

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1925

Number 3

CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Residents of Grosse Pointe Township who are not now members of the Citizens' Association will be given an opportunity to join within the next two weeks. In order that all next two weeks.

The Citizens' Association was organized in June, 1923 by about thirty residents of the township who believed an independent citizen organization could be of service to the community. The objects of organization as set down in the articles of Association are "to seek to preserve the purity of elections, to guard against abuse of the elective franchise, to publish information regarding public affairs and to promote governmental efficiency within the township of Grosse Pointe." The importance of maintaining a strictly non-partisan attitude was recognized. The by-laws provide that no person holding an elective office or any candidate for office shall serve as a member of the Executive Board.

In fulfilling its objects the association has undertaken a number of activities that have been of definite value to Grosse Pointe residents.

1.—It has printed and distributed monthly issues of the Grosse Pointe Civic News, the official publication of the Association. This paper dealing exclusively with items of municipal interest is mailed without charge to residents of the township. The Civic News carries notices of meetings, payment of taxes, elections, etc., in addition to news items and articles dealing with the local governments.

2.—In 1924 the Association undertook a study of the administration organization of the school district. The survey, conducted by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, advocated changes in methods and procedure such as a detailed budget and separate business department. Such changes have been sponsored by the Association and to a large extent have been put in effect.

3.—The only available consolidated map of the four Grosse Pointe Villages was published and distributed in January, 1925.

4.—Challengers for school elections and for the Grosse Pointe Park election have been furnished by the Association.

5.—The trial of Grosse Pointe Park election officials for alleged violation of State election laws was advocated by the Association, indicating its interest in guarding the elective franchise of the voters.

6.—The annual report of the School District for 1923-24 was published by the Association at cost effecting a saving of more than \$1100. The Association has offered to print the report for 1924-25 on the same cost basis, thus assuring the taxpayers a similar saving.

7.—In an effort to promote gov-

ernmental efficiency the Association has advocated uniform traffic laws for all villages, improved municipal budgets and proper zoning regulations.

8.—The Association questioned the legality of a school board member serving as business manager and advocated a business department separate from the elected personnel of the board.

This brief review indicates the work that has been undertaken. It includes community problems that affect each resident of the township and that could not have been undertaken except by the combined effort and financial support of public spirited persons.

The funds with which the Citizens' Association has operated during the past have been raised by voluntary subscription, but an increased number of subscribers is needed. Following are the classes of membership: Active members, \$1.00 to \$10.00 per year; Sustaining members, \$10.00 to \$25.00 per year; Contributing members, \$25.00 to \$50.00 per year. The greater part of funds received has come from sustaining members, the average remittance for the past year being \$13.24.

Most residents of the township appreciate the value of the Association's work, but many of its supporters are not yet members. The Executive Board looks for a ready response in its present campaign and trusts that those who are not now members will mail their application and check to J. L. Hickey, Treas., 1535 Washington Blvd.

CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Application for Membership

Date.....

I hereby apply for.....membership in the Citizens' Association and agree to pay annual dues of

I subscribe to the objects of the Association as stated in its constitution and by-laws: "to preserve the purity of elections, guard against abuse of the elective franchise, publish information regarding public affairs and promote governmental efficiency within the Township of Grosse Pointe.

Signed.....

Address..... Phone.....

NOTE—Classes of Membership are: Active, \$1.00 to \$10.00 per year; Sustaining, \$10.00 to \$25.00 per year; Contributing, \$25.00 to \$50.00 per year.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 316 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor.

H. G. Fishack, Editor.

Printed once a month as the official publication of the Citizens Association of Grosse Pointe Township, under the authority of the following board of directors:

H. P. Breitenbach, President.

Wm. M. Mertz, Vice-President.

Raymond K. Dykema, Secretary.

Jos. L. Hickey, Treasurer.

Mrs. H. H. Sanger Charles A. Parcelis

Charles L. Palms, Jr.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

At the recent annual meeting of the school electors, several matters were intelligently singled out for discussion, notably that of teachers' salaries. It was the unmistakable attitude of the taxpayers present that our schools should have the best teachers available, and that salaries should be paid adequate for the need.

