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PREFACE

The Grosse Pointe School District includes an area of roughly thirteen square miles with a population of around 52,000 and a public school enrollment of approximately 7,200 pupils. The Grosse Pointe area is immediately adjacent to Detroit on the east, lying along the shore of Lake St. Clair. The Grosse Pointe School District was organized in 1922 and is composed of all of the five Grosse Pointe Municipalities and a fractional part of the City of Harper Woods. This suburban community is entirely residential, predominantly American-born, with an unusually high percentage of its working population in the professional, technical, and business executive classifications. The general economic, social, and cultural level of the homes is decidedly above the average.

There are nine elementary schools in the district which range in size from one of about 200 pupils to others with enrollments of 800. The average class size is approximately ^{twenty-eight} 23 pupils, although individual class groups vary slightly in size above and below this number. The total elementary enrollment is close to 4,600.

Grosse Pointe has three Junior High Schools, all of which include Grades ~~Seven~~, ~~Eight~~, and ~~Nine~~. The Parcels and Pierce Junior High Schools ^{were} ~~are~~ designed specifically for Junior High Schools, while the Brownell Junior High School is housed in the same building with the Senior High School. All work in junior high school is organized on a departmental basis, although interdepartmental correlation is encouraged. A guidance program organized partially on a Home Room

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basis and with special counselors is in operation on the Junior High School level. The present Junior High School enrollment is slightly in excess of 1,400.

The Grosse Pointe Senior High School includes Grades Ten, Eleven, and Twelve with an enrollment of approximately 1,200 pupils. Almost ^{seventy percent} of the graduates of the High School enter college or some other institution of advanced learning. Strong Commercial, Industrial Arts, Household Arts, Music, and Art departments provide a healthy balance in the curriculum offering of the senior high school. Placement and follow-up services are important features of the senior high school guidance program which is organized on a home room-guidance counselor basis.

In addition to the schools which are now in operation, the school district owns two sites for future elementary schools and one for an additional junior high school. Both of the elementary school sites are located in the northwesterly part of the school district. At such times as schools are built on these sites, all areas of the school district will be served by elementary schools centrally located for all parts of the district. The junior high school site is located to serve the central part of the school district. The Brownell Junior High School, which is now housed in the Senior High School Building, will be discontinued in the near future to make room for the growth which will take place in the Senior High School as the larger groups now in the elementary and junior high school grades move on into the Senior High School.

The history of the Grosse Pointe School District shows that there has been a rather steady and rapid growth in population and school enrollment since the time of . . . organization in 1922. At that time there were less than 1000 children enrolled in the public schools of the district and the total population was less than 8000. While there was much growth in the late twenties and in the few years preceding World War II, the greatest growth has taken place during the last four years, during which time more than 4000 new dwelling units have been built; the school enrollment has increased 1300 pupils and the total population almost 10,000 persons.

The Crosse Pointe communities are in many ways one community with common interests. There is no distinction along boundary lines in membership in churches or in civic and social organizations. There is one library system, supervised and administered by the Board of Education, one memorial center and one neighborhood club. While there is close cooperation between the five political units, it is still of interest to note that they are still distinct and separate units. There is just one governmental function that embraces all and that is the school district. The district under one Board of Education of five members elected at large from the entire area is the one common governmental tie that binds all together. This common tie has been in existence only since the early 1920's.

In 1921 there were five separate school districts serving this area. In that year a number of citizens, realizing that better educational opportunities could be provided for children if the several schools were united, started a movement to join the five school districts into one. Petitions to form a consolidated Rural Agricultural School District were circulated and signed in November 1921. The district which it was proposed to consolidate comprised School District #1, which included the Oak Franchises and Jackson Schools; District #2, the Liberty School; District #3, the Vornier School, Fractional #1 of Crosse Pointe and Gratiot Townships served by Hamlet School located north of Mack Avenue and now part of the City of Detroit; and Fractional School District #4 of Crosse Pointe and Gratiot Townships which was served by the Oak School located

on Mack Avenue near Lockmeier Boulevard.

Petitions were addressed to the County Commissioner of Schools of Wayne County, Michigan to vote on the question of organizing a Rural Agricultural School District.

Under the provisions of Act #226 of the Public Acts of 1927, as amended, comprising School Districts 1, 2 and 3, Grosse Pointe Township and Fractional School Districts 7 and 9, Grosse Pointe and Gratiot Townships; together with all the proceedings and documents of the County Commissioner of Schools of Wayne County, Michigan, thereon, including the proceedings relative to the election to organize said District and for the election of Trustees of said District.

