



This progress report concerns our cooperative efforts to improve the quality of educational opportunity for our children and youth. We hope we can demonstrate that your interests and efforts along with those of the Board of Education and professional staff have and will continue to make possible the improvement of our educational program.

THE PAST

Let us briefly review what was involved in this most recent cooperative effort.

- At the request of the Board of Education, the PTA Council in 1959 began to organize the Citizens' study of the secondary school curriculum. Their final report was issued in June, 1961. Over 100 recommendations were made.
- Annually, about 200 professional staff members study the curriculum from kindergarten through the 12th grade and make many recommendations for improvements.
- As necessary, outside consultants have been engaged. For example, the Bureau of Research and Service, Ohio State University completed a Building Needs study in June, 1961.
- A tentative five-year educational plan was developed by the administrative staff. The plan was further studied and revised during extensive joint discussion by the Board of Education and the staff.
- The tentative plan was then submitted to an advisory committee of representative citizens. Their suggestions were incorporated into two final proposals to be submitted for your consideration.
- Under the leadership of the PTA Council and the Independent Citizens for the Birmingham Schools, over 700 citizens assisted us in informing you about the election proposals.
- In November, 1961, you voted to support financially these recommendations. Thus Birmingham took a significant step