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## CHAPTER 122

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS: FORMATION AND COOPERATION

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#### 122.22 DISSOLUTION AND ATTACHMENT.

*[For text of subds 1 to 20, see M.S.1992]*

Subd. 21. (a) In the year prior to the effective date of the dissolution of a district, the school board of a district to which all of the dissolving district is to be attached may adopt a resolution directing the school board of the dissolving district to certify levies for general education, basic transportation, and capital expenditure equipment and facilities in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount authorized for the dissolving district for taxes payable in the year the dissolution is effective. If the dissolving district is to be attached to more than one school district, the boards of the districts to which the dissolving district is to be attached may adopt a joint resolution that accomplishes the purpose in this paragraph.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, upon receipt of a resolution under paragraph (a), the board of the dissolving district must certify levies in the amounts specified in the resolution for taxes payable in the year the dissolution is effective.

**History:** 1993 c 224 art 6 s 4

#### 122.23 CONSOLIDATION.

*[For text of subds 1 to 16c, see M.S.1992]*

Subd. 18. (a) The county auditor shall determine a date, not less than 20 nor more than 60 days from the date that the order setting the effective date of the consolidation according to subdivision 13 was issued, upon which date shall be held a special election in the district for the purpose of electing a board of six members for terms as follows: two until the July 1 one year after the effective date of the consolidation, two until the expiration of one year from said July 1, and two until the expiration of two years from said July 1, to hold office until a successor is elected and qualifies according to provisions of law governing the election of board members in independent districts. If the resolution or petition for consolidation pursuant to subdivision 2 proposed that the board of the newly created district consists of seven members, then seven members shall be elected at this election for the terms provided in this clause except that three members shall hold office until the expiration of two years from said July 1. If the resolution or petition for consolidation pursuant to subdivision 2 proposed the establishment of separate election districts, these members shall be elected from separate election districts according to the provisions of that resolution or petition and of chapter 205A.

(b) The county auditor shall give ten days' posted notice of election in the area in which the election is to be held and also if there be a newspaper published in the proposed new district, one weeks' published notice shall be given. The notice shall specify the time, place, and purpose of the election.

(c) Any person desiring to be a candidate for a school election shall file an application with the county auditor to have the applicant's name placed on the ballot for such

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office, specifying the term for which the application is made. The application shall be filed not less than 12 days before the election.

(d) The county auditor shall prepare, at the expense of the county, necessary ballots for the election of officers, placing thereon the names of the proposed candidates for each office. The ballots shall be marked and signed as official ballots and shall be used exclusively at the election. The county auditor shall determine the number of voting precincts and the boundaries of each. The county auditor shall determine the location of polling places and the hours the polls shall be open and shall appoint three election judges for each polling place who shall act as clerks of election. Election judges shall certify ballots and results to the county auditor for tabulation and canvass.

(e) After making a canvass and tabulation, the county auditor shall issue a certificate of election to the candidate for each office who received the largest number of votes cast for the office. The county auditor shall deliver such certificate to the person entitled thereto by certified mail, and each person so certified shall file an acceptance and oath of office with the county auditor within 30 days of the date of mailing of the certificate. A person who fails to qualify prior to the time specified shall be deemed to have refused to serve, but such filing may be made at any time before action to fill vacancy has been taken.

(f) The board of each district included in the new enlarged district shall continue to maintain school therein until the effective date of the consolidation. Such boards shall have power and authority only to make such contracts, to do such things as are necessary to maintain properly the schools for the period prior to that date, and to certify to the county auditor according to levy limitations applicable to the component districts the taxes collectible in the calendar year when the consolidation becomes effective.

(g) It shall be the immediate duty of the newly elected board of the new enlarged district, when the members thereof have qualified and the board has been organized, to plan for the maintenance of the school or schools of the new district for the next school year, to enter into the necessary negotiations and contracts for the employment of personnel, purchase of equipment and supplies, and other acquisition and betterment purposes, when authorized by the voters to issue bonds under the provisions of chapter 475; and on the effective date of the consolidation to assume the full duties of the care, management and control of the new enlarged district. The board of the new enlarged district shall give due consideration to the feasibility of maintaining such existing attendance centers and of establishing such other attendance centers, especially in rural areas, as will afford equitable and efficient school administration and assure the convenience and welfare of the pupils residing in the enlarged district. The obligations of the new board to teachers employed by component districts shall be governed by the provisions of section 122.532. The obligations of the new board to nonlicensed employees employed by component districts is governed by subdivision 18a.