By the 25th of November these petitions were signed by 25 per cent of the legal school electors of each of the said school districts and E. W. Yest, County Commissioner of Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, officially examined and approved them in the following letter:

"I have this day examined the petitions filed with me from the following named School Districts, requesting me to cause to be submitted to the legal school electors of said Districts the question of organizing a Rural Agricultural School District under the provisions of Act No. 226 of the Public Acts of 1927, as amended:

School District No. 1 of Township of Grosse Pointe, County of Wayne

School District No. 2 of Township of Grosse Pointe, County of Wayne

School District No. 3 of Township of Grosse Pointe, County of Wayne

Map of Original District -- See Appendix.

²Official Minutes of the Board of Education (Hereafter cited as minutes) Vol. 1, Page 1; certified accurate copies of the Wayne County Commissioner of Schools

Fractional School District No. 7 of the Township of
Grosse Pointe and Township of Gratiot, County of
Wayne

Fractional School Distr. No. 9 of the Township of
Grosse Pointe and Township of Gratiot, County of
Wayne and State of Michigan

"An examination of said petitions indicates that each and all of said petitions are in proper form and that the petitions of each of the above named School Districts are signed by more than 25% of the legal school electors of each of said School Districts respectively.

"I therefore find and determine that said petitions are sufficient as a matter of law and that they each and all contain the requisite number of names of said legal school electors.

"Dated, this 25th day of November, A. D. 1921.

E. W. YOST
County Commissioner of Schools
of Wayne County, Michigan."

On the same day that the County Commissioner approved these petitions, he wrote the Honorable Thomas E. Johnson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, informing him that the petitions had been received and approved and urging him to set a date for an election which was his duty by law.

The following table shows the number of children of school census age, 5 to 17, the number of pupils enrolled in school and the assessed valuation of the several districts which petitioned to consolidate into one district. The figures are for November, 1921.²

¹Minutes, Vol. 2, Page 2

²Minutes, Vol. 2, Page 3

	No. Children 5 to 20 in Districts:	No. Children Attending School:	Assessed Valuations:
No. 1	936	551	\$22,031,692
No. 2	573	197	13,562,623
No. 3	157	100	6,921,833
No. 7	150	129	1,949,375
No. 9	<u>147</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>1,100,493</u>
	2753	947	\$53,499,063

On November 30, 1921 the State Superintendent of Public Instruction gave his approval for the election to be held on December 23, 1921. The legal election notices were published in the several districts and the election on the following proposition was held:

Shall the following school districts be consolidated for the purpose of organizing a Rural Agricultural School District under the provisions of Act 226 of the Public Acts of 1917, as amended; School District No. 1 in the Township of Crosse Pointe, County of Wayne, with that of School District No. 2 in the Township of Crosse Pointe, County of Wayne; with that of School District No. 3 in the Township of Crosse Pointe, County of Wayne, with that of Fractional School District No. 7 in the Township of Crosse Pointe and the Township of Gratiot, County of Wayne, with that of Fractional School District No. 9 in the Township of Crosse Pointe and the Township of Gratiot, County of Wayne and State of Michigan."

The whole number of votes cast were 321, of the total 227 were for organizing said district and 93 were against organizing. There was one spoiled ballot.

¹ Minutes, Vol. 1, Page 11.

Following the election to organize a Rural Agricultural School District, E. W. Yeak, Wayne County Commissioner of Schools, called a special school district meeting for the purpose of calling an election of a Board of Education of five trustees for the newly consolidated school district by the legal school electors. One trustee was to be elected for one year; two trustees for two years and two trustees for three years as is provided in Act 226 of the Public Laws of 1917, as amended. The date of this meeting was set for the 27th day of January 1922. For the five positions there were 13 candidates--four for the one year term; five for the two year term and three for the three year term.

The whole number of votes cast in this election were 894. The successful candidates were as follows:

- Louis E. Smart - - - - - 1 year
- Charles A. Payo - - - - - 2 years
- John F. Kirby - - - - - 2 years
- George DeFor - - - - - 3 years
- Charles A. Payard - - - - - 3 years

The first meeting of the Board of Education was held February 6, 1922 at which time George DeFor was elected President; Charles A. Payo, Secretary; and Charles A. Payard, Treasurer.

Thus the Rural Agricultural School District was formed and the Board of Education elected and organized.

Many people, in recent years, have raised the question as to why Grosse Pointe is organized as an Agricultural School District inasmuch as it is quite urban in character.

The answer is quite simple. At the time the question of consolidation was being considered, there was considerable doubt as to whether all districts would vote favorably. Under the laws at that time all districts would have had to vote in favor of consolidation if the district was to be organized as a Township School District. Under the Rural Agricultural School District provisions any two districts that voted in favor could join together, thus as there was a question about all of the districts agreeing to the proposal, the leaders of the movement felt that it was better to take a chance on some consolidation rather than none (if one district voted negatively) and therefore decided on a Rural Agricultural Organization. Consequently that is the way the petitions were presented.