

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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PROGRESS REPORTED ON HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

The confused situation with respect to the plans for the proposed Grosse Pointe High School, reported in the November issue of the Civic News, has since been corrected to a large extent due to the combined efforts of the Superintendent, the School Board and members of the Building Committee. Through conferences with Detroit School officials and with W. L. Coffey, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, the objections raised by the latter and detailed in the November issue of Civic News are being obviated by the architect through changes in the plans.

Meanwhile, the School Board has received the benefit of two critical studies of the whole situation. One study, by the Executive Secretary of the Citizens' Association, has been made to estimate the maximum school population of the district in the next quarter century. The other, by Arthur B. Moehlman, Professor of School Administration at the University of Michigan, has been prepared to determine whether the plans can be better adapted to the educational needs of the district. As a result of these three developments, it appears probable that a smaller building will be planned which will serve the district more efficiently and at the same time will save the taxpayers a large amount of money. Details of the above mentioned developments are given below.

1. Meeting Objections of State Superintendent

At a meeting of the School Board at Cadieux School, November 19, the School Board authorized the Superintendent, the Architect and the Chairman of the Building Committee to meet with E. L. Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Detroit Schools and G. L. Schultz of the Architectural Research Department of the Detroit School system to draft a reply to Mr. Coffey's objections to the building. Space does

not permit printing the report in full but replies formulated to all of the sixteen objections indicated that the building did conform to Detroit standards for senior high schools.

The practical efficiency of the building as a high school designed to fit the present and future needs of the community was not considered by the committee since it met only to consider the objections raised by the Department of Public Instruction.

To determine what alterations would be necessary to gain Detroit's approval of the plans, the school board requested one of its members and the Superintendent to discuss the matter with the Detroit Super-

SCHOOL SITE CASE UP-HELD

The final obstacle in the long struggle by the School District to acquire the property at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard for the site of the proposed high school has been removed. On Dec. 22nd the State Supreme Court made public its decision upholding the action of Judge Dingeman who in December, 1924, denied a permanent injunction to restrain the Board of Education from obtaining the property.

intendent of Schools. Detroit officials offered to co-operate in every way possible and suggested that they be allowed to outline on a set of the Grosse Pointe plans the changes they believed advisable. Accordingly, the Superintendent and Architect were requested to co-operate with Detroit in securing such suggestions.

Another meeting between Mr. W. L. Coffey himself and the School Board, the Chairman of the Building Committee, the Superintendent and the Architect was held on December 12th to discuss Mr. Coffey's criticisms. Mr. Coffey explained

that the general outline of the building, spreading over a large area, made it much more expensive than a compact building, but that the state would not withhold approval if the building's present form was satisfactory to the Grosse Pointe School Board. His real criticism dealt entirely with the practicability of the building and therefore was confined to the interior.

A summary of the points raised by Mr. Coffey follows:

Two study halls are on the first floor while only two classrooms in addition to special rooms are on this floor. This is an undesirable distribution of space and would necessitate extra traveling between classrooms on upper floor and the study halls mentioned. Domestic Science rooms on third floor should be placed on first floor with other vocational work. Study halls should be reduced so as to be only one story high. Boys' shower room is larger than needed. Locker space for girls is out of proportion to the number of showers provided. Instructor's room and examining rooms in health unit do not have outside light. Superintendent's office should be on first floor and incorporated with Board of Education room. Entrance to natatorium balcony is inaccessible. The number of stairways provided is in excess of needs and it is suggested that two stairways be removed. Chemistry and Physics laboratories should be placed near each other. Cafeteria need be only one story high. There is excessive space in the typewriting room, and the fitting room, adjoining the dressmaking room, is entirely too large. The library makes no provision for conference rooms for student work. The number of toilet fixtures and the location of one toilet room are criticized.

Guided by the suggestions made at the meeting, the architect is now rearranging the plans to include the changes recommended.

