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School Building Needs Summarized By Superintendent

This is the eleventh and final article in a series presented by the Birmingham board of education, in co-operation with The Eccentric, regarding the proposed \$3,000,000 bond issue in November with which to expand the school facilities to meet the unprecedented growth of the school district.

In all, the money is to be used to build two new elementary schools, purchase five school sites, and make additions to six present grade schools.

These articles have been prepared by Sept. Dwight B. Ireland, at the request and on behalf of the board of education.

By DWIGHT B. IRELAND

In the articles prepared and presented during the past 10 weeks, the needs of each school have been reviewed and the plans clarified to meet these needs.

In summary, there will be 3 kindergartens, 45 classrooms, 3 libraries, 7 multi-purpose rooms, 3 offices, 4 health clinics, 3 teachers' rest rooms and 4 conference rooms added to the Birmingham public schools.

A number of new sites are included to provide for the future development of the area. These sites have been carefully located according to a series of spot maps which indicate the density of pupil population on the area and show the distance of these centers from present school buildings.

A great deal of re-modeling is included particularly in Barnum junior high school where the present facilities housing the industrial arts area and cafeteria can be converted to meet other needs of the school program.

A MEETING of the board of education was held Oct. 2 with Claude Stevens, attorney-at-law, and Louis Schimmel, who is an authority on school bonds. It was agreed that 4 1/2 mills should be levied to cover the building needs listed.

Since the prices given in the

first article were based upon estimates set forth last spring and since there has been a continued rise in building costs, it was felt that some allowance should be made to meet the cost differential.

It will also be necessary for the board to cover the first nine months of interest since the tax collection cannot begin until December of 1953.

At the last special election, the school electors were only asked for the continuation of 3 1/2 mills of operating expense to replace the 5 mills that expired.

IT WAS EXPLAINED at that time that a bond issue was forthcoming and it was hoped that the difference of 1 1/2 mills could be applied to the new issue. The actual increase in millage would be a net increase of three mills. It would seem that this very

reasonable request should deserve the wholesome support of all tax paying electors who realize the problems of the school in housing the enormous enrollment increases, which are now approximating one thousand pupils per year.

The number of classrooms available and their present utilization are basic factors in any school building proposal. A study has been completed which is based upon the enrollments recorded on Sept. 19, 1952.

IN THE elementary schools of Birmingham, there are 113 classrooms available and 115 classrooms in use.

Some of these classrooms really were designed for other purposes such as libraries, lunchrooms, and general purpose rooms.

This means greater congestion than one hundred percent utilization would indicate, and would certainly support the fact that the Birmingham public schools are serving as many children as can be accommodated at this time and there is no room for future growth in pupil population.

Birmingham has been adding approximately one thousand pupils per year to the school enrollment.

At the present time there will be no building facilities available to house any year's enrollment unless schools are to go on half-day sessions or classrooms are crowded to the extent that the quality of instruction will seriously suffer.

CLASSROOMS are now accumulating as many children as they should if the efficiency of instruction is to be maintained at the present level. There are 23 sections of kindergartens which average 27.8 children per section, and 101 elementary classrooms with an average of 30.7 children per classroom.

If one accepts the recommendation of 27 children per teacher, classes are now larger than they should be.

These facts would seem to indicate without any doubt the urgent need for the immediate construction of elementary classrooms in the Birmingham public schools, which must be available for the next school year.

In the secondary schools, Barnum junior high school was designed for 750 pupils and now houses 729. By the end of the year it will be filled to capacity and relief must be planned for the school year 1953-54.

BIRMINGHAM high school will be completely saturated within three years. The present enrollment is 1200 pupils. The ninth grade must be removed soon to accommodate the large classes

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B'HAM ECCENTRIC
October 22, 1952

which are replacing the present graduating classes.

If a construction program is not started in the immediate future to take care of these children who are pouring into the Birmingham schools, serious difficulties will be faced by the board of education.

The members of the board are making every effort possible to acquaint school electors with the facts which substantiate their request for a building program and indicate beyond all doubt that the estimates they are using are conservative. This again reflects the interest of the board in the cost to school electors.

THE NEEDS are conservatively met, at the lowest possible cost to avoid an undue financial burden on school electors. This should result in confidence and support for a board that is laboring under great difficulty to face increasing demands at a minimum of cost.

The following enrollment trend over the past 10 years in the Birmingham public schools would seem to indicate the fact that there is no relief in sight in the immediate future:

Year	Enrollment
1943-44	2660
1944-45	2607
1945-46	2689
1946-47	2878
1947-48	2925
1948-49	3242
1949-50	3508
1950-51	4157
1951-52	4782
1952-53	5008

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The following table gives a further breakdown within the elementary schools of the city:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM UTILIZATION
Birmingham Public Schools
September 19, 1952

School	Classrooms Available	Classrooms in Use	Enrollment
Adams	20	1	23
Bloomfield Village	7	1	27
Franklin Village	2	1	14
Baldwin	23	23	34.3
Quarles	22	22	34.2
Walnut Lake	15	15	37
Terry	7	0	6
ALL	113	113	27.8

Shortage of Puppies at OCAWS Open House

There's a puppy shortage at the Oakland County Animal Shelter on Walton boulevard, Pontiac.

Mrs. William G. Ferguson, Bloomfield Hills director of OCAWS, said that during the open house held Saturday and Sunday, the supply of "desirable" puppies was completely exhausted.

She added that the open house would be continued this weekend and that every effort would be made to have additional pups on hand for "adoption."

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM,
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Notice Of Last Day Of Registration

A special election having been called to be held in said school district on the 17th day of November, 1952:

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Friday, the 7th day of November, 1952, up to 5:00 o'clock P.M., Eastern Standard Time, is the last day on which unregistered persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at said special school election.

Application for registration should be made to the clerk of the city or township in which the elector resides.

Persons already registered upon the registration books of such city or township clerk need not re-register.

AMOS F. GREGORY
Secretary of the Board of Education

205 Pierce Street
Dated: October 22, 1952

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