

Board Members Do More Than Merely Attend Meetings

Being a school board member is not simply having to attend one meeting a month—especially when there is a new school in the picture.

Members of the Birmingham board have become writers and lecturers since the start of the school expansion program in 1945. They have also familiarized themselves with a great many more construction details than most had experienced before.

Their jobs have included preparing informative articles for publication and numerous appearances before civic organizations and PTA groups.

SINCE the actual construction got underway they met almost every week with contractors and architects with many visits to the construction site.

Like proud parents with an only child they watched each step of the construction through the long months before the actual building began to take shape.

The board members became visiting delegates to other towns and in turn welcomed the visiting delegates who came here. Time after time one or more of the board took to the site members of other boards, educational authorities from distant places and representatives of Birmingham organizations.

THEY DESCRIBED in detail a building not yet there and later picked their way through piles of earth, new and scrap material, around workmen and up flights of stairs which were little more than a name, to show these visitors around.

No matter where they went, they were wanted to meet someone who wanted to know all about the building. They must have spoken millions of words about the place, but never once did their interest lag.

They knew that their town was erecting one of the most modern and most beautiful high schools in the country. They knew that the taxpayers in their community had voted an "educational institution" for their sons and daughters which would lead the field—not just now, but for years to come.

THEY WERE PROUD of the building and as eager to see it completed as any of the students who would attend it.

Few personnel changes have been made on the board during the seven years which have gone into the planning and building of the new school.

During the first few months Lee Joslyn was president of the board, to be succeeded by Ernest W. Seaholm at the group's reorganizational meeting in July. The board that year also saw Mrs. Peter Loomis elected for a one-year term.

Other members were Mrs. Lewis B. Sappington, Amos Gregory, Wylie Groves, Roland Reese and Ross S. Campbell, named to fill the vacancy created by Joslyn's resignation that September.

IN 1949 William Spence was elected to the board, defeating Mrs. Loomis. The only other newcomer to the group is Richard Sauerbrun who, in 1950, defeated Reese in the annual school election.

During the past few months, with the building finally occupied, other items have arisen on which board members have spent many hours.

They have been planning the many visits which groups have made to the new building. They have taken guests from other cities and states through and always in the laces of their minds have been questions about the "subtle" opening and dedication of the building.

Ask any member of the Birmingham school board about their jobs. Any one of them will tell you, or they will tell you as a group, that there's a lot more to it than meeting at Hill school every third Tuesday!

Board Members, Superintendent, Principal



E. W. SEAHOLM



AMOS GREGORY



WYLIE GROVES



ROSS S. CAMPBELL



MRS. L. B. SAPPINGTON



RICHARD SAUERBRUN



WILLIAM SPENCE



SUPT. DWIGHT B. IRELAND



PRINCIPAL ROSS WAGNER

These Three Also Lent a Hand



MRS. PETER LOOMIS



ROLAND REESE



LEE JOSLYN

Architect Cites High School's Low Construction Cost

In speaking of the new Birmingham high school, J. Robert F. Swanson of Swanson Associates, architects, said that on a cost comparison basis it is one of the least expensive schools in the state.

"We have pretty well checked figures of current building programs throughout Michigan," Swanson said, "and have found that the new high school here has an extremely low cost per cubic foot for the size and quality of the building."

"While material costs were the same for all buildings that means just one thing—good planning."

"THE PLANS were not something done hastily. School officials started them five years ago. They had every step figured out before anything was done."

"The entire building program was mapped so the actual work could be done with very little wasted effort. Problems were anticipated as far as possible and the solutions figured out ahead of time."

"That building is a monument to careful study, careful planning and cooperation of all concerned. Everyone worked hard to do a good job and I think they have been very successful."

Fall Term to See More Than 1,000 Enrolled at BHS

The "population" of the Birmingham high school is currently 725 students, according to Mrs. Stevens, accountant for the board of education.

With the addition of grades now attending Barnum junior high school, which will be moved into the high school at the beginning of the fall term, the enrollment will top the one thousand mark. This, Mrs. Stevens pointed out, is based on "known" figures and contains the possibility of the addition of numerous other students who may move into the district prior to that date.

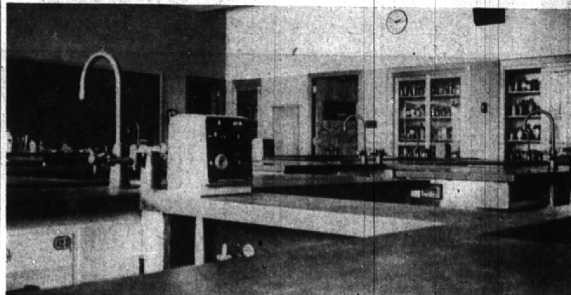
THE TEACHING staff numbers 33 at present, with additional instructors to be added as class shifts are made. The exact number of teachers for the fall term is not known, but will exceed this number.

In addition to the teaching staff, the new high school also has a staff of 16 custodial workers.

The 142 regular classroom teachers employed by the Birmingham school system in elementary, junior high and high school departments had an average of 10.5 years experience.



EFFICIENT OPERATION IS A "MUST" in this well-planned wood and metal working shop. The most advanced machines are at the fingertips of students learning manual training. (Eclectic Staff Photo)



"EVERYTHING AT YOUR FINGERTIPS" is a phrase that could aptly describe the school's chemistry laboratories. The forces of electricity, gas and water can be summoned by the student without his moving a step! (Eclectic Staff Photo)

SWANSON ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

PAUL S. CALKINS
Structural Engineer
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

HYDE and BOBBIO
Mechanical Engineers
Detroit, Michigan

WILCOX AND LAIRD
Landscape Architects
Birmingham, Michigan



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