(Continued Page 3, Col. 1)

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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NEW BOND LAW

The last session of the Michigan legislature passed an act regulating the issuing of bonds and setting up provisions for their retirement. This act alters in a number of ways the practice that has been followed by some of the Grosse Pointe Villages.

In the future, bonds or other negotiable obligations cannot be issued for the payment of operating or current expense. As far as is known, this practice has never been followed by Grosse Pointe Villages, although it has not been uncommon in other villages.

Provision is made for two forms of bonds, serial bonds and sinking fund bonds.

Serial bonds shall provide for payment of a portion of the principal each year with the first installment falling due not more than three years after date of issue. Equal annual payments of principal are not provided for, but the law does regulate payments by providing that no installment of principal shall be less than one-third of the amount of the largest installment. Bonds issued by Grosse Pointe Farms during the last few years have been of the serial type.

When sinking fund bonds are issued the law provides that an annual amount must be set aside which with the interest earned on the sinking fund balance will be sufficient to mature the issue. This provision will necessitate an actuarial study of the sinking fund in order to determine the annual amount to be set aside as well as an estimate of the interest to be earned by the fund. At the present time annual amounts added to the sinking fund of Grosse Pointe Shores are determined by dividing the amount of the bond by the number of years for

which it is issued. These equal annual amounts are added to sinking fund while interest earned by the sinking fund is placed in the general fund and thus is used to defray running expenses of the village. This plan appears to make the burden equal during the life of the bond, but, in fact, the burden is not equal since the amount of interest earned on a larger sinking fund balance during the later years is greater and so reduces to a greater extent taxes needed for current operation.

There appears to be no definite plan for an equitable distribution of the sinking fund burden in Grosse Pointe Park and from the figures available it appears that a plan for retiring the bonds must be worked that will conform to the new law. The budget of Grosse Pointe Park for 1924-25 set aside \$10,000 for the sinking fund and \$28,000 for interest. For the present year \$10,000 was again appropriated for sinking fund, but \$38,000 was set aside for interest. The fact that interest, presumably for bonds, was increased an even \$10,000 while the amount allotted the sinking fund was not increased, seems to indicate that while additional money has been provided to pay interest on bonds no extra provision has been made to retire the bonds at maturity. The further fact that the sinking fund requirements are stated in even numbers of thousand dollars indicates that only a rough approximation of the funds necessary is made. No statement of total cash and securities to the credit of the sinking fund is given in the annual report of the village.

The law also makes provision for the time bonds shall run, which in no case shall be for a longer time than the period of usefulness of the improvement for which bonds were issued. Recently in Grosse Pointe Park thirty year bonds to the amount of \$500,000 were issued. Of this amount \$150,000 was to be used for street lighting equipment, police and fire signal extensions and street resurfacing. Residents of Grosse Pointe Park will be paying interest and sinking fund charges on these bonds long after the street surfacing for which they were issued has been worn out and the signal system and street lighting equipment will probably be obsolete before the end of the thirty year period. The balance of \$350,000 of Grosse Pointe Park's thirty year

bonds was issued for the widening and paving of Mack Avenue. Bonds for the widening and improvement of highways, streets and alleys are limited to fifteen years in the new law. Grosse Pointe Park voted the bonds July 13th. They were sold on August 4th. The new bond law was approved May 12th, but did not go into effect until August 12th, a very short time after sale of the Grosse Pointe Park issue.

The new law will undoubtedly correct existing irregularities, for in addition to requiring proper sinking funds and limiting the years for which securities may be issued, it provides for supervision of local bond issues by the State treasurer. After July 1, 1926, each municipality before it issues bonds must submit to the state treasurer a sworn statement showing the dates of issues, purposes, amounts, and maturities of all bonds or other indebtedness outstanding as well as the assessed valuation of the municipality and condition of all sinking funds. Unless all provisions of the law relative to debt limitation, sinking funds, etc., are complied with the new issue can not be approved and bonds cannot be sold.

