

September 14, 2005

To: Open Letter to the Newcastle School Board

Attn: President Al Kneifl

Re: Editorial in the 9-8-05 NJL

The ABC's Committee (Alternative Building Construction Site Committee) has been misrepresented by the Nebraska Journal-Leader Editor in the September 8, 2005, issue.

It was erroneously reported that the ABC's Committee members "are insisting that Newcastle close its school and join Ponca." This is simply not true. The Editor has not interviewed any officer of our group, nor has he been willing to print any rebuttals, hence this letter directly to you and your board.

Furthermore, the Editor does not even have the common courtesy to refer to us by our proper name, which as he well knows, has been properly filed with the state of Nebraska as ABC's Committee under the rules applying to a Ballot Question Committee.

The ABC's goals include building a reasonably sized and priced facility to educate our children, but not over-extend our school district financially. We also strive to get all the facts about any proposals to the voting public.

We opposed the last two bond issues because of the cost, proposed location, and size. Four Ponca school board members and the Ponca Pride group promoted a school to handle up to 400 Jr.-Sr. High School students. Ponca currently has approximately 195 Jr.-Sr. High students. We believe that \$10,278,000.00 is simply too much for our current student population.

Reasonable people might wonder who really has their eye on Newcastle's student population given the attempts to build a school twice the size of what we need. It may merit some inquiry on your part.

Our full mission statement, rebuttals to the Editor, facts about financing, etc. can be found on our website at [www.ABCsCommittee.org](http://www.ABCsCommittee.org).

You can also e-mail us at [ABCsCommittee@hotmail.com](mailto:ABCsCommittee@hotmail.com) or call me at 755-4110.

Sincerely,

Michael Brannon  
Chairman, ABC's Committee

Cc: Dakota County Star  
Cedar County News  
Wayne Herald  
Sioux City Journal