TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

February 10, 2005 LB 126

that school, it will be affiliated probably with Ponca, Nebraska. Now, that building, that structure, that attendance center will probably never be closed because that's a growing bedroom community and there's many...there's all kinds of students to attend that center. So that facility will probably never be closed because it...but it will be assimilated. So I believe that...and many of these other schools will not be closed, the attendance centers will not be closed, because of the remoteness. They cannot do that. But those within close proximity to another school, I personally think they should be assimilated. Again, I agree, if you can have eight or ten students in your school, they're going to get more attention, because why wouldn't they? But can we afford that? I know in the constitution, Article VII, Section 1, 1875, says, Legislature shall provide for the free instruction in the common schools of this state of all persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years," and that's our obligation. I think we should do that because I totally believe in the value of I've always said to every time...every time I talk education. to students, education is the great equalizer. If you get a good education, no matter where you came from, your economic or your social or ethnic background, it doesn't make a bit of difference. If you get a good education and with effort on your part, you can do anything anyone else can do. So I do believe in the value of education. I always have and always will. As far as my good friend Senator Smith talking about more administrators today, I realize that, but I don't believe it's because we have fewer schools. I think it's because we're over administered in so many areas. I know of school districts where administration takes over above and beyond teachers, as far as I'm concerned. They keep hiring more and more and more administrators and more staff. However, I do have some in my district who are sharing, a couple schools, high schools, are sharing a superintendent because of their size and the...their budgets and so forth. So...but I do believe that your local school boards can certainly do a lot as far as how many administrators you have in a school district, and I think that's up to your school boards to look at that, that situation -- do we need all these administers...administrators and so forth? with that, I'll yield the rest of my time to Senator Raikes, if you'd like it.