

Contacts: Aimee Claeys and John Nash

IOWA BRAILLE AND SIGHT SAVING SCHOOL PROPOSED PROPERTY SALE

Action Requested: Authorize the Executive Director to take all actions necessary, including the execution of an agreement for the sale of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School (IBSSS) campus to the City of Vinton for \$1. Property includes 48 acres and 11 buildings. A waiver of Board Policy 2.3.2.C.ii that real estate be conveyed based upon appraisal is requested.

- *Iowa Code §262.9(8)* authorizes the Regents to acquire real estate for the proper uses of the institutions and dispose of real estate, when not necessary for their purposes.

IBSSS CAMPUS: ACRES



Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School Campus, Vinton

North



Executive Summary: Established in 1852, the “Iowa College for the Blind” started in Keokuk for four blind students 167 years ago, and then moved to Vinton in 1862. After 157 years in Vinton, the Board Office is requesting Board approval to sell IBSSS to the City of Vinton for \$1. Sale of the property is contingent upon successful assignment of the AmeriCorps lease to the City of Vinton, and the Federal Government’s acceptance and acknowledgement of the assignment.

While IBSSS’s highest reported attendance was 208 students in 1896, its attendance declined 87% from 119 students in 1972 to 16 students in 2008. To offset the associated decline in revenue, the Board of Regents successfully started leasing 60% of the IBSSS campus in 2008 to the Federal Government as a regional site for AmeriCorps. After 11 continuous years of leasing, AmeriCorps renewed their lease in 2019 for 10 more years.

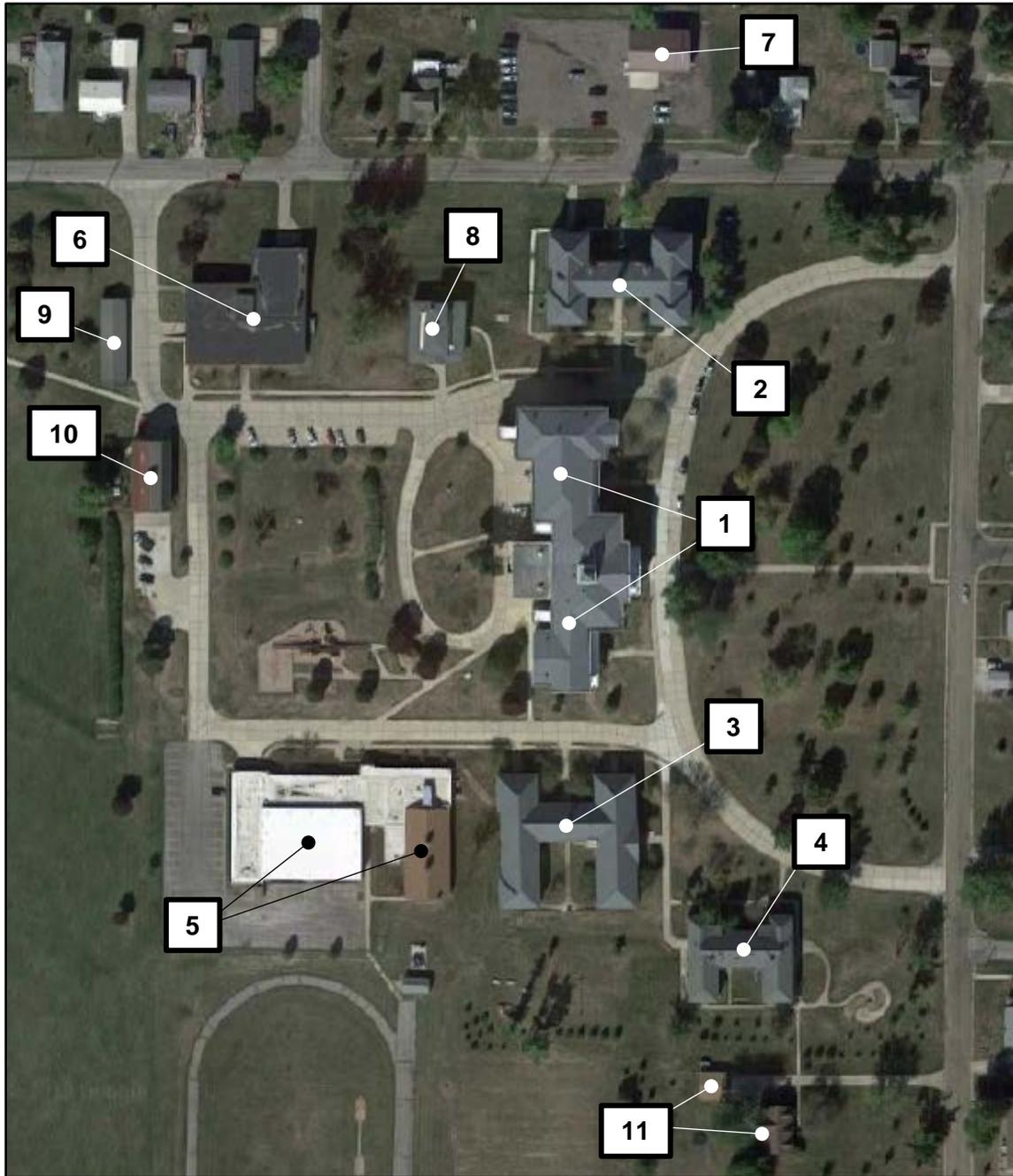
In 2016, the Board Office began working with representatives of the City of Vinton on a proposal to sell the IBSSS campus to the City of Vinton for \$1. Since then, the Board Office, the City of Vinton and IBSSS have worked collaboratively toward a successful property sale. Also during this time, the Board Office reached out to other government agencies. For example in October 2016, the Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) toured IBSSS’s facilities, but found that it did not meet the future needs of either agency.

Timeline:

- 1852: IBSSS established as the “Iowa College for the Blind” in Keokuk for four blind students.
- 1858: IBSSS moved to Vinton.
- 1862: Old Main was opened, 24 blind students enrolled.
- 2008: AmeriCorps lease #1 was established for five years.
- 2011: IBSSS students started attending Iowa’s public schools.
- 2011: Straight-line winds tore off Old Main’s roof, caused over \$6 million in campus damage
- 2013: AmeriCorp lease #2 for five more years
- 2016: Board approved a 10-year lease extension of the Kiwanis Park to the City of Vinton.
- 2018: AmeriCorp lease #3 for one more year in preparation of the property sale
- 2019: AmeriCorp lease #4 for 10 more years (June 10, 2019 to June 9, 2029)
- **2019: Board Office requested Board approval to sell the IBSSS to the City of Vinton.**

#	IBSSS buildings (next page)	gross square feet
1.	Old Main	69,280
2.	Palmer Hall	27,486
3.	Rice Hall	35,910
4.	Cottage	12,120
5.	Recreation Building	24,848
6.	Service Building	9,750
7.	North Parking Lot Building	2,400
8.	Old Hospital	3,200
9.	Garage	2,080
10.	Barn	2,376
11.	Superintendent’s House & Garage	4,224
Total		193,674

IBSSS CAMPUS: BUILDINGS



Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School Campus, Vinton,
48 acres and 11 buildings

