



Home of the Vikings

Board of Education
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Lakeview Community Schools
3744- 83rd Street
Columbus, NE 68601
Phone- 402-564-8518
Dr. Aaron Plas- Superintendent

Board of Education
Ryan Loseke
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June 6, 2018

Lakeview Community Schools Patrons,

Country Club Shores residential neighborhood and the surrounding businesses along 33rd Avenue have been targeted for annexation from the city of Columbus. A map of the area proposed for annexation is included at the bottom of this letter. This greatly affects Lakeview Community Schools since this would shift school boundaries for Columbus Public Schools to include those areas. If this annexation and boundary change occurred all students in the affected neighborhood would then become resident students of CPS instead of LCS beginning in the 2019-20 school year. In addition, the anticipated loss in valuation of that area to the Lakeview school district is around \$22 million dollars which equates to 1.46% of the total district valuation.

While there have been rumors for a long time regarding this annexation, Lakeview felt the need to wait until we knew the exact intentions of the city of Columbus prior to addressing our plan of action. But this does not mean we have not been working behind the scenes to attempt to preserve our school district boundaries to the best of our abilities including contacting legal counsel.

A summary of our understanding of the city annexation statutes that apply to Country Club Shores are:

- The city of Columbus may annex any territory that is within 200 feet of the current city limit that is urbanized or platted for urbanization. Due to development up to Lost Creek Parkway, this allows the city to annex the business district and the residential homes in Country Club Shores and stay within the 200-foot range. The following is a general summary of annexation law:
 - The city may at any time annex 'contiguous or adjacent' lands
 - Land shall be deemed contiguous although a stream, embankment, strip or parcel of land, not more than 200 feet wide, lies between such land and the corporate limits
 - The Nebraska Supreme Court has voided "strip, corridor or flag" annexations in which the land is adjacent by only a narrow strip or neck of land
 - The city automatically annexes adjacent property upon subdivision if it is in the future urban area and must annex adjacent county roads during an annexation.

Lakeview Jr.-Sr. High School
3744 - 83rd Street
Columbus, NE 68601
Steve Borer – Principal
Jake Shadley – Assistant Principal/Activities
Kurt Frenzen – JH Dean of Students
Tom Lange – JH Activities Director
Phone: 402-564-8518
Fax: 402-564-5209

Platte Center Elementary
Box 109 (155 Platte St.)
Platte Center, NE 68653
Quentin Witt –Principal
Phone: 402-246-3465

Shell Creek Elementary
16786 - 280th Street
Columbus, NE 68601
Josh Graves – Principal
Phone:402-564-8008

A summary of our understanding of the educational state statutes that govern the annexation and boundary changes for school districts include:

- When a city annexes property in a neighboring school district (LCS), the city school district boundary shifts along with the city boundary (CPS). (Statute 79-473)
- The city school (CPS) must allow the annexed school (LCS) to negotiate in good faith which school district shall serve the annexed territory and the effective date of transfer. During the process, the affected boards shall consider the following criteria:
 - The educational needs of the students in the affected school districts
 - The economic impact upon the affected school districts
 - Any common interests between the annexed or platted area and the affected school districts and the community which has zoning jurisdiction over the area
 - Community educational planning
- If no agreement has been reached within 90 days after the effective date of the annexation ordinance, the territory shall transfer to the school district of the annexing city (CPS) ten days after the expiration.
- Residents currently living in Country Club Shores would continue to be liable for any outstanding bonds to Lakeview. Residents would NOT be liable for any outstanding bonds to Columbus Public (Statute 79-474).
- If annexed, the effective date of the merger related to a student's education would take place on July 1st immediately following the change in city ordinance (Statute 79-475).

The mandated public hearings for the city's annexation will be held on July 9th, before the 7 p.m. planning commission meeting and July 16th, before the 7 p.m. city council meeting at the city council chambers.

Our next steps as a school district is to negotiate with Columbus Public Schools to see if we can find a way to protect the boundaries for as long as possible, allow kids to attend the school of their choice, and reduce the financial impact of the annexation. *What we can assure you, is that we will do our very best to protect Lakeview during this challenging situation.*

If you have any questions about the proposed annexation of Country Club Shores and the surrounding businesses, please contact Dr. Aaron Plas:

Email – aplas@lakeview.esu7.org

Phone – 402-564-8518

Face-to-Face – By appointment at Lakeview Jr./Sr. High School

BELOW IS A MAP OF THE AREA PROPOSED FOR ANNEXATION:

