

Cut-Rate Education Is No Bargain

VOTE YES – MARCH 28 – VOTE YES

THE ADDITIONAL MILLAGE ISSUE FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS
BEEN ENDORSED AFTER EXAMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL NEEDS BY:

The Birmingham Board of Education
The Birmingham Parent-Teacher Associations
The Birmingham League of Women Voters

What are the facts and what are the fancies?

Birmingham Education Needs

A "Yes" Vote Because:

- 1 Present Salaries do not attract quality teachers on the competitive market.
Fact: Two separate studies confirm that Birmingham has fallen behind the bulk of Suburban Detroit Districts in pay levels.
- 2 Present Local Teachers' Progress toward maximum salaries ranks among the lowest in the Suburban Area.
Fact: Thirty-four districts in our area offer a more favorable yearly progress plan.
- 3 The present number of teachers is inadequate to the needs.
Fact: Birmingham was forced to cut back 17 teachers this year despite pupil growth. Some 51 new teachers will be needed to restore proper class sizes.
- 4 Present Library Deficiencies put our high school accreditation in jeopardy.
Fact: The Seaholm Library has only four books per pupil, while accreditation recommendations require eight books per pupil. Some 7600 volumes should be purchased for student needs.
- 5 Present Pupil—Teacher Loads are above recommended ratios.
Fact: An elementary school ratio of above 33 pupils per teacher exists throughout our system.
- 6 Present monies will not permit Birmingham to purchase needed science and language equipment for an expanding program.
Fact: Although equipment of these types may be obtained through a federal matching fund program, Birmingham has not been able to initiate this move which would yield economies in equipment expenditures.
- 7 Present operational millage for the school district ranks among the lowest in the suburban area.
Fact: Thirty-four districts around Detroit levy higher operational millage than Birmingham.
- 8 Present clerical and custodial employees require wage advances.
Fact: Research based upon information from the Metropolitan Detroit Bureau of Cooperative School Studies indicates that we are not meeting competitive salary obligations to these groups.

Check The Facts Related To The Emotional Appeals Of Opposition Groups:

- 1 Appeal—Certain areas will pay more tax than others.
Fact: All areas in the district will pay equal taxes for equal property. Equalization formulas perform the function of evening up the varying assessment practices of local governmental units.
- 2 Appeal—The tax burden depreciates property values.
Fact: Quality Schools constitute one of the prime factors for improvement of residential values.
- 3 Appeal—It is **our** money and **our** property that is involved.
Fact: True, and also **our** children and the future of **our** community are based on the Quality of education we are willing to provide.
- 4 Appeal—Our increased local assessed valuation assures an increasing amount of money to take care of salary increases and equipment needs.
Fact: The increased valuation of the district has been more than eaten up by the cost of educating the children who live in the new homes.
- 5 Appeal—The School board wants us to pay the highest salaries in the country and to raise our taxes through the roof.
Fact: The Board of Education has indicated that it cannot hope to pay top salaries, but it has affirmed that we must maintain competitive levels within the suburban area in order to attract and maintain quality personnel.
- 6 Appeal—We'll end up with educated youngsters living in a bankrupt economy.
Fact: Americans annually spend more on liquor, tobacco, cosmetics, and entertainment than on public education.
- 7 Appeal—As more children come into the district, state funds from numerous tax sources provide adequate monies for additional teachers.
Fact: State revenues to Birmingham Schools provide only 35% of needed revenues.
- 8 Appeal—Critical analysis of School Curriculum will show that savings can be made.
Fact: Some 80% of the budget is expended for personnel salaries. Much of the remainder is required for books, desks, etc. Thus, the most serious scrutinizing of budgetary items shows little promise of yielding major savings. School business is generally regarded as one of the least wasteful of enterprises.

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Birmingham Educational Association

GEORGE L. MILLER, VICE-PRESIDENT