Sound logic supports this conclusion. In the first place, it was pointed out, the salary schedule of Grosse Pointe schools is considerably below that of Detroit and of Highland Park. There is no reason why we should not have teachers as capable as those in our neighboring municipalities nor should we reasonably expect to secure them for less money.

Moreover, study of our school budget seems to reveal inadequate appreciation of the teaching staff in comparison with salaries paid to others. It is a fact that the average pay of janitors in Grosse Pointe schools is higher than that of either elementary, special or even high school teachers.

Finally, as was brought out in the discussion at the annual meeting, to increase the salaries of teachers is a most economical way of raising the efficiency of our whole school system. If, for example, there were an average increase of \$300 a year per teacher, thus placing the Grosse Pointe schedule about on a par with Detroit, the increased cost would be \$19,200, or an addition of less than 6% to the budget expenditures.

The type of education our children receive depends essentially upon the type of teacher who imparts it. Buildings and other physical adjuncts are necessary, but teach-

ing is the lifeblood of the whole educational process. Therefore, if a 6% addition to our budget should reasonably promise a 20% or greater vitalization of educational efficiency, it is a wise and economical expenditure.

It was not the intention of the meeting that any blanket increase be made at this time, even if it were possible. The idea rather was to suggest to the school board that

our community wants the highest type of education available, and that it is willing to pay for it. The present teaching staff should, therefore, feel encouraged to believe that whatever degree of ability they exhibit will be suitably rewarded in the future, and the word should go out everywhere in educational circles that the best teaching talent will be welcomed in Grosse Pointe Schools.

1925-1926

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUDGET

EDITOR'S NOTE:—Following is the School Budget for the fiscal year 1925-26 as approved by the electors July 15th. Further Classification of teachers' and janitors' salaries than is included in the budget prepared by the School Board is included here. **Comparison of 1925-1926 requests with expenditures of previous year**

	by general activities			Increase	
	Allowed 1924-1925	Spent 1924-1925	Requested 1925-1926	Amount	%
Administration	\$ 12,050.00	\$ 11,636.66	\$ 13,450.00	\$ 1,400.00	12.90
Appraisal Fees	1,478.00				
Instruction	104,439.32	112,164.04	137,825.00	33,385.68	29.7
Auxiliary Agencies	4,401.80	7,244.63	8,300.00	3,898.20	53.8
Fixed Charges	1,450.00	1,326.10	1,600.00	150.00	11.3
Operation of Plant	21,950.00	24,272.69	33,400.00	11,450.00	47.1
Maintenance of Plant	250.00	2,599.21	7,500.00	7,250.00	278.9
Total Maintenance of Schools	\$144,541.12	\$159,243.33	\$202,075.00	\$ 57,533.88	
Capital Outlay	32,000.00	42,538.75	24,000.00	8,000.00	
Debt Service	99,003.29	92,530.79	107,593.16	8,589.87	
TOTAL	\$131,003.29	\$135,069.54	\$131,593.16	\$ 589.87	
GRAND TOTAL	\$275,544.41	\$295,790.87	\$333,668.16	\$ 58,123.75	

Comparison of maintenance school dollar for the year 1924-25 and 1925-1926 with the country at large

	Average for Country	Grosse Pointe	
		1924-25	1925-1926
Administration	4.4	7.3	6.6
Instruction	74.3	70.5	68.2
Auxiliary Agencies and Co-ordinate activities	3.3	4.5	4.1
Fixed Charges	1.1	0.9	.8
Operation of Plant	12.8	15.2	16.5
Maintenance of Plant	4.1	1.6	3.8
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analysis by Activities

ADMINISTRATION—

	Appropriated 1924-1925	Spent 1924-1925	Requested 1925-1926	Increase
	1 Superintendent	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4,299.96	\$ 4,800.00
1 Business Manager	2,500.00	2,499.96	2,500.00	
1 Clerk	2,100.00	1,650.00	2,100.00	
1 Treasurer	1,000.00	999.97	1,000.00	
Auditor	100.00	40.00	500.00	400.00
3 Trustees	300.00	300.00	300.00	
1 Attorney	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Treasurer's Bond	750.00	475.00	750.00	
Supplies	500.00	367.86	700.00	200.00
Miscellaneous Expense		503.91	300.00	300.00
Total Administrative	\$12,050.00	\$11,636.66	\$13,450.00	\$1,400.00

