

Need For New Schools Outlined For Westland Voters

By HARRY HOWARD
Wayne Community School Board

Why? This is the question on the lips of many individuals after the recent announcement of the Wayne Community School Board of Education of its proposal for a Bond Issue of \$15.75 million on the June 12 ballot.

The question is logically being asked since the public voted a five year program in June of 1965.

Due to increased cost and the burgeoning junior high school population, this five year program had to be condensed into a four year program. It will provide facilities through February 15, 1969.

There is another reason for the election being held at this time. How much time is required to produce a school after voter authorization is

received? Let's consider the following.

The planning by the Board of Education and Administration entails at least six months work. The Citizens' Advisory Committee on School Buildings has been active in this area for more than six months.

An application to the State Department of Education for permission to hold an election and information verifying the need must be submitted and approved. This takes approximately one to two months.

After approval by the voters, the entire proposal must go to the Municipal Finance Commission composed of representatives from the State Treasurer's Office, the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Education.

The proposal is then gone

through with a fine tooth comb to be sure in the interest of the citizens of Michigan in terms of need, feasibility and economic factors are protected.

Upon approval by the Municipal Finance Commission the Board of Education then is authorized to advertise for bids in the open Bond Market. In the meantime much work has been done with the financial consulting firm hired by the Board of Education to assist in the sale of the bonds.

Timing is a very important factor in entering the bond market.

For example, in the 1965 Bond Issue, a neighboring community with more financial resources than Wayne sold an issue and received a less favorable interest rating, roughly 1/8th percentage more than Wayne Community School District.

Over the period of 30 years on several million dollars this can amount to a large amount of interest. The bonds are sold, then bids may be awarded.

But wait a minute! In the meantime an architectural firm has been working with a committee of educators who plan the best building possible.

In the period of 1950, the Nation's schools were called upon to build many buildings with little experience and less time in which to build them. They met the burgeoning population but in many cases made mistakes. This is not to say that mistakes aren't still being made. Most people discover one the first day they move into a new home. There are fewer being made today in the schools than in the past because of the involvement of those who work daily in the situation along with the architects.

The educational planning and preparation of plans for a junior high school take up to a year. After the Board approved these plans, based on the recommendation of the staff and the Citizens' Committee, they are ready to advertise for bids.

"Another 30 day period is necessary for bidders to adequately price out the project and make their proposal. The bids are awarded and hopefully construction starts immediately. Take a look at the most recent schools. The money was voted for the Wildwood School in June, 1965. Municipal Finance approval. Sale of Bonds and bidding procedures took to February 1966.

The school was ready for occupancy in late April or approximately 14 months after that date and nearly two years after the Bond Issue had passed. One of the reasons for this dilemma is the shortage of available skilled labor.

Now back to the reasons for the Bond Issue. Our census continues to climb. The census taken in May, 1966 was up to 1,000 pupils over the previous May. Although the birth rate seems to be down, our census will continue to climb for some time. This is wise out new homes being constructed and it seems a sure bet that they will continue to be constructed for some time.

During the present school year we have over 2,200 students in the Kindergarten. About 1,300 will leave the sixth grade and will go to junior high next year.

We have an average of about 1,225 pupils in each of the three junior high grades. It is easy to see then that as these students progress through the grades our enrollments in junior high school will soon be more than 3,600.

We presently have facilities for about 3,600 junior high enrollment increases there, the junior high students will gradually be phased out.

By 1973, both senior high schools will be saturated with 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. It is essential that planning be done for additional senior high space but the Board is reserving decision in this matter until the population

density of the district better defined.

Simply stated, it might be possible to house the senior high program in the present senior high schools, with additional space might be necessary to build a third senior high. Reduced to its simplest form, it becomes obvious that lead time is necessary for the schools that are needed in 1969. June 12, not

too early and with today's building conditions the Board will be hard pressed to have the classrooms that are needed by September of 1969. One important point for the citizenry to remember when they go to the polls on June 12 is that:

1. The Board of Education has been criticized in the past for not having classrooms completed on time.

2. The Board has not been

criticized for "Over Building" at any time since its building program has been paced to the point that the students are ready when the classrooms are there. This requires planning time and money.

We trust that you will be come informed about all the needs of the district. If you need further information, call 722-1500 and a Staff Member will be glad to explain the need to you.

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Socially Speaking

Westland and Garden City

By Harriet Gagnon
261-0338



The Carl Hosier family of Arrowhead Trail, were one of the many Westland families present for the City's First Anniversary celebration.

The Hosiers turned up up with the Pete Venturas, councilman of Livonia, looking tanned and relaxed after spending a few days in Acapulco, Mexico.

They were impressed with Acapulco, as Mary Ellen remarked, "They were quite shaken," while there they experienced a sizable earthquake. Frightened guests running out in the street, and pictures dancing on the walls.

From Acapulco the Hosiers flew down to Mexico City, while here they enjoyed deep sea fishing, Bull fights, and of course the Straw Market. They also saw the National Palace in Zocalo Square, which is the home of the President of Mexico. They also enjoyed the rhythm of one of the Mariachi Bands.

The Annual Mother-Daughter banquet of the Good Shepherd Church in Westland, will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church next Tuesday, at 6:30. As is the custom, the men of the church will prepare and serve this dinner to the ladies. Donations will be \$1.50 for the young in heart

and 75 cents for the young in years. Tickets will be available at the door.

The First Baptist Church in Garden City, held its Mother-Daughter banquet May 13. There were 220 guests. Mistress of Ceremonies was Mrs. James Tierney who tied with two other ladies for having the most daughters present. Mrs. Tierney, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Jack Federspill each had four daughters present. Theme for the evening was "How Does Your Garden Grow." Music was by the Belleville Girls Ensemble.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Dilley will be sorry to hear the Dilleys flew to their westland home early from their winter home in Punta Gorda, Fla., and both Mr. and Mrs. Dilley are hospitalized at Martin Place West Hospital.

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