

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 3

January, 1926

Number 7

SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTS EXPERT'S REPORT ARCHITECT ORDERED TO REVISE PLANS

A joint meeting of the School Board and Building Committee was held Friday evening, January 22nd to review the report prepared by Arthur B. Moehlman, Professor of School Administration, University of Michigan, appointed at the suggestion of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township to review preliminary plans for the proposed high school. Mr. Moehlman's findings were unanimously adopted by the School Board as a working basis for revision of preliminary plans prepared by the architect, George J. Haas. As a result of this action complete redrafting of the present plans will be necessary in order to remove objectionable elements and to incorporate desirable features suggested in the report.

A report in defense of the present plan was handed the meeting by George J. Haas, architect who spoke at length on its behalf; but the school board took no action on the report. W. L. Walling, Superintendent of Grosse Pointe Schools, in answer to a direct question regarding Mr. Moehlman's report and its recommendations, stated to the School Board that he believed the recommendations basically correct. Prior to this both the superintendent and the architect had shown an inclination to raise minor objections to the report.

In addition to adopting the findings presented in Mr. Moehlman's report, the school board instructed the architect and the superintendent to work with Mr. Moehlman and the building committee in recasting the plan.

After a review of Mr. Moehlman's study it was apparent to the school board that the building as originally planned and later revised was not adequate for the needs of Grosse Pointe. Several units of the building contained more rooms than required for the work planned, while other sections had not been allowed

enough space. For example, the boys' locker room made provision for 211 more lockers than required, while the girls' locker room was short 204 lockers. In several of the units the required number of rooms were provided, but the rooms were excessively large. The boys' gymnasium and the auditorium were cited as examples. Shops were in excess of the number needed and were poorly planned. By reason of this disproportionate allotment of space, the working capacity of the building, according to Mr. Moehlman, was reduced from 2024 to 1440.

Recommendations correcting such objectionable features were made in the report, which states that these recommendations, if "skillfully developed by the architect, will result in a large saving of space; in a better designed building educationally; will permit of easy extension; will save nine class rooms, one science laboratory, two shops, one fine arts laboratory, and will greatly reduce the cost of the structure." The saving made possible is approximately \$400,000, since the cost of the original building was estimated to be \$1,500,000, while the redesigned plan can be erected for \$1,100,000, including equipment, landscaping and all fees.

The building as redesigned will have a standard capacity of 1200. This figure was determined upon after a careful estimate of population growth reviewed elsewhere in this issue. The building is planned for ultimate use as a senior high school, housing grades 10, 11 and 12, but will be used as a junior-senior high school (grades 7 to 12, inclusive) until the needs of the district require a separate junior high school building. Ultimately the building is to be used as a senior high school and will have 1500 capacity, which is estimated as the maximum senior high school requirement of the district. Fixed units which can not be expanded,

such as gymnasiums, laboratories and auditorium, are designed for ultimate requirements. Later additions of class rooms and study halls can easily be made and will provide for enlargement to 1500 or even 1800 standard capacity.

For purpose of description the features of the building may be considered in three units: 1—gymnasiums, auditorium, and general library; 2—laboratories and shops; 3—study halls and class rooms.

Gymnasiums, Auditorium, etc.

Accommodations for health work include two gymnasiums each 60 by 90 ft., and a swimming pool 25 by 60 ft. Locker space, showers, corrective gymnasium, 22 by 26 ft., together with apparatus rooms, offices, etc., make up the health unit of the building. These are planned with regard to general community use as well as use by the pupils, and are conveniently grouped in the central portion of the building. The auditorium to seat 600, a cafeteria of 400 capacity, and the general library 30 by 60 ft., are also placed in the central portion of the building to facilitate their use for community gatherings. The auditorium size recommended by Mr. Moehlman was 500, but the school board, in view of its use for community purposes, increased the capacity to 600 seats. An auditorium of this size, it is believed, will be sufficiently large for all purposes.