INSTRUCTION—

Teachers' Retirement Fund	\$ 464.32	\$ 464.32		\$ -454.32
12 High School Teachers at the following yearly rates: two at \$1,475.00; two at \$1,550.00; one at \$1,600.00; one at \$1,625.00; one at \$1,700.00; one at \$1,775.00; one at \$1,800.00; one at \$1,900.00; two at \$1,975.00	16,525.00	18,692.50	20,400.00	3,875.00

	Appropriated 1924-1925	Spent 1924-1925	Requested 1925-1926	Increase
40 Elementary Teachers at the following yearly rates: two at \$1,200.00; one at \$1,275.00; two at \$1,350.00; one at \$1,375.00; nine at \$1,425.00; four at \$1,450.00; one at \$1,500.00; one at \$1,525.00; two at \$1,550.00; two at \$1,575.00; one at \$1,600.00; two at \$1,650.00; two at \$1,675.00; three at \$1,700.00; five at \$1,725.00; two at \$1,750.00	49,000.00	50,843.75	63,125.00	14,125.00
12 Special Teachers at the following yearly rates: three at \$1,600.00; one at \$1,650.00; one at \$1,700.00; two at \$1,750.00; one at \$1,850.00; four at \$1,900.00	19,900.00	19,900.00	21,100.00	1,200.00
Summer School Teachers			3,000.00	3,000.00
Substitute Teachers	1,000.00	1,371.00	1,800.00	800.00
Tuition	500.00	916.43	1,500.00	1,000.00
Supplies	7,200.00	10,071.72	15,000.00	7,800.00
5 Principals at the following rates: one at \$3,000.00; one at \$2,600.00; one at \$2,400.00 (\$1,000.00 of this amount included in total for elementary teachers); two at \$2,200.00 (\$1,000.00 of this amount included in total for elementary teachers)	9,350.00	9,350.00	10,400.00	1,050.00
1 Principal's Clerk		192.30	1,000.00	1,000.00
Principal's Supplies	500.00	362.02	500.00	
Total Instruction	\$104,439.32	\$112,164.04	\$137,825.00	\$33,850.00
AUXILIARY AGENCIES—				
Elections	\$ 270.00	\$ 1,438.83	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 730.00
Transportation				
1 Chauffeur	1,500.00	1,750.00	1,800.00	300.00
Bus expense	500.00	655.75	700.00	200.00
Fares	2,000.00	2,833.16	3,500.00	1,500.00
School Census	131.80	131.80	200.00	68.20
Recreation Account			500.00	500.00
1 Attendance Officer		150.00	300.00	300.00
Miscellaneous		256.86	300.00	300.00
Clinic Expense		28.23		
Total Auxiliary	\$ 4,401.80	\$ 7,244.63	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 3,898.20
FIXED CHARGES—				
Rent	\$ 750.00	\$ 717.50	\$ 900.00	\$ 150.00
Insurance	700.00	608.60	700.00	
Total Fixed Charges	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,326.10	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 150.00
OPERATION OF SCHOOL PLANT—				
9 Janitors at the following yearly rates: two at \$1,500.00; one at \$1,800.00; three at \$1,920.00; one at \$2,040.00; two at \$2,100.00				
3 Assistant Janitors; one at \$600.00; one at 1,020.00; one at \$1,080.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,150.45	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Supplies	2,000.00	2,118.61	3,000.00	1,000.00
Gas	500.00	40.26	100.00	-400.00
Electricity	1,100.00	1,317.29	2,000.00	900.00
Fuel	5,000.00	5,249.28	7,000.00	2,000.00
Telephone	600.00	688.24	800.00	200.00
Water	750.00	708.56	1,000.00	250.00
TOTAL	\$ 21,950.00	\$ 24,272.69	\$ 33,400.00	\$11,850.00
MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL PLANT—				
Building Repairs		\$ 1,649.91	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Equipment Repairs	250.00	649.84	1,000.00	750.00
Equipment Replacement		299.46	500.00	500.00
Contingencies			1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Maintenance	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,599.21	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,250.00
DEBT SERVICE—				
Sinking Fund	\$ 48,533.29	\$ 48,533.29	\$ 45,955.66	
Interest	50,470.00	43,997.50	61,637.50	
Total Debt Service	\$ 99,003.29	\$ 92,530.79	\$107,593.16	\$ 8,589.87

SCHOOLS OPENED SEPTEMBER 9th

Grosse Pointe Public Schools opened Wednesday, September 9th and are filled to more than capacity.