It is important that the Grosse Pointe municipalities satisfy the requirements of this law in order that they may not be financially handicapped at some future date.

A number of activities during the holiday season are being planned by the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club.

On December 29th the club's annual Christmas party will be given. A Christmas tree, movies, games and refreshments will be provided to make this evening one of the outstanding events on the club calendar.

Other events include basket ball games by the Grosse Pointe Athletic Club team on December 28th, January 4th and January 11th. Outstanding teams from Detroit have been scheduled for these dates.

An entertainment which will include demonstrations of scout work is being planned by the local Boy Scout troop but as yet no definite date has been set. Receipts from the entertainment will be used as the troop's contribution toward the rebuilding of Camp Brady; Camp Brady, the summer camp for Scouts of Detroit and vicinity, was recently destroyed by fire.

(Continued from Page 1)

2. The Population Survey

In order to determine the future school needs of Grosse Pointe, members of the School Board and the Superintendent of Schools requested the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township to make a forecast of the population growth of the district for a number of years in the future. The estimate was based on the increase in Grosse Pointe School census during the past five years from which was calculated the maximum population growth of the district for the future.

From the ratio of Detroit population to the number of pupils in junior and senior high school grades was estimated the future population the building would serve and the period before the building would be filled to standard capacity. Other data which included the number of dwellings erected in three of the Grosse Pointe villages during the past few years, estimates of the percent of building sites now occupied and the probable population density per acre when the district is fully built up, were also considered. The conclusions were checked by comparison with population estimates made by the Michigan State Telephone Co. and the Detroit Water Board.

Judged by this population study a building of 1800 standard capacity which was Assistant Superintendent E. L. Miller's estimate of the proposed Grosse Pointe building, would not be filled with junior and senior high school pupils (grades 7-12 inclusive) until 1936 or approximately nine years after completion. Operating as a senior high school (grades 10-11-12) the building could serve a population greater than the district would ever accommodate. Hence, for either use, the proposed building appears to be far too large for the needs of the district.

The population study and findings were transmitted to the School Board at its meeting of December 18th.

3. Adapting the Plans to the Educational Needs

Although many serious objections of the State Department of Public Instruction had been met and solved, the School Board, in order to be assured of an entirely satisfactory

building with respect to its instructional operation, acted upon the suggestion of the Citizens' Association and employed Arthur B. Moehlman, Professor of School Administration at the University of Michigan, to make a study of the building in relation to the educational program and administration of the school. Mr. Moehlman's experience in educational planning covers six years work with the Detroit School Board as well as numerous studies for other districts.

His study of the Grosse Pointe building has not, as yet, progressed far enough to permit a definite statement of findings. However, he has indicated that, based upon the superintendent's educational program, a building of 1000 or 1200 standard capacity, which is the capacity specified by Superintendent Walling, will be sufficiently large for both present and future needs of the district. He has further indicated that an efficiently planned building of this capacity can be erected for substantially less than the estimated cost of the original plan.

As the result of the studies and the several conferences arranged with Detroit and State officials, Grosse Pointe doubtless will have a more efficient school at a greatly reduced cost.

Mr. Moehlman's formal report, he says, will be ready to present to the School Board about Jan. 5th.

Christmas carolers under the auspices of the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club, as well as groups organized by the Churches added much to the Yuletide spirit by their singing on Christmas eve.

The revival of this old Christmas custom appears general around Detroit and it is hoped will be continued in Grosse Pointe. Favorable comment on the singing this year indicates that their efforts were much appreciated.

Of \$208,510.32 taxes levied by Grosse Pointe Villages approximately 90 per cent was collected before delivering the roll to the County Treasurer. Delinquent taxes reported to the County Treasurer amounted to \$21,007.42.

TOWNSHIP TAXES DUE

Taxes to finance the work of the State, County and township governments are now due and are being collected by the township treasurer. Collection started December 10th and already a large portion of the payments due have been made. Those who have not as yet made payments should note that a penalty of 3 per cent of the tax will be added after January 10th. Upon request to the treasurer, a statement of taxes due will be sent by mail to any taxpayer.