Laboratories and Shops

As in all other parts of the building, laboratories and shops have been planned to serve most efficiently the educational needs of the district. Commercial branches will be taught in four completely equipped rooms, to be used for typewriting, shorthand, bookkeeping and practice on commercial appliances. Two laboratories, each 22 by 52 ft., in addition to the model housekeeping suite, are provided for cooking, sewing and household practice courses.

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Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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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:

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DANGER POINT ON JEFFERSON AVENUE

The curve in Jefferson Avenue between Harvard and Bishop Roads in Grosse Pointe Park was recently the scene of another serious accident. A motor car eastbound on Jefferson Avenue failed to round the curve at this point, but skidding on the wood block pavement, crashed into the curb. One of the party was killed almost instantly; another received serious injuries, including a broken leg.

This section of Jefferson Avenue has been the scene of a number of serious accidents and constitutes an extreme traffic hazard. No warning to mark the curve exists. The pavement is wood block, and becomes very slippery during wet weather or when covered with snow. It dips slightly toward the curb instead of being banked, which increases the danger of skidding and losing control of the car.

Immediate attention by Grosse Pointe Park officials should be given to this condition. A warning signal calling attention to the curve would help if placed a sufficient distance from the point of danger to allow approaching cars time to check speed. At present the curve is well lighted, as are other sections of Jefferson Avenue, but a signal calling special attention to the danger seems necessary.

A hazard to pedestrians also exists here. Street cars now stop at Harvard Road and persons alighting from the car are endangered by drivers who can not see persons in the safety zone until their machine is around the curve and close to the standing car. To avoid this the car stop should be abandoned.

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Four science laboratories and three science lecture rooms are planned. This unit will accommodate work in chemistry, physics, biology and agriculture for the senior high school. In addition, a large general science laboratory 22 by 52 ft. will be devoted to science work of the junior high school. This room will be made into two class rooms when the building ultimately becomes a senior high school and thus will increase the standard capacity. High School laboratories mentioned are to be 22 by 39 ft., with a lecture room of standard class room, size 22 by 26 ft., adjoining each of the three laboratories. A conservatory adjoining the biology laboratory is specified.

The shop unit, which, according to Mr. Moehlman, is more liberal in its provisions for shops than the senior high schools of Detroit, contains one general shop 22 by 52 ft., an automotive shop of equal size, and a print shop 22 by 26 ft. A mechanical drawing room is also provided, giving a total of four rooms devoted to shop purposes. The vocational units, commercial laboratories, household laboratories, and shops will provide for a broad training in these subjects. In considering this phase of the building, the school board decided to abandon any effort to give complete vocational training in shops, since the demand for this type of work will naturally be small in this community. The practice of sending pupils desiring more specialized training to Cass Technical High School, Detroit, they believe, will prove more economical and will offer better and more specialized training.

Three rooms will be devoted to fine arts courses. Two of these will be used for music, and an art room 22 by 39 ft. will be specially equipped for work in art and design, pottery and art metal work. A small glazing kiln is included.

Study Halls and Class Rooms

In addition to the general library, which will be planned for both school and community purposes, four study halls are included in the plan. These rooms, following the modern practice, are to be used by students as reference libraries, and will be under the direction of specially trained study hall teachers. This scheme of study, known as the self-directed study hall plan, develops the pupil's ability to get material from a number of books in pre-

paring his lessons. It is directly in contrast with the older practice of closely supervised study in the recitation or home rooms, where the pupil is limited to the information in a single text book.

Fourteen standard size class rooms 22 by 26 ft. are provided and will be used as follows: English and languages, seven class rooms; social sciences, history, civics, etc., four class rooms; exact sciences, mathematics, three class rooms.

Not all features of the revised building can be shown clearly by a review of the rooms provided. For example, the building now planned can be built as a two-story structure, thus lending itself to more efficient administration and lessening the problem of children traveling from the first to third floors in changing classes. The units have been so planned that a minimum amount of travel between classes will be required.

