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## Schools join push for Central time

By CLAIRE MOORMAN  
Herald Staff Writer

LINCOLN CITY — The North Spencer School Board has signed a resolution to support all of Indiana observing the Central time zone.

Superintendent Dan Scherry informed the board at its regular meeting Monday that the Central Time Coalition, a group of Central time advocates spread across the state, contacted him to seek the board's support.

"They knew we were right on the border (of the Central and Eastern time zones) and we would have very good arguments for Central time," Scherry said. The five board members in at-

tendance unanimously agreed to sign the petition.

"It sure would be nice if we were all on the same time," board member Lori Gogel said.

The coalition plans to lobby the 2013 Indiana General Assembly to create a committee to "objectively evaluate the consequences of both the Eastern time zone and the Central time zone on Hoosiers," coalition President Sue Dillon of Carmel said this morning.

Dillon said that the Eastern time zone creates several problems for Indiana school corporations. First, she said, the darkness

## Time

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Hoosier students experience as they travel to school on fall and winter mornings puts them in danger from passing vehicles and child predators.

The coalition was formed in 2009 after a Carmel High School teen was hit by a car and killed while waiting in the dark for a school bus.

Second, Dillon argues that the high number of two-hour delays Indiana schools experience could be decreased by starting school an hour later. Students in the Eastern time zone sometimes must begin school at 10 a.m. because of inclement weather, but students on Central time can begin school at 9 a.m. on those days, saving an important hour of instructional time.

"When you have school delays, most teachers consider those days wasted as far as education goes," Dillon said. "The classes are reduced to 30 minutes. They're going through the motions, but it's all speeded up."

She also said that students who are forced to begin school before the sun has risen are still too tired to learn.

"Our bodies function on biological clocks. People just simply don't wake up until the sun is up and they're not ready to go to sleep until it gets dark. Our internal clocks are set by sunlight," Dillon said.

The time change also can be difficult for teachers and administrators who live in the Eastern time zone but work in the Central time zone, Dillon said.

Because the North Spencer School Corp. is one hour ahead of neighboring Dubois County, sports and other extracurricular events are more difficult to schedule between the two areas, board member Elaine Daubenspeck said this morning.

"There's an inconvenience for our small pocket and the small pocket up by Chicago to be on Central time and everyone else is on a different time," Daubenspeck said. "It just makes sense, with the darkness in the mornings."

Eighty Indiana counties observe Eastern time and 12 — six in southwestern Indiana and six in the northwestern corner of the state — observe Central time.

Contact Claire Moorman at  
cmoorman@dcheerald.com.