

Malmo students, teachers question consolidation

MALMO from page 3

-filiation.

Speichinger said this could just be the backlash from that situation.

"What is their ultimate goal?" she said. "Do they want to send all the kids to school in Omaha?"

A family atmosphere

Looking at the four grades of children

who work together in one room, Speichinger said many people were moving to town simply because they want the small-school atmosphere. The school boasts new computer equipment, Internet access and a colorful new jungle gym.

Malmo has 114 people, and rental property along the town's gravel roads fills up as soon as someone moves out, she said.

"A lot of people are trying to get out of the big cities, to get away from crowding and gangs," said Speichinger, who is a Malmo

school alumna. "We do have a lot of population turnover.

"The whole school is a family atmosphere. They help each other and learn from each other. The older children get the feeling of, 'Hey, I know something, and I can help teach.'"

Speichinger's five children have all attended the school.

Lindgren, who has one child at Malmo and one who attended but is now in high school, said the good teacher-to-student ratio promotes

good education.

"We're really happy with what we have and feel the kids get a quality education through sixth grade," he said. "They get a good start and are successful once they go to a larger school."

If Malmo is forced to join Wahoo and have its budget controlled, Speichinger's restlessness about the situation might send her running for a seat on the board.

"I'm not one to just sit back and watch things happen."

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