

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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Numbers 3 and 4

## NEW FACES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Grosse Pointe Schools Start New Term Auspiciously

ONE hundred and fifteen more children answered the public school bell's call in Grosse Pointe Township this Fall than a year ago in September, according to figures revealed in October by Dr. Samuel Miller Brownell, superintendent of schools.

This despite the fact that two new parochial schools opened their doors this September and the Hanstein School District is now in Detroit. Grosse Pointe's public school enrollment for September, 1927, was 1,978 compared with 1,863 in September, 1926.

The table below gives the enrollment figures by schools:

	Sept. 1926	Sept. 1927
Cadieux .....	778	738
Defer .....	602	615
Kerby .....	243	174
Trombly .....	147	321
Vernier .....	93	130
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>1,978</b>

The transfer of the fifth and sixth grade pupils from the Cadieux to the Trombly is responsible for the decreased enrollment at the former and the large increase at the latter. Similarly, the transfer of Lochmoor pupils who live nearer the Vernier from the Kerby to the Vernier resulted in lightening the load of the former and adding to that of the Vernier.

How the high school students' numbers are increasing is shown in these detailed figures for the four highest grades:

	Sept. 1926	Sept. 1927
Ninth .....	112	132
Tenth .....	83	86
Eleventh .....	52	64
Twelfth .....	26	54
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>336</b>

When the new high school under construction at Fisher Road and

Grosse Pointe Boulevard opens its doors next February, these 336 students now housed in the Cadieux School and 294 seventh and eighth graders at the Cadieux, Defer and Kerby will move into one of the finest school plants in America. The new building being designed to accommodate 1,500 senior high school students, Grosse Pointe's present 630 junior and senior high school students will enjoy a welcome relief from present crowded conditions.

#### Ten New Teachers

In addition to the 115 newcomers in the student body this Fall, the teaching staff reveals ten new faces, including the following:

**Erma E. Beidermann**, fifth grade teacher at the Trombly, 1927 graduate of the Michigan State Normal School at Ypsilanti.

**Clara Ann Blank**, Trombly fifth grade teacher, 15 years' experience, graduate of Central Michigan Normal School at Mt. Pleasant, came to Grosse Pointe from Flint.

**Elizabeth Dexter**, music teacher, graduate of Knox Conservatory in Illinois in 1922.

**F. Helen Dorn**, history teacher at the high school, 1927 graduate of New York State Teachers' College, Albany, N. Y.

**Marian M. Greenhoe**, second grade teacher at the Defer, 1923 graduate of Kalamazoo Normal School, came here from Fairgrove, Mich.

**Mary Davis Hodge**, first grade teacher at the Trombly, M. A. at Columbia University Teachers' College, was recently employed in special work in Detroit, formerly supervisor of primary education at the Eau Claire, Wis., state normal school.

**Ruth Frances Lockard**, high school English teacher, 1927 graduate of New York State Teachers' College.

**Elsema Nault**, second grade teacher at the Vernier, 1920 graduate of Northern State Teachers' College; taught in Muskegon last three years.

**Ethel Newins**, high school mathematics teacher, 1927 graduate of New York State Teachers' College.

**Ruth U'Ren**, second grade teacher at the Cadieux, 1927 honor graduate of Michigan State Normal School at Ypsilanti.

The 1927 teaching staff, including principals and superintendent, numbers 75, an increase of four over last year.

#### A New Principal

School principals remain the same as last year: A. H. Clark, Cadieux; Ethel J. Cowe, Trombly; Gerald Doonan, Kerby; Fred Kerby, Defer; Ethel Tucker, Vernier. A sixth will be added to the list on December 1 when Jerome Burttt, at present principal of the Framingham, Mass., High School, arrives to assume new duties as principal of Grosse Pointe High School.

Mr. Burttt was engaged for this position at the monthly meeting of the Board of Education on October 3. The board at that time adopted the report of the teachers' committee composed of Julius L. Berns, Charles A. Parcels and P. Hudson Bradley recommending a two-year contract with Mr. Burttt.

The new high school principal, who is 37 years old, has had 14 years' experience in school work. He holds an A. B. from Yale University, a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University Teachers' College, and is a member of Sigma Xi, honorary scientific fraternity.

Starting as a teacher in North-eastern University High School, New Haven, Conn., in 1913-14, Mr. Burttt served two years as master of Mt. Hermon, Mass., schools, three years as master of Adelphi Acad-

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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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### CONGRATULATIONS!