The number of pupils this fall is greater by several hundred than the enrollment of last year, as indicated by the following figures:

	Sept. 1924	Sept. 1925
Defer	244	489
Trombly	565	74
Cadieux	367	579
Hanstein	180	379
Kerby	93	206
Vernier	1440	98
	1825	

High School enrollment, included above, has increased from 165 to 202.

Although all available space is being used for classes an overload in all buildings is reported by the Superintendent. Especially crowded conditions exist at Defer School. This building opened last February was designed to house 360 pupils exclusive of kindergarten. It is now housing 429 elementary pupils in addition to 60 in the kindergarten.

The Trombly School which was reopened this fall is accommodating 74 pupils in four small rooms.

It is evident that additional accommodations are badly needed and that attention must be focused on the question of increased space. The Superintendent believes that at least two years will elapse before the completion of the proposed High School. In the meantime little relief can be hoped for unless definite action is taken to provide new buildings or additions. An increase in enrollment next year will force the operation of certain grades on a part time schedule or will necessitate the use of temporary quarters.

The possibility of territory north of Mack Avenue being annexed to Detroit and making the Hanstein School a part of the Detroit School System must also be considered in any plan for future buildings.

OUR MAILING LIST

Regular readers of the Grosse Pointe Civic News are requested to forward the name and address of any Grosse Pointe resident who is not receiving the paper to the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township, 316 E. Jefferson Avenue, Detroit.

The Citizens' Association endeavors to mail the "Civic News" to all residents of the township but due to the large number of new residents is finding it difficult to keep the mailing list up to date.

SPECIAL ELECTION OCTOBER 6.

	Appropriated 1924-1925	Spent 1924-1925	Requested 1925-1926	Increase
CAPITAL OUTLAY—				
Finish payment Elementary Site No. 2.....			\$ 3,000.00	
Grading, planting, seeding Defer School site			6,000.00	
Playground Equipment			3,000.00	
New Desk Equipment			5,000.00	
Dental Equipment			3,000.00	
1600 feet of Walks			2,000.00	
Contingencies			2,000.00	
Total Capital Outlay.....	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 42,538.75	\$ 24,000.00	\$-8,000.00

Summary Estimate of Expenditures 1925-1926

Operation and Maintenance of Schools	\$202,075.00
Capital Outlay	24,000.00
Debt Service	107,593.16
Total	\$333,668.16
Requested for working balance	96,340.74
Total Budget	\$430,008.90

Summary Estimate of Receipts Year 1925-1926

Cash on hand July 1, 1925	\$ 46,319.84
Delinquent Taxes 1924-1925.....	43,189.06
Primary Money	35,000.00
Books, Telephones, Calls, Etc.	1,500.00
Rents	4,000.00
*Voted Tax	300,000.00
Total	\$430,008.90

*Only about 75% is collected each year; hence our receipts are over-estimated by about \$75,000.00, which will cut down our working balance to about \$25,000.00.

Registered voters of the township will cast ballots at a special election, October 6th on the question of annexing two parcels of Grosse Pointe Township to the City of Detroit. The territory involved is that part of the township lying north of Mack Avenue and extending from the present Detroit limits at Cadieux Road and Mack Avenue to the Wayne County line.

Previous annexation proposals almost without exception have been favorably acted upon and it may be expected that this section will become a part of Detroit. The area of the section includes approximately one third of the township lying outside of the villages. About two and one-half square miles of township territory lying between Mack Avenue and the limits of Grosse Pointe Shores will remain, should the annexation petitions be favorably acted upon.

Annexation of this small balance of the township to either Detroit or the Grosse Pointe Villages offers one means of reducing the number of separate governmental units in Grosse Pointe.

Members of the Parent-Teachers' Association of Cadieux School are urged to attend its first meeting of the year on Tuesday evening, October 8th.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

1 1/2c Paid
Detroit, Michigan
Permit No. 335

We should seek not only to express our choice in the selection of desirable candidates but should aid in the development of sound public opinion.

Charles E. Hughes.