Summary of Advantages

But in the last analysis, the real merit of Mr. Moehlman's work consists in his wise selection of everything necessary to a modern educational plant, his logical combination of the elements into a coherent whole, and the nice adjustment he has attained between the building planned and the present and future educational needs of the community. Finally, all this has been secured, not at an extra cost over the building formerly planned, but at a net saving of nearly one-third. Moreover, besides the economy in the first cost, another and still more important economy is obtained in the reduced cost of upkeep and administration for the revised building.

The task of developing final details of plan is now before the building committee, the superintendent and the architect. Mr. Moehlman has been retained to assist in this work. With the report serving as a definite basis of requirements, the task of developing acceptable final plans should soon be completed.

The School Board's action in employing expert opinion has thus brought a gratifying reward. The board has given definite evidence of its determination to obtain a school building that is efficiently planned according to the best educational thought of our generation, and one that will reflect lasting credit upon its own intelligence and that of this community.

WHAT WILL OUR FUTURE POPULATION BE?

The problem of forecasting the future population of Grosse Pointe in order to plan the proposed high school for future school needs has occupied the attention of several persons who have collected and analyzed much interesting data. The results developed from these and other studies are reviewed here.

In 1919 the Michigan State Telephone Company, in making a forecast of the population for the metropolitan area, which included Grosse Pointe Township, estimated that by 1936 Grosse Pointe would have 25,972 residents and that by 1950 the population would be 43,026. A later survey compiled by the Detroit Water Board to estimate future water demand predicted that by 1960 3,400,000 persons would reside in Detroit and environs, and that Grosse Pointe's population would then be 42,320. While these studies were based on reliable sources, both forecasts, in the light of later experience, prove to have been over-conservative. The present population of Detroit and the estimate for Grosse Pointe based on the last school census, already have exceeded figures predicted for 1925.

The growth of population in Grosse Pointe during the last few years has been so rapid that the hazardous job of forecasting future population is especially difficult for this community. In December, 1925, the Citizens' Association prepared an estimate of the expected maximum future growth of the district. This was requested by members of the school board as a guide to future school needs, and was used by Mr. Moehlman in his plans for the Grosse Pointe High School.

The school census of several preceding years and federal census of 1910 and 1920 were used as the basis of the forecast which the estimates of the Michigan State Telephone Company and the Detroit Water Board previously mentioned were also consulted. Upon the basis of the percentage increase in school census of the past, future school census and population were predicted. A slight reduction in the assumed percentage of growth was made in the latter years. Population estimates were obtained by multiplying the predicted school census by four. According to this estimate, the district would be entirely built up by 1960.

The results for a number of years are shown below:

Year	Population	School Census
1925	12,072	3,019
1928	18,044	4,511
1930	23,456	5,867
1932	29,788	7,447
1936	44,569	11,173
1940	59,084	13,771
1942	64,400	16,100
1960 and beyond...	90,000	22,500

A parallel estimate made independently of the figures above was made of the present and future populations of the several villages.

The compiled result is given here:

Village	1925	1936	1942
G. P. Park.....	5,000	15,000	20,000
G. P. Village....	3,000	12,000	15,000
G. P. Farms.....	2,200	8,000	10,000
G. P. Shores....	750	2,000	3,000
Bal. Township ...	1,000	5,000	10,000
Total	12,050	42,000	58,000

While the figures obtained from these studies vary at some points, they indicate that in comparison with the present rate of increase the growth in the next few years may be surprisingly large. In each case the maximum increase is estimated and therefore must be considered as probably too high.

Mr. Moehlman, in his recent study of the proposed High School, also predicted the future population of the township, and arrived at more conservative figures than those of the Citizens' Association. For purposes of making an estimate on which to plan the building, the more conservative or approximate middle ground was believed advisable. His figures are therefore practically an average between the lowest estimate, that of the Detroit Water Board, and the highest estimate, that of the Citizens' Association. The result expressed in populations and school census for several years follows:

Year	Population	School Census
1930	19,152	4,788
1935	29,732	7,433
1940	40,032	10,008
1942	50,652	12,663

From these figures Mr. Moehlman also estimated the probable school membership and the number of pupils that may be expected in junior and senior high school grades.

