

**July 30, 2012 Public Hearing Summary
Feasibility and Planning Study Committee
Vinton, Iowa**

Approximately 70 people attended the public hearing.

There were 28 presenters:

- 21 deaf
- 6 hearing
- 1 blind
- 16 attended ISD (2 currently enrolled)
- 1 attended IBSSS

Main points of presenters at public hearing:

1. Keep ISD open.
2. Mainstream experience was challenging:
 - lack of identify as deaf or hard of hearing person
 - lack of quality interpreting services
 - communication, including comprehension, was inadequate
 - low academic expectations
 - experienced bullying
 - inability to fully participate in extracurricular activities
 - socially isolated; deaf culture can't be learned in isolation
3. Full access to communication is paramount. ISD has direct communication in sign language.

Suggestions noted:

- Consider increasing the 3 minute time limit for ASL speakers at the next public hearing.
- All blind/visually impaired students should spend one year at Iowa Braille School.
- Don't merge IBS and ISD
- Use lottery money for additional budget
- Raise taxes if money is the problem
- Get a national expert from National Association of the Deaf or Gallaudet University to present to the feasibility committee
- Can we change admissions policies to draw students from other states
- Consolidate statewide service at ISD
- Educate parents statewide that ISD is an option
- Consider all support services costs of mainstreaming a deaf student