

October 11, 2021

Dear members of the State Board of Education,

The Ripton School District Board would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the negotiations with Addison Central School District. As we understand it, the SBE's preferred outcome from the September 15th meeting is for Ripton to stay a member of ACSD. Steve Cash, the RSD Board Chair, met with Superintendent Burrows on Monday, October 11 to discuss this possibility. Unfortunately, the conversation, while cordial and friendly, wasn't very productive. Our perspective on why it was unproductive is that there is little motivation on the part of ACSD to recognize our concerns and to put effort into cooperatively building a scenario where Ripton could, in good faith, remain in the district. In essence, Ripton has returned to the familiar territory of holding no power.

We would like to know if the State Board has any thoughts on how to support the framework of our negotiations if our concerns continue to be met with resistance. Would a third-party moderator be appropriate? Additionally, we feel the ACSD Board does not fully understand your expectations. Please help us by clarifying those expectations.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
The Ripton School District Board

Steve Cash  
Molly Witters  
Joanna Doria