That the Board of Education is carrying out a wise policy of providing Grosse Pointe schools with the very best teachers and administrative talent available is evident in the list of additions to the teaching staff reported elsewhere in this *School Number* of the Civic News.

The record of practical and scholastic achievement already made by these men and women indicates that their appointment marks a great forward stride. Our public schools are attaining a first-class teaching staff.

The Board is to be commended on the excellent selections it has made. School progress—no matter how fine or modern the buildings—is dependent primarily on carefully trained, intelligent teachers. The teacher is the greatest single factor in the progress of education.

### THE SCHOOL ELECTION

One of the most unusual situations that ever arose in a school election presented itself in Grosse Pointe last June. During the election campaign, an envelope was distributed on which the words "SPECIAL NOTICE" appeared in flaming red capitals more than an inch high, and in which was inclosed the following circular letter:

TO THE VOTERS OF THE GROSSE POINTE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Will you kindly take a few minutes of your time to read this letter carefully?

Seven experienced teachers have been asked to resign at the end of the present school year by the members of the Teachers' Committee, Mr. Parcels, Mr. Peters and Dr. Maire, of the Board of Education, and no just reason given. We have been advised by the present superintendent that at least three inexperienced teachers have been hired.

Teachers are employed according to their ratings of A, B, C, D and E, which are explained as follows: A—supposedly rare; B—superior; C—average; D—retained at no advance in salary; and E—not retained.

We, the undersigned, are rated as B, or superior teachers.

The contracts were supposed to be in our hands March 15th. Fifteen days later, March 30th, we received letters requesting our resignation. We were notified too late to obtain positions for next year. The principals were not consulted regarding satisfaction or dissatisfaction. Our work is satisfactory. We have been in your schools six and seven years, respectively.

We attended a meeting of the Board of Education April 13th and asked for a reconsideration. The Teachers' Committee, by a resolution passed at the said meeting, were to investigate our case. They, however, disregarded the resolution, did not consult the principals, and had letters sent to us by Mr. Parcels, stating that their decision would stand.

A committee of men have visited the Board, but to no avail.

Do you approve of injustice and unfairness? Would you have your children have the best from experienced teachers? Would you like to be treated as we have been?

Mr. Peters is either to be re-elected or defeated at the polls Monday, June 13th. If you believe he has been unfair, will you not go to the polls Monday and

**ELECT MR. JULIUS L. BERNS,**

a prominent attorney, and

**RE-ELECT**

**MR. CHARLES A. POUPARD,**

who has been treasurer of the school district for the past eight years?

(Signed)

ELOISE L. CARTER, Defer School  
RUTH E. BROGAN, Trombley School

The same envelope contained a card giving the location of the four voting booths. On the reverse side of the card was the admonition:

If you are interested in better administration of Grosse Pointe Schools where matters of importance will be settled at open meetings,

Vote For

**CHARLES A. POUPARD**

and

**JULIUS BERNS**

The election resulted in 529 votes for Julius C. Peter, 798 votes for Julius L. Berns, 1,068 votes for Charles A. Poupard, the latter two being elected trustees.

On August 12, after a hearing before the Board, Messrs. Berns, Poupard and Bradley voted to reinstate the discharged teachers. Dr. L. E. Maire and Charles A. Parcels voted

against reinstatement, the motion carrying by a 3 to 2 vote. (Both Poupard and Bradley had voted to discharge the teachers on March 24.)

Following two meetings at which the Board deferred reinstatement while citizens argued for and against the Board's reversing of its March action, the Board on September 9 permitted the August 12 action to stand, again by the same 3 to 2 vote. Miss Carter and Mrs. Brogan are now teaching fifth grade classes in the Defer School.

In explaining his vote, Mr. Berns said he questioned the basis of judgment on which the teachers were discharged. Mr. Bradley said that on second thought he felt the teachers did not have a fair deal. And Mr. Poupard was of the same opinion.

Proponents of reinstatement insisted in arguments at the Board meetings in August and September that the teachers had not been given sufficient notice, adding that it was no crime for the teachers to express their disapproval of the Board's action as they did.

Other citizens appeared, asking the Board to adhere to its plan of improving the teaching staff, and warning that it would be a mistaken and unwise policy under the circumstances to reinstate the discharged teachers.

Mr. Parcels remarked at the meeting on September 9 that in his opinion the teachers had plenty of time to get new jobs after their discharge last Spring. He felt that the Board's ideal of eventually having an entire staff of teachers with "A" ratings was highly desirable and not impractical as contended by the discharged teachers, who claimed that they had been unfairly treated. The ratings of the discharged teachers were sufficiently high to warrant re-employment, according to testimony of School Principals A. H. Clark, Ethel J. Cowe, Gerald Doonan and Fred Kerby.

The Board's 3 to 2 vote on September 9 permitting the August 12 reinstatement resolution to stand brought the controversy to a close officially.

(Because of lack of space, comment on the above facts has been reserved for a later issue of the Civic News.—The Editor.)

## PARENT-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS' ACTIVITIES

### Defer

A social evening with a card party and dance is planned for November by the Parent-Teachers' Association of Defer School, to be followed the remainder of the school year by a purely educational program of lectures and talks of a constructive and progressive nature. Dr. Samuel Miller Brownell, superintendent of schools, has been invited to address the association at an early meeting. The regular November meeting was to be held Tuesday, November 8, at 3 P. M.

Officers are: Dr. W. J. Voorhies, president; Mrs. C. D. MacPherson, Fred Kerby and Mrs. A. A. Miller, vice-presidents; Eloise Carter, secretary; Mrs. Ed Critchfield, treasurer.

### Cadieux

A dance attended by 125 was held by the Cadieux School Parent-Teachers' Association on Friday, October 21, under the direction of the entertainment committee of which Miss Doris Tefft is chairman. The regular November meeting was called for Monday, November 7, at 7:30 P. M. Officers are: R. R. Pettee, president; F. C. Shipman, Mrs. Edward Roberts and W. R. Snyder, vice-presidents; Ruth Craine, secretary; D. W. DuGuid, treasurer.

### Kerby

Incorporation last Spring of the village of Lochmoor has caused the resignation of two officers of the Kerby School Parent-Teachers' Association, who live in Lochmoor: Mrs. Lillian Hudson, president, and Mrs. A. Ratz, vice-president. Fred Hood, formerly second vice-president, is now president; Theodore Beaupre, vice-president; Blanche Dill, secretary; Mr. Aukland, treasurer. A special moving picture program, including a comedy and Red Grange in an eight-reel photoplay, was given for the children on November 2. The next regular meeting is to be on the second Thursday in December.

### Vernier

Because of Thanksgiving Day the meeting of the Vernier School Parent-Teachers' Association which customarily falls on the last Wednesday of the month, is to be held on the third Wednesday in November. Present officers include George Butterfield, president; Mrs. Copley,

vice president; Rosalie Clifford, secretary; Mrs. J. P. Jaxtimer, treasurer. A program of speakers for future meetings is being considered.

### Trombly

George Barras, director of reading of the Detroit Public Library, was to be the speaker at the meeting of the Trombly School Parent-Teachers' Association on Tuesday, November 8. An educational moving picture was also to be shown. Ethel J. Cowe, principal of the Trombly School, gave a talk at the October meeting on the meaning and value of the association to the teachers. A Halloween party was held in the gymnasium after the business meeting. Mrs. E. R. Granger is president of the association; R. G. Talcott, Mrs. W. W. Penoyer and Miss Donna Whitehead, vice-presidents; Mrs. Glenn W. Munger, corresponding secretary; Mrs. L. W. Forrester, recording secretary; E. T. Marian, treasurer.

## NEW CHARTER

The charter commissioners elected by Grosse Pointe Park at a special election August 29, when the voters approved a proposal to revise the village's antiquated charter and re-incorporate under the Home Rule Act, have been meeting frequently to discuss the proposed new charter.

The commissioners are Robert M. Allan, Fintan L. Henk, Louis A. DeHayes, Alfred J. Garska and Julius W. Berns. The new charter will propose a commission-manager form of government, according to the village attorney, Julius L. Berns, who is drawing it up at the commissioners' direction.

At the August 29 election the voters also approved \$55,000 bond issue for street resurfacing and \$45,000 for street paving on Cadieux between Jefferson and Fox Creek and on Balfour between Kercheval and Mack.

## NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Bids for the work of carrying out the landscaping and athletic field plans designed for the new Grosse Pointe High School grounds at Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher Road were to be opened by the Board of Education at its regular meeting November 7. Determining

the type and arrangement of equipment for the new high school is now engaging the attention of the board, superintendent and architect. At the superintendent's suggestion, the Board is considering a trip to Fordson High School to inspect equipment there. Construction of the new school is going steadily forward, and its completion and at least partial equipment for use by February is expected.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB

The new \$175,000 Neighborhood Club, built this Summer and Fall on the eight-acre site at St. Clair Avenue, Neff Street and Waterloo Avenue in Grosse Pointe Village, is to be formally dedicated at a public house-warming on Thanksgiving Day, according to George Elworthy, director, to whom the keys of the building were turned over in October by William P. Stevens, John S. Newberry and D. M. Ferry, Jr., the committee under whose direction the building was erected.

One of the first meetings in the new clubhouse will be that of the Detroit Federation of Settlements, of which Mr. Elworthy is president. The meeting is scheduled for the third Tuesday in November. Otto G. Wismar of the Legal Aid Bureau will deliver an address.

## NEW EDITOR

Bernard E. Meyers, newspaper man of several years' experience and graduate of the journalism course of the University of Wisconsin in 1920, has been appointed executive secretary of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township and editor of the Civic News. He succeeds Howard G. Fishack, who resigned last June to become director of the Taxpayer's Association of Fall River, Mass., Inc.

Mr. Meyers has been employed in various editorial capacities by The Duluth News-Tribune, The Milwaukee Journal and The Detroit News, and has also held other executive positions. He is a member of Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalistic fraternity.

## ZONING

A zoning ordinance was passed by the Council of Grosse Pointe Park on August 26. Practically all the territory in Grosse Pointe Township is now zoned.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

emy, high school principal at Scarsdale, N. Y., sub-master of Quincy High School, Quincy, Mass., from 1921 to 1924, and principal of Framingham, Mass., High School from 1924 to 1927.

Another new face in the schools this Fall is Dr. Brownell, superintendent, who succeeded Wilder L. Walling on July 1. Dr. Brownell came to Grosse Pointe from the faculty of New York State Teachers' College, Albany, N. Y., where he was assistant professor of education. His scholastic ability at Yale University, where he pursued graduate work following graduation from University of Nebraska, brought him degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in education. Experience as a teacher and school administrator followed, including the principalship of the State Teachers' College Training School at Peru, Nebr. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholastic fraternity, and Phi Delta Kappa, honorary educational society.

#### School Sites Report

Dr. Brownell has taken charge of his new position in a vigorous manner and is engaged, among other matters, in preparation of a series of reports on school conditions and problems, the first of which is now in the Board's hands.

A new face also appears on the Board of Education this Fall, Julius L. Berns, attorney for the Village of Grosse Pointe Park. Mr. Berns was elected to the board for a three-

year term on June 13, succeeding Julius C. Peter, vice-president of the Detroit Trust Company, who was appointed to the board last February to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of Mr. E. J. Hickey. Mr. Berns is a graduate of the University of Michigan, 1917. In addition to serving as attorney for the Village of Grosse Pointe Park the last nine years he has acted at various times as attorney for several municipalities in the Detroit metropolitan area, including Berkley, Clawson, Melvindale, Warren and St. Clair Shores.

Other members of the board include Dr. L. E. Maire, past president; P. Hudson Bradley, president; Charles A. Parcells, secretary; and Charles A. Poupard, treasurer. The latter was re-elected to the board for a three-year term on June 13.

#### SCHOOL BONDS

At a special meeting of the Board of Education on October 14 it was decided to advertise for bids on the \$100,000 bond issue for the Defer School addition authorized by the voters at the school election June 13. The bids are to be opened November 21.

Bids for bond issues totaling \$365,000 opened by the board on October 3 resulted in awarding the bonds to the Guardian Detroit Company, Stranahan, Harris & Oatis, who offered a premium of \$6,679.50. This included an issue of \$65,000 for the purchase of a Lochmoor elementary school site at Vernier and Mar-

ter Roads—approved at the election June 13—and \$300,000 of Grosse Pointe High School bonds.

Two other bond issues were authorized at the polls in June: \$85,000 for high school addition and landscaping, and \$250,000 for a proposed Lochmoor elementary school building. School bonds now outstanding or authorized total \$3,202,000, while the property in Rural Agricultural School District No. 1 of Grosse Pointe Township is assessed at \$115,000,000.

#### PLAYFIELD

Players of the St. Ambrose School have the use of the Defer School grounds for football practice at conveniently arranged hours. Permission was granted by the Board of Education on October 14.

#### TOWNSHIP SURVEY IS ABOUT COMPLETED

The results of a critical, non-partisan study of Grosse Pointe township government being made by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, at the request of the Grosse Pointe Citizens Association, are expected to be available for the next issue of the CIVIC NEWS.

This bureau's previous studies of Grosse Pointe governments resulted in considerable saving to taxpayers, and the present survey, it is hoped, will also bring forth constructive suggestions by this impartial, fact-finding agency, which has a record of eleven years' creditable, non-partisan service in governmental research.

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