Subd. 18a. **Nonlicensed employees.** (a) As of the effective date of a consolidation of two or more districts or parts of them, each nonlicensed employee employed by an affected district must be assigned to the newly created district.

(b) As of the effective date of a consolidation, any employee organization may petition the commissioner of the bureau of mediation services for a certification election under chapter 179A. An organization certified as the exclusive representative for nonlicensed employees in a particular preexisting district continues as the exclusive representative for those particular employees for a period of 90 days from the effective date of a consolidation. If a petition for representation of nonlicensed employees is filed within 90 days, an exclusive representative for those particular nonlicensed employees continues as the exclusive representative until the bureau of mediation services certification proceedings are concluded.

(c) The terms and conditions of employment of nonlicensed employees assigned to the newly created district are temporarily governed by contracts executed by an exclusive representative for a period of 90 days from the effective date of the consolidation. If a petition for representation is filed with the bureau of mediation services within

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the 90 days, the contractual terms and conditions of employment for those nonlicensed employees who were governed by a preexisting contract continue in effect until the bureau of mediation services proceedings are concluded and, if an exclusive representative has been elected, until successor contracts are executed between the board of the newly created district and the new exclusive representative. The terms and conditions of employment of nonlicensed employees assigned to the newly created district who were not governed by a collective bargaining agreement at the time of the consolidation are governed by the policies of the board of the newly created district.

(d) The date of first employment in the newly created district is the date on which services were first performed by the employee in the preexisting district. Any sick leave, vacation time, or severance pay benefits accumulated under policies of the preexisting district or contracts between the exclusive representatives and the board of the preexisting district continue to apply in the newly created district to the employees of the preexisting districts, subject to any maximum accumulation limitations negotiated in a successor contract. Future leaves of absence, vacations, or other benefits to be accumulated in the newly created district are governed by board policy or by contract between the exclusive representative of an appropriate unit of employees and the board of the newly created district. The board of the newly created district shall provide, to transferred nonlicensed employees, open enrollment in all insurance plans with no limit on preexisting conditions.

*[For text of subd 19, see M.S.1992]*

**History:** 1993 c 224 art 9 s 18,19

## 122.241 COOPERATION AND COMBINATION.

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1992]*

**Subd. 3. Combination requirements.** Combining districts must be contiguous and meet one of the following requirements at the time of combination:

- (1) at least two districts with at least 400 resident pupils enrolled in grades 7 through 12 in the combined district and projections, approved by the department of education, of enrollment at least at that level for five years;
- (2) at least two districts if either:
  - (i) both of the districts qualify for secondary sparsity revenue under section 124A.22, subdivision 6, and have an average isolation index over 23; or
  - (ii) the combined district qualifies for secondary sparsity revenue;
- (3) at least three districts with fewer than 400 resident pupils enrolled in grades 7 through 12 in the combined district; or
- (4) at least two districts with fewer than 400 resident pupils enrolled in grades 7 through 12 in the combined district if either district is located on the border of the state.

A combination under clause (2), (3), or (4) must be approved by the commissioner of education. The commissioner shall disapprove a combination under clause (2), (3), or (4) if the combination is educationally unsound or would not reasonably enable the districts to fulfill statutory and rule requirements.

**History:** 1993 c 224 art 13 s 14

## 122.242 COOPERATION AND COMBINATION PLAN.

*[For text of subds 1 to 8, see M.S.1992]*

**Subd. 9. Finances.** The plan must state:

- (1) whether debt service for the bonds outstanding at the time of combination remains solely with the district that issued the bonds or whether all or a portion of the debt service for the bonds will be assumed by the combined district and paid by the combined district on behalf of the district that issued the bonds;

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(2) whether obligations for a capital loan or energy loan made according to section 216C.37 or sections 298.292 to 298.298 outstanding at the time of combination remain solely with the district that obtained the loan, or whether all or a portion of all the loan obligations will be assumed by the combined district and paid by the combined district on behalf of the district that obtained the loan;

(3) the treatment of debt service levies, down payment levies under section 124.82, and referendum levies;

(4) whether the cooperating or combined district will levy for reorganization operating debt according to section 121.915, clause (1); and

(5) two- and five-year projections, prepared by the department of education upon the request of any district, of revenues, expenditures, and property taxes for each district if it cooperated and combined and if it did not.