It is interesting to note that such study of population and of school membership largely made possible the efficient revision of the former school plans by Mr. Moehlman, as described elsewhere in this issue.

SCHOOL SINKING FUND INVESTED

Bonds totaling \$50,000 were purchased recently by the School Board with cash accumulated in the sinking fund. In the past the sinking fund has been entirely in cash and has drawn only three per cent annually in bank interest. The securities purchased are bonds of Michigan municipalities and are legal investments for sinking funds. Their average yield is 4.30 per cent, or approximately \$650 per year more than the \$50,000 fund has been earning.

The bonds, which were purchased through the Detroit Trust Company, were so selected that they fall due slightly before the date that local school district bonds are payable. The Detroit Trust Company was designated depository for sinking fund securities and will handle the detail of interest collection on the securities. Interest earned, too, is retained in the sinking fund.

Approximately \$42,000 cash is still held in the sinking fund, but it is planned that at least a part of this will be transferred to securities as soon as the purchase of legal bonds of the right maturity can be arranged.

The practice that has been followed by the Grosse Pointe school district of allowing large amounts of cash to accumulate in the sinking fund has not been an uncommon practice with other boards and is simply a matter of local policy. It is, however, a necessarily expensive policy because of the lower rate of interest earned on bank deposits. As already mentioned, the purchase of securities just made represents an annual increase of \$650 in sinking fund earnings, and if the whole amount in the sinking fund is similarly invested, the total increase will be \$1,196 annually.

A CORRECTION

In the December issue of the Civic News an article reprinting the budget of the Health District for the present year and for 1924 and 1925 stated that detailed appropriations for salaries for the previous years were not available. Members of the Health Board and the Health Officer have called attention to the fact that detailed appropriations for each year are obtainable at the Health District office. We gladly record the correction.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY ADOPTED BY SCHOOL BOARD

A definite goal toward which the Grosse Pointe School Board will work in the development of junior and senior high schools for the district was adopted recently in order to establish a basis on which to proceed with plans for the new high school.

Grosse Pointe schools of the future will be organized on the 6-3-3 basis. This provides the housing of kindergarten and grades 1 to 6 inclusive in elementary buildings, grades 7, 8, and 9 in intermediate or junior high schools and grades 10, 11, and 12 in senior high school. This organization will be effected as rapidly as the population increase of the district requires additional buildings. For the present junior and senior high school will be housed in the high school building to be erected at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. Its eventual use will be as a senior high school and

it is so planned as to provide for expansion to accommodate the maximum senior high school membership.

Operating as junior-senior high school it will not be filled to standard capacity for approximately eight years after completion. Planning for future demand in Detroit is limited to five years.

The average size of classes adopted by the Board is thirty pupils each, for both junior and senior courses. In Detroit the junior high standard is thirty-five. Class room size is the same as that in Detroit, 22 by 26 ft. As a result each pupil will have more space in class rooms and because of smaller classes can be given more individual attention by the teacher.

With respect to the program of studies offered, Grosse Pointe will compare favorably with Detroit and

other modern school organizations. A direct comparison with the program of subjects offered in Detroit showed that the Grosse Pointe program, as planned, was equal in every respect to the Detroit programs. Greater provision has been made in the Grosse Pointe building for the teaching of shop work due to the fact that in Detroit this work is given at Cass Technical High School. Grosse Pointe schools will not offer highly technical courses in shop training. They will, however, offer general shop work of a liberal character.

The standards set by the Grosse Pointe School Board are high both as to type of building planned and the courses offered. Carrying out the educational program under efficient administration and with a well trained teaching staff should give Grosse Pointe the finest schools available.

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Without Popular education no government that rests in popular action can long endure.

Woodrow Wilson.