

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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No. 12

## TWO TRUSTEES TO BE CHOSEN AT SCHOOL ELECTION ON JUNE 10TH

Grosse Pointe will elect two trustees to the Board of Education, Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, on Monday, June 10th. The polls will be open in the five precincts from 12 o'clock noon to 8 p. m. Those who have not registered may do so with the Secretary of the Board of Education or at the Board offices in the Grosse Pointe High School at any time not later than Saturday, June 8th.

Property owners will also ballot on proposals to issue \$120,000 bonds for a proposed addition to the Trombly School and to change the interest rate permissible on the \$360,000 Richard School bonds from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{3}{4}$ %.

The annual meeting will proceed in the high school auditorium, Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard, immediately following the election, at 8:30 p. m. A proposed budget of \$15,585 for a public library system will come before the annual meeting, among other items.

Polling places for the election June 10th are as follows:

- Precinct No. 1  
Grosse Pointe Village. Cadieux School
- Precinct No. 2  
Grosse Pointe Park... Municipal Bldg.  
15115 Jefferson Ave.
- Precinct No. 3  
Grosse Pointe Farms... Kerby School
- Precinct No. 4  
Grosse Pointe Shores. Municipal Bldg.  
Vernier and Lake Shore Road
- Precinct No. 5  
Lochmoor ..... Mason School  
Vernier and Goethe

### Candidates' Statements

Statements of candidates collected for voters' information follow:

CHARLES A. PARCELLS, 438 Rivard Boulevard, Grosse Pointe Village, secretary and trustee of the Board of Education for the last three years, who is seeking re-election; age 41, owns real estate in Grosse Pointe; has been engaged in investment bank-

ing for 10 years; formerly assistant to dean and registrar of Yale University; received B. A. at Yale and studied  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years in Graduate School at Yale; pledges himself to business-like conduct of Board business and to reliance on disinterested, authoritative judgment in determining important policies; has no entangling political alliances and intends to continue placing the interest of the whole school district above that of any special locality.

JOHN R. WATKINS, 95 Moran Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, United States Attorney for the eastern district of Michigan; age 37, owns real estate in Grosse Pointe; member firm of Trowbridge, Lewis & Watkins; has been an attorney-at-law for 12 years since graduation with A. B. and LL. B. degrees at University of Michigan; has been assistant corporation counsel of City of Detroit three years, assistant U. S. Attorney 18 months and U. S. Attorney 15 months, position he now holds; pledges himself, if elected, to place the interests of the children and the whole school district above those of any locality and to rely on disinterested, authoritative educational judgment based on facts rather than personal opinion or prejudice in deciding policies; has never been a candidate for elective office before and has no entangling local alliances.

J. LAWRENCE HIBBARD, salesman, 1148 Three-Mile Drive, Grosse Pointe Park, declined to reply to Civic News questionnaire, writing that "in due time my platform and qualifications will be published in what I believe to be the proper manner."

P. HUDSON BRADLEY, 867 Barrington Road, Grosse Pointe Park, member of the plumbing firm of Cronin & Bradley, was elected to the Board of Education three years ago and served as president of the Board for the last two years; the district was shocked to learn of his sudden death on May 30th after a short illness.

## TRUSTEE SUTTER MAKES A STATEMENT

To the Citizens of  
Grosse Pointe Township.

One year ago the Grosse Pointe School Board announced that the first one of its three junior high schools should be built in Grosse Pointe Park. This was opposed by a small group of citizens who owned property in the vicinity of the proposed school. Lack of authoritative information made it appear that their objections were reasonable and lent weight to their demand to "keep the school out of the Park." I was asked to run for the Board and was duly elected last June.

During the ensuing year the Board vainly tried to select a site to which no one objected and by this time everybody in Grosse Pointe knows what a hopeless task it has proved to be. It gradually became apparent to me that we were groping in the dark and that our schools should be located on the basis of proved facts instead of on the basis of argument, oratory or the selfish demands of a small group. I therefore suggested that we wipe the slate clean and start afresh by securing the services of the most competent authorities to gather all the facts and recommend a solution of our problem. After some correspondence with a number of educational leaders I reported that Dr. Strayer and Dr. Engelhardt, of Columbia University, New York, appeared preeminently qualified to do the work, in fact enjoyed a

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)

### TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND PARENTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GROSSE PTE.

An important school election is to be held in Grosse Pointe on Monday, June 10th. Elsewhere in this issue of Civic News will be found informative articles on candidates and issues. Citizens who prize the duty and privilege of the ballot-box will not neglect to vote on June 10th.

## Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 51 Warren Ave., W., Detroit

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor

B. E. Meyers, Editor

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### SCHOOL TAXES

STATISTICS on the relation of school taxes in Grosse Pointe Township to total taxes were reported to the Board of Education by Supt. S. M. Brownell on May 20th. In 1925, school taxes in Grosse Pointe Park amounted to 15 per cent. of the total; in 1928, 19 per cent. In 1925, school taxes in Grosse Pointe Village were 17 per cent. of the total; in 1928, 17 per cent. In Grosse Pointe Farms, school taxes were 13 per cent. of the total in 1925; 15 per cent. in 1928. In Grosse Pointe Shores, school taxes were 10 per cent. of the total in 1925; 19 per cent. of the total in 1928.

The amount of school taxes collected in Grosse Pointe Township is low compared with 47 other districts in Michigan. The Grosse Pointe school tax rate is the lowest in Michigan. In proportion of school taxes to total taxes, Grosse Pointe is next to the lowest in Michigan. In a recent survey of school taxes in 109 cities of 2,000 population and over, made by the superintendent of schools of Muskegon, Michigan, Grosse Pointe proved to have the lowest.

### Villages Spent \$1,326,890

That not all of the taxes paid in Grosse Pointe Township are being spent for schools may be gleaned from the following summary of the total levy of \$2,629,740.10 made last year upon Grosse Pointe Township's real and personal property assessed at more than \$124,000,000:

Levied for:	1925	1928
Grosse Pointe Park...	\$ 208,500.00	\$ 412,630.91
Grosse Pointe Village...	208,499.02	397,155.28
Grosse Pointe Farms...	242,435.87	385,305.00
Grosse Pointe Shores...	55,412.40	68,382.72
Lochmoor .....		68,516.70
State, County, Health, Township, good roads.	570,202.50	756,340.20

Total for other than school purposes ....	\$1,351,049.79	\$2,083,236.81
School Dist., 5 villages)	298,550.00	546,503.29

Grand Total .....\$1,649,608.79 \$2,629,740.10

It will be seen that school taxes during the past year have been just  
(Continued on Page 6, Col. 2)

## SCHOOL BOARD DECIDES TO ADOPT ADVICE BASED ON FACTS IN SURVEY OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEEDS

BY a three-to-two vote, the Board of Education, on May 20th, adopted the report received on April 29th for junior high school buildings in Grosse Pointe by George D. Strayer and N. L. Engelhardt, professors of Columbia University teachers' college, New York.

Drs. Strayer and Engelhardt, nationally-known educational authorities, were retained by the Board last February at the recommendation of Trustee Fred Sutter to gather all the facts and give a disinterested recommendation in the junior high school matter.

The motion to adopt the experts' report and proceed immediately with acquisition of sites for three junior high schools was made by Trustee Charles A. Parcels and supported by Trustee Sutter. On the roll call, Trustee Charles A. Poupard joined Messrs. Sutter and Parcels, giving the motion a majority over the opposition of Trustees P. Hudson Bradley and Julius L. Berns.