*[For text of subds 10 and 11, see M.S.1992]*

**History:** 1993 c 224 art 6 s 5

## 122.243 STATE BOARD AND VOTER APPROVAL.

**Subdivision 1. Commissioner approval.** Before submitting the question of combining school districts to the voters at a referendum, the cooperating districts shall submit the proposed combination to the commissioner of education. The commissioner shall determine the date for submission and may require any information it determines necessary. The commissioner shall disapprove the proposed combination if it is educationally unsound, will not reasonably enable the combined district to fulfill statutory and rule requirements, or if the plan or modifications are incomplete. If disapproved by the commissioner, the referendum shall be postponed, but not canceled, by the school boards.

**Subd. 2. Voter approval.** A referendum on the question of combination shall be conducted during the first or second year of cooperation for districts that cooperate according to section 122.241, or no more than 18 months before the effective date of combination for districts that do not cooperate. The referendum shall be on a date called by the school boards. The referendum shall be conducted by the school boards according to the Minnesota election law, as defined in section 200.01. If the referendum fails, the same question or a modified question may be submitted. If the referendum fails again, the districts shall modify their cooperation and combination plan. A third referendum may be conducted. If a second or third referendum is conducted after October 1, the newly combined district may not levy under section 124.2725 until the following year. Referendums shall be conducted on the same date in all districts.

**History:** 1993 c 224 art 6 s 6; art 13 s 15

## 122.247 LEVIES FOR DISTRICTS AT THE TIME OF COMBINATION.

*[For text of subds 1 to 2a, see M.S.1992]*

**Subd. 3. Transitional levy.** The board of the combined district, or the boards of combining districts that have received voter approval for the combination under section 122.243, subdivision 2, may levy for the expenses of negotiation, administrative expenses directly related to the transition from cooperation to combination, and the cost of necessary new athletic and music uniforms. The board or boards may levy this amount over three or fewer years. All expenses must be approved by the commissioner of education.

**History:** 1993 c 224 art 13 s 16

## 122.895 EMPLOYEES OF COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS UPON DISSOLUTION OR WITHDRAWAL.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]*

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**Subd. 2. Applicability.** This section applies to:

- (1) an education district organized according to sections 122.91 to 122.95;
- (2) a cooperative vocational center organized according to section 123.351;
- (3) a joint powers district or board organized according to section 471.59 which employs teachers to provide instruction;
- (4) a joint vocational technical district organized according to sections 136C.60 to 136C.69;
- (5) an intermediate district organized according to chapter 136D;
- (6) an educational cooperative service unit which employs teachers to provide instruction; and
- (7) school districts participating in an agreement for the cooperative provision of special education services to children with disabilities according to section 120.17, subdivision 4.

**Subd. 2a. Agreements for cooperative special education.** (a) Upon the termination of an agreement according to section 120.17, subdivision 4, a teacher employed to provide special education services by a school district participating in the agreement will be afforded rights to employment by other school districts according to subdivisions 3, 4, and 5. Nonlicensed employees of a participating district employed to provide special education services will, upon the agreement's termination, be afforded rights to employment by other participating districts according to subdivision 8.

(b) Upon a school district's withdrawal from the cooperative provision of special education under an agreement according to section 120.17, subdivision 4, a teacher employed to provide special education services by a participating district will be afforded rights to employment by other school districts according to subdivisions 3, 6, and 7. Nonlicensed employees of a participating district employed to provide special education services will be afforded rights to employment by the withdrawing district according to subdivision 9.

*[For text of subds 3 to 9, see M.S. 1992]*

**Subd. 10. Cooperatives that merge.** Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 to 9, the following paragraphs apply to cooperatives that merge.

(a) If a cooperative enters into an agreement to merge with another cooperative, the boards of the cooperatives and the exclusive representatives of the teachers in the cooperatives and the teachers in each member district may negotiate a plan to assign or employ in a member district or to place on unrequested leave of absence all teachers whose positions are discontinued as a result of the agreement. If plans are negotiated and if the boards determine the plans are compatible, the boards shall include the plans in their agreement.

(b) If compatible plans are not negotiated under paragraph (a) by the March 1 preceding the effective date of the merger of the cooperatives, subdivisions 2 to 9 apply to teachers and nonlicensed employees whose positions are terminated as a result of an agreement to merge cooperatives.

**History:** 1993 c 224 art 6 s 7; art 9 s 20,21