

ORGANIZATION

District & Administration

The Minidoka County Joint School District #331 is the 20th largest of Idaho's 114 school districts, covering 762 square miles in the Southeast region of Idaho and serving the populations of the cities of Paul, Rupert, Heyburn, Acequia and Minidoka. The District also has students attend from portions of Lincoln, Cassia, Jerome and Blaine Counties. The District educates over 4000 students in preschool through grade 12. The District currently has 8 schools: 4 elementary schools (grades K-5), 2 middle schools (grades 6-8), and 2 high schools (including one alternative Jr/Sr high school). The District also participates in a regional ARTEC Professional Technical Charter School. The District offers a wide range of programs and services for its students. These include vocational and college preparatory classes. The district is one of the major employers in the county, employing nearly 700 people. About 35% of the jobs require university degrees and certification from the State Board of Education. The other 65% of the positions are classified according to the skills required; classified positions do not generally require university degrees or certification from the State Board of Education.

History of Minidoka County School District



Lincoln School – Built 1909

The school districts of the Minidoka Project were first organized in September of 1905. This district-then known as No. 24 of Lincoln County- had 89 children of school age. School was opened in October in an old frame shack

then known as the Woodworth & Donaldson building where the Rupert High school or Washington School once stood. There was one teacher, Mr. Charles Walters, at the school. This and other rooms and buildings throughout the area served for the purpose of school until April 1909. During the summer of that year, the east half of the Lincoln grade school was erected, and was completed in the summer of 1910.

With enrollment growing from 89 to over 1,300 a bond was passed in February of 1913 for the erection of the first electric high school building. It is safe to say that no district up to that point in time ever received as much favorable mention, and no community ever received so much free advertising as this one. Every electrical magazine in the U.S. and some in foreign countries had a story about the Rupert High School. This made it the first High school in history to have



Rupert High School – 1914

electricity to run the first technical programs, Home Economics or as they called it “Domestic Sciences” and Wood shop or “Manual Training Department”.

Rupert High School was used as a secondary school up until 1955 when Minidoka County High School was completed and the high

schools were consolidated. After that time it was renamed Washington Elementary School and used for an elementary school up until 1985 when it was condemned and finally demolished in 1987. Upon leaving Washington Elementary the students were moved to Big Valley Elementary School built in 1985, which is still used to this day.



Washington Elementary School – 1980's

In 1948 with the population continuing to grow, the local county commissioners put forth a vote to the community to combine the 17 smaller districts in the area into one consolidated district. The community voted with the result of 1,434 for the proposition and 441 against.

The following districts were combined thereafter to create the current district:

1. Rupert, Class A, District Number 331
2. Pioneer, Independent, District Number 2
3. Paul, Independent, District Number 3
4. Acequia, Independent, District Number 4
5. Heyburn, Joint Rural High School, District Number 1
6. Acequia, Rural High School, District Number 2
7. Minidoka, Common, District Number 2
8. Riverview, Common, District Number 3
9. Lincoln, Common, District Number 6
10. Washington, Common, District Number 12
11. Heyburn, Common, District Number 14
12. Hopewell, Common, District Number 15
13. Empire, Common, District Number 16
14. Big Bend, Common, District Number 17
15. Walcott, Common, District Number 19
16. Rosston, Common, District Number 4
17. Jackson, Common, District Number 27

In 1955 with the completion of the new consolidated high school, Minidoka County High School, the old high schools of Acequia, Heyburn, Rupert and Paul were converted to be used as elementary schools.

Pershing Elementary School built in 1918 and an addition built in 1961 was used as an elementary school up until 1997 when it was condemned and all but the addition was demolished. The students attending the school were moved to Big Valley Elementary. The addition was then used as the alternative school, Mini-Cassia Opportunity Center, up until 2006 when the students were moved to Memorial.



Acequia High School – 1900's

Acequia School built in 1936 was used as a high school until 1955 and then was converted to an elementary. In 2006 a bond was passed to build a new elementary school to replace the old school. The new school will be open for the 2009-2010 school year.

Built in 1937, Heyburn High School also became an elementary school after the consolidation. With the same bond passing in 2006 to build the new Acequia Elementary a new Heyburn Elementary school will be built to replace the old school.

Built in 1961, Memorial Elementary School was used as an elementary school until 2006 when the students were moved to Big Valley Elementary School. After this consolidation, the Big Valley Elementary School was renamed Rupert Elementary School. The alternative school moved to the Memorial building in 2006 and was renamed Mount Harrison Jr./Sr. High School.

East and West Minico Junior High Schools were built in 1970 and were restructured as middle schools in the year 2000, Paul Elementary School was built in 1980 after a fire destroyed the old Paul High School building in 1978 and the consolidated Minidoka County High School (aka Minico High) had a major facelift. Remodeling, adding additional classroom space, library, administrative offices and a multipurpose room addition in 2002-2003.



Minidoka County High School - 2008