

"Progress in education, as in all other institutions of our society, is essential if our schools are to meet adequately their responsibilities to the youth of the community. These young people deserve the best in education we can afford." From the report of The Citizens Curriculum Study Committee, April, 1961.

To The Citizens:

How are the Birmingham Public Schools attempting to educate all pupils for the space age? What is the curriculum? What progress has been possible? What is still needed?

Answers to these questions result from the combined interest, effort and support of our entire school community — citizens, the Board of Education and the professional staff. Their concern has been to provide and support the best possible education for all children and youth in kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

Some recent achievements toward this goal include:

In June 1961, a three year study of the curriculum in grades 7 through 12, involving over 100 citizens, was completed. Over 100 recommendations for improvement were made.

About 200 teachers and administrators studied the curriculum in all grades during the past year. Many recommendations were made and new curricula developed. This work continues.

The Board of Education has stated goals for the school system. A five-year improvement plan will seek to implement them.

A building needs survey conducted by Ohio State University has been completed and was carefully studied by the Board of Education and the administration.

A Professional growth program based upon "earned increments" was recommended by the staff and approved by the Board of Education.

Many improvements in accounting, budgeting, investing and purchasing procedures have been made.

A minimum improvement of \$200.00 was made in teachers' salary schedules in a further effort to attract and retain the best possible teachers for our children and youth.

A Planning Conference involving over 200 citizens and staff members was held April 3-7, 1961 to discuss educational requirements of the school district.

Over 30 citizens have been studying the total building and operating needs of the school district for the next five years.

The following pages of this first annual report seek to portray verbally and pictorially the purposes, content, progress and needs of the educational program in our schools. We trust the information will prove to be useful.

Goals of The Board of Education

To give direction to the efforts to improve the educational program, the Birmingham Board of Education adopted the following statement of basic objectives for the Birmingham school system in February, 1961:

"The public school system shares with the family, the church, and many other community efforts the responsibility for developing generations of young people who are prepared in full measure to meet the obligations and needs of the world of tomorrow.

The school's role in this broad educational process is to pursue with competence and vigor those goals, associated with the development of the intellect and the sharpening of minds to the intellectual challenges of our time, which it is uniquely qualified to achieve. The school must share, but to a lesser degree, in the other avenues of growth which are necessary in the transition from young child to mature and responsible citizen.

It is imperative that the school system devote all of its efforts toward the achievement of those goals if it is to meet the responsibilities placed upon it by society. The Birmingham School System is therefore dedicated to the fulfillment of these primary obligations which we now establish as our basic objectives:

- (1) To provide each student, according to his ability, with as complete an intellectual offering as he can usefully absorb in the language arts, basic sciences, mathematics, social studies and the fine arts.
- (2) To establish a climate in which the pursuit of excellence in the areas of his interest becomes the goal of each child.
- (3) To honor the diversity of talents by providing training in basic vocational skills in addition to the core offering in the academic areas.
- (4) To encourage the development and use of creative thought and the ability to reason.
- (5) To develop a knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage.
- (6) To emphasize to each child the great personal satisfaction which is derived from intellectual pursuits."