For the convenience of residents the treasurer has arranged the following schedule for collection in the several villages.

Up to January 2—Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Hall.

January 4—Grosse Pointe Shores, Municipal Hall.

January 5—Grosse Pointe Farms, Municipal Hall.

January 6—Grosse Pointe Village Township Hall, corner of Maumee Avenue and Roosevelt place.

January 7 to March 1 (excepting Fridays)—Grosse Pointe Park, Municipal Hall.

Each Friday from January 10th to March 1st taxes may be paid at the Wayne County Building, Detroit. Collections by the township treasurer will end March 1st. The taxroll and list of delinquent taxes will be delivered April 1st to the Wayne County treasurer.

LOCHMOOR AVENUE —DETROIT

The portion of St. Claire street within the section of Grosse Pointe Township annexed to Detroit last fall has been renamed "Lochmoor Avenue." The re-naming was necessary to avoid confusion with St. Clair Street in the Water Works Park Section of Detroit. However, the selection of Lochmoor as the new name seems unfortunate since a thoroughfare by this name already exists in Grosse Pointe. As a result, considerable confusion in locating correct addresses and delay in making delivery from downtown Detroit stores has occurred. To avoid inconvenience to people living on Lochmoor Boulevard and Lochmoor Avenue, the name should be changed.

HEALTH DISTRICT BUDGET

The Annual Budget to finance the work of the Grosse Pointe Health District has been approved by the Grosse Pointe Villages and the Health Board, and is being collected as a part of the Fall tax.

The several items together with amounts for the previous two years are given below:

SALARIES	1924	1925	1926
Health officer	Detailed appo-		3,900
Nurse	riations for		1,860
Nurse	these years not		1,800
Dentist	available		1,500
Bookkeeper and Stenographer ...			1,440
Infant Welfare Clinician			800
Janitor			150
Total salaries...	\$11,100	\$11,390	\$11,450
OFFICE EXPENSE			
Rent			\$ 1,200
Light, gas, telephone, etc.			300
Total office exp...	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Laboratory	100	150	50
Printing and Sta..	175	175	50
Contingent	2,500	2,500	500
Transportation ...	1,200	3,000	2,250

Insurance	150
Miscellaneous	100	150 150
Dental Supplies		
Schools	150	150 175
Total Budget...	\$16,825	\$19,015 \$16,125

In addition to the amount of the budget as above, the health district receives \$1,200 from township funds to finance health work carried on in the township outside of the health district proper, which includes only the four Grosse Pointe villages.

Total requests for the coming year are lower by \$2,890 than the budget for 1925, and \$700 lower than the 1924 budget. Reductions have been made in the items covering laboratory supplies, printing and stationery and transportation, as well as a \$2,000 reduction in the contingent fund. The contingent fund is added to the total anticipated expenses of the district each year to provide ready funds in case of epidemics. In the past the amount has been \$2,500, but not having been used by the district, has shown each

year as a balance. The amount this year has been reduced to \$500. To include the item in the budget makes it appear as a normal operating expense and to that extent is misleading. A survey of the health district conducted by the Citizens' Association in 1924 suggested that the item be discontinued and a separate contingent fund be set up to be drawn on only in cases of epidemic or other emergency. Amounts drawn from this fund would be reimbursed by including the sum in the budget for the following year. The tax rate for health work in Grosse Pointe for 1926 figures approximately 16¼ cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

An important meeting of the Cadieux School Parent-Teachers' Association will be held at the School, Tuesday, January 12th, at 8:00 P. M. Miss Elenore Hutzell, of the State Health Department, will speak on the mental problems of older children.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

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The government has been created by the people. It is solely responsible to them. It is most successful if it is conducted solely for their benefit.

CALVIN COOLIDGE,
Address to Congress, 12-9-1925.