### Urge Immediate Purchase

In their report, containing 13 maps and 19 typewritten pages of statistical detail and analysis of the present and future of Grosse Pointe School District's growth and junior high school needs, Messrs. Strayer and Engelhardt conclude that it is essential that three junior high schools be provided by 1940 and that sites be acquired immediately at St. Paul and Audubon Avenues in Grosse Pointe Park; Lothrop and Charlevoix Avenues in Grosse Pointe Farms and Sunningdale Drive east of Fairway in Lochmoor.

"The only doubt in the minds of the members of the staff," says the report, "is with reference to the order with which it will be necessary to construct the buildings. It is evident from the distribution of children who will use the junior high schools that the first junior high school should be located so as to accommodate children between Cadieux Road and Detroit. It is assumed, of course, that children east of Cadieux Road can be accommodated in the present senior high school for the next five years.

"As the number of children increases and if the development follows the trend of the past five years, a second junior high school should be built to accommodate children between Neff and Cook Roads. If development in

Lochmoor and Grosse Pointe Shores moves more rapidly than between Neff and Cook Roads, then the school at Sunningdale and Fairway would have to come second. The staff believe that the estimates on growth presented are conservative; that three junior high schools will be needed. The survey staff most urgently recommends that the Board proceed at once to acquire sites for the three schools.

"A study of the map shows that the three locations proposed will provide schools within easy walking distance for all of the children of the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. The proposal to buy all of the sites at this time is, we are confident, well founded in the light of increasing values due to real estate developments."

### 500 New Homes Annually

Building permits issued for new homes in Grosse Pointe Township in the five years from 1924 up to and including 1928, show an average per year of 509, resulting in an increase of about 2,000 in total population annually. Allowing for some possible slowing up toward 1940, the educational consultants estimate the population of the school district will reach approximately 45,000 by 1940,—double its present population. Estimating that 14 per cent of the total population will be in public schools results in the figure 6,300. (This figure checks with the estimate of a probable public school enrollment in 1940 of 6,390, based on the average annual increase of 346.5 for the last five years). The estimated number of junior high school pupils in 1940 is approximately 1,800; senior high school, 1,000.

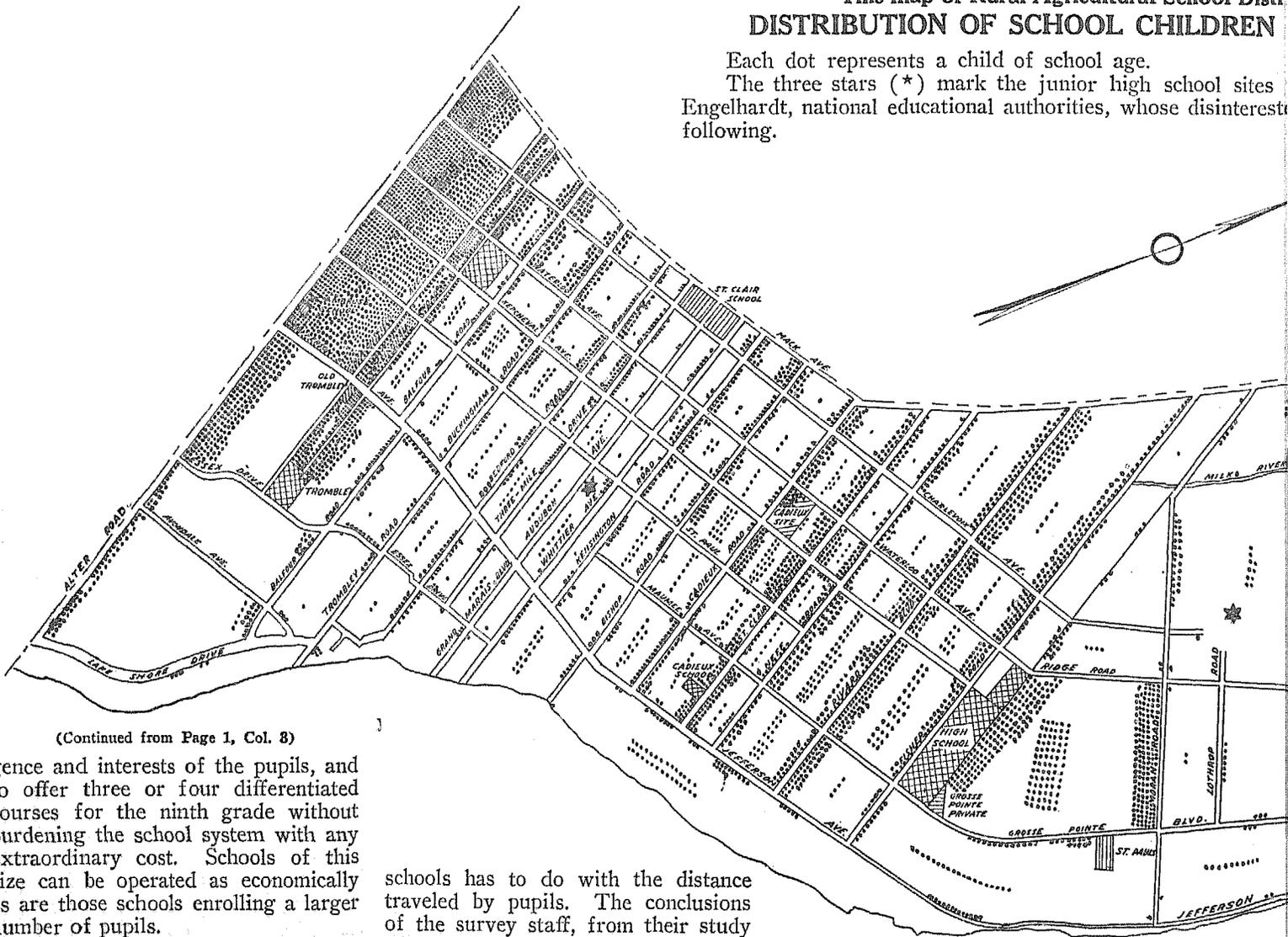
"The problem of the Board of Education has to do with the number of buildings to be constructed for these junior high school pupils and the location of the buildings," the educational consultants' report explains. "The first of these problems must be answered in terms of the size of the schools and in travel distances.

"Junior high schools of 500 to 600 pupils will prove entirely satisfactory both from the standpoint of the educational program that can be offered and the cost of maintaining them. In a school of this size it will be possible to offer the broadening and finding courses that are essential for the securing of choices in line with the intelli-

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)

**This map of Rural Agricultural School District  
DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Each dot represents a child of school age.  
The three stars (\*) mark the junior high school sites  
Engelhardt, national educational authorities, whose disinterest following.



(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

gence and interests of the pupils, and to offer three or four differentiated courses for the ninth grade without burdening the school system with any extraordinary cost. Schools of this size can be operated as economically as are those schools enrolling a larger number of pupils.

"The most satisfactory solution will require the building of three junior high schools. When the schools are first established, the one in Grosse Pointe Park will have the larger enrollment; but as the district develops there will be a tendency to equalize the enrollments in the several schools. It will be advantageous when the present high school building is filled to develop the school farthest north (Sunningdale and Fairway) as a six-year junior-high school. This will tend to equalize the load carried by the three schools. Eventually, each of the schools will have to provide for a much larger number of pupils. In the planning of buildings, that should be taken to indicate the possibility of extending the buildings and increasing their capacity without any major reconstruction.

**Distance Factor**

"The second factor in the determination of the location of junior high

schools has to do with the distance traveled by pupils. The conclusions of the survey staff, from their study of the whole area with reference to travel distance, indicates clearly the need of three junior high schools.

"The location of schools is always to be considered in the light of the present residences and upon the possible development of other parts of the area under consideration for residential purposes. A study of our map showing the location of each residence already built within the school district reveals a relatively high degree of saturation has been reached in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village. The most densely settled area is that immediately adjoining Detroit in the northwestern corner of the district. There is still room in the Park and in the Village for a large increase in population. Indeed, it may reasonably be proposed that within the area west of Fisher Road there may be a doubling of population with the next ten years. For Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores and Lochmoor the pos-

sibilities of development during the next eleven years are even greater.

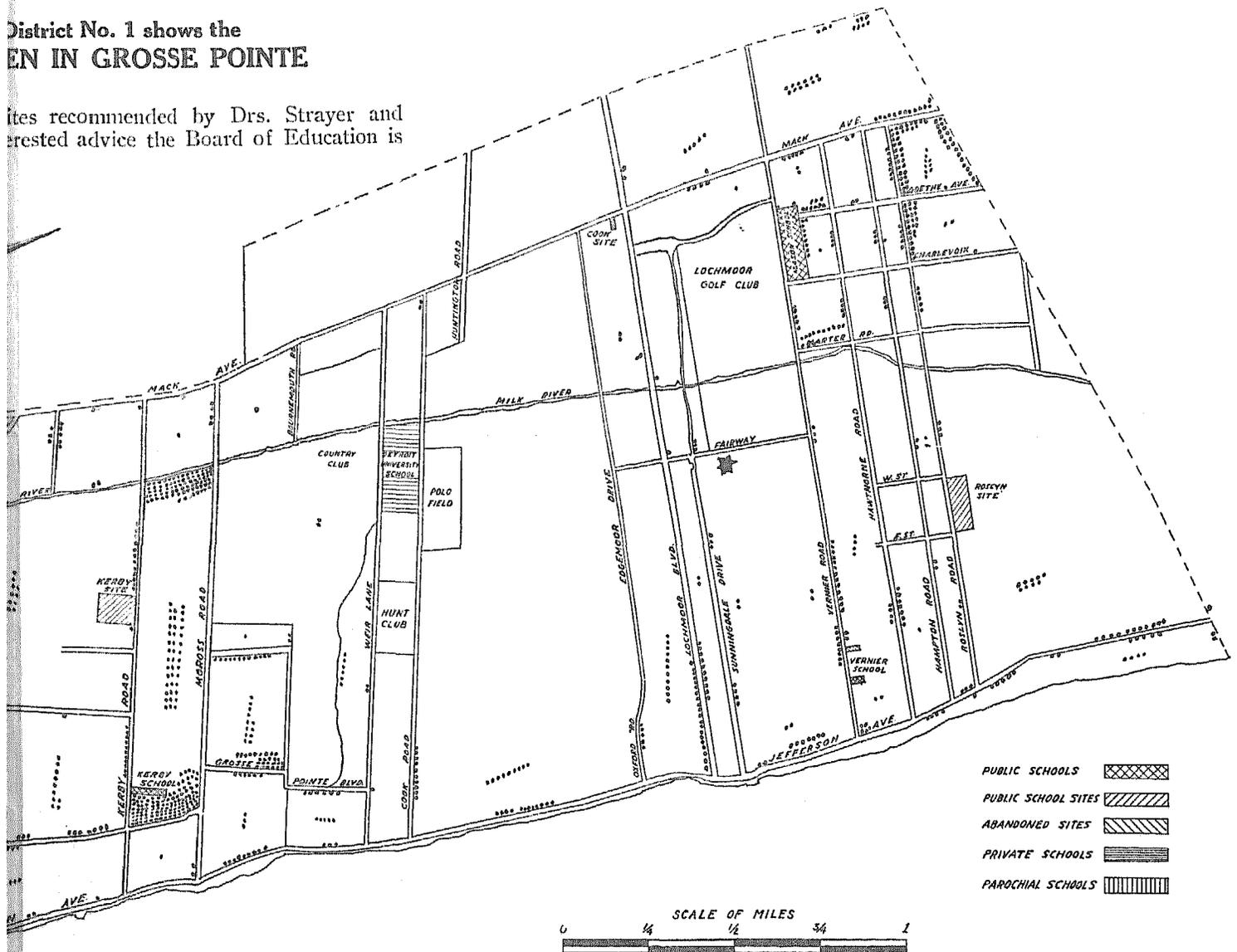
"The location of school buildings, of course, must be determined not merely by the number of residences but by the number of children to be found in these houses. Our maps showing the distribution of children indicate large numbers in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Village with a very much smaller number in the other three villages. It is evident that the first junior high school should be located so as to accommodate children between Cadieux Road and Detroit. Children beyond this point can be accommodated in the present senior high school for the next five years.

**Whole Area Studied**

"Another consideration in the determination of the location of the junior high schools is the availability of sites of sufficient size. The members of the survey staff studied the whole

District No. 1 shows the  
SITES RECOMMENDED BY DR. STRAYER AND  
OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER

Sites recommended by Drs. Strayer and  
others interested in the matter advised the Board of Education is



area in order to locate such plots of ground as are available without improvements or with a minimum of improvements.

"In our proposal for the location of the junior high schools in Grosse Pointe, we have used a one and one-fourth miles radius in drawing a circle from the proposed location of the school as a center. Children who live farthest from the school will have to walk approximately one and one-half miles. This is as far as children of junior high school age (seventh, eighth, and ninth graders) may reasonably be expected to walk."

In explaining their choice of a site within Grosse Pointe Park, the educational consultants pointed out that there are no blocks offering a suitable location upon which there are no houses.

"Taking everything into consideration," says the report, "the staff is persuaded that the block bounded by

Jefferson, Audubon, St. Paul and Whittier Avenues offers the best location for the school to serve this part of the school district. The northern two-thirds of this block will provide approximately seven acres of land. (This is the site the Board voted to acquire, May 20th.) There are now on this part of the area two houses. They could be moved to the block directly east, with a minimum of cost. The only other blocks worthy of consideration are that bounded by Three-Mile Drive, Charlevoix, Audubon and Waterloo Avenues, or the block bounded by Audubon, Waterloo, Whittier and Kercheval Avenues. These blocks are not nearly so well located with respect to the total area to be served. The travel distance for children living in the southwestern area would be considerably increased, with either of these blocks to be taken.

"The second junior high school should be located on a plot of ground

to consist of not less than ten acres west of Charlevoix Avenue extended and north of Lothrop Road extended. It would be somewhat more desirable to extend the area so as to include the wooded area to the north of Lothrop Road and east of the site indicated. This location, as is indicated by the circle drawn on the map, will provide accommodations for all junior high school pupils between Neff Road and Cook Road. The third school, as has been indicated, should be located between Sunningdale Drive and Vernier Road and east of Fairway. This section from Moross Road to the county line will require a junior-senior high school within the next twenty years. The junior high school is clearly indicated as necessary by 1940. It would be the height of folly to fail to buy a site large enough for a large junior-senior high school. The survey staff recommends that this site be not less than twenty acres.

## WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD?

ARTICLE No. 5

IN previous articles in the series it has been shown by concrete examples that antiquated procedure, local politics and disregard of authoritative advice caused able and public-spirited trustees no end of trouble, retarded progress and kept the whole district in a turmoil.

To remedy the situation is not an impossible or even a particularly difficult task. In fact, the Board already has courageously set about improving matters. A majority of the present Board—Trustees Fred Sutter, Charles A. Parcels and Charles A. Poupard—during recent months has frowned upon petty interference with administrative details and with teacher appointments and has apposed injection of personal wishes unsupported by facts and disinterested, authoritative advice. As a result, Board business has been greatly expedited

### Business Accelerated

Some concrete results from the admirable stand of Messrs. Sutter, Parcels and Poupard for progress may be noted in the speedy handling of the Board business at recent meetings. On May 20th, for instance, the entire business of the Board was completed before 10:30 P.M., including action to adopt the Strayer-Engelhardt report and to proceed immediately with acquisition of three junior high school sites as recommended by the education authorities: (1) Seven acres at St. Paul and Audubon; (2) Ten acres at Charlevoix and Lothrop; (3) Twenty acres at Fairway Drive and Sunningdale.

The vote on the junior high school matter was three to two, Trustees Sutter, Parcels and Poupard voting to adopt the recommendations of the Board's disinterested, authoritative educational advisers, while Trustees Bradley and Berns voted in the negative.

In moving the adoption of the Strayer-Engelhardt report, Trustee Parcels pointed out that a small number of property owners had opposed location of the senior high school at Fisher Road and Grosse Pointe Boulevard a few years ago, contending that the neighboring property would be damaged and that less expensive property should be purchased. "It is interesting to note," said Mr. Parcels, "that

those who spoke heatedly against this site before the school was built have declared many times since that the high school is one of the greatest assets of surrounding property and of the whole district. A few years from now, I believe the objectors to a junior high school site in Grosse Pointe Park will feel the same way. As trustees we are charged with locating schools in the manner best calculated to serve the children of the whole district. We have certainly not acted hastily in this matter, having had the value of authoritative advice from every source during the last year and a half." The motion was supported by Trustee Sutter. (Mr. Sutter's position has been outlined in a communication to the citizens of Grosse Pointe which appears elsewhere in this issue.) The remedies for the School Board's ailments, which have been proposed in this analysis of what's wrong and what should be done about it, are the following:

1. Elect to the School Board candidates who have no entangling alliances and who will shed their local attitudes when they get on the Board and represent the whole district. How can candidates who seek election by promises of special favors to any particular part of the school district be faithful to an oath of office that pledges impartial service to the whole district?

### Delegate Detail Work

2. Insist that the School Board conduct its affairs openly at regular sessions devoted to action on fundamental policies, routine supervision and hearing of reports and communications. When the Board abolishes its committee system entirely, delegates all detail that can properly be handled by paid employes and confines itself to demanding an efficient carrying out of the policies it lays down, the trustees can maintain a proper, disinterested perspective to judge results and correct mistakes. Generals are not expected to fight in the ranks. Their job is to map out the campaign, keep the troops supplied with food, shelter and ammunition and see that competent commanders carry out orders and gain objectives. Grosse Pointe voters demand tangible results from school trustees, but they do not expect them to fire boilers, teach classes or spend

half a day picking out a piano, unless some emergency is grave enough to justify such action.

3. Demand disinterested, authoritative advice and facts for every fundamental educational policy adopted by the Board. This is the only safeguard for both the public and the school board against the machinations of selfish interests. The latter will attempt to put personal advantage above public good as long as officials encourage a belief that they will tolerate the sacrifice of public welfare both now and for years to come to satisfy any determined few who persist long enough and loud enough even though their wishes be contrary to reason and fact.

This concludes the series of articles on "What's the Matter with the School Board?" Next Monday, June 10th, property owners and parents of school children, will be asked to express their wishes at the annual school election. Elsewhere in this issue of Civic News will be found information about the candidates and other election details. Every eligible elector should familiarize himself with this information and then VOTE.

### FARMS' WATER SUPPLY

That the water board of the City of Detroit is willing and able to extend its water service to Grosse Pointe Farms was reported on May 20th to the village council. The trustees decided to confer with officials of Grosse Pointe Shores and of Highland Park before taking further steps. Both the Farms and Shores are at present receiving unfiltered Lake St. Clair water under a contract with the City of Highland Park which owns and operates the pumping station at Lake Shore and Moross Roads. Highland Park filters the supply it furnishes its own citizens, but the filtration plant is far from Grosse Pointe across Detroit in Highland Park.

### D. U. R. LOSES SUIT

Judge Charles C. Simons of the United States District Court in May decided that the Detroit United Railway's franchise to operate street cars in Grosse Pointe Village expired on May 1, 1918, and that the D. U. R. must within a reasonable length of time comply with the village's orders of April, 1928, to tear up its tracks and take down poles and wires.

