; pre-kindergarten; small schools and special education; challenges facing small school districts; Damiansville School District # 62; wind farms and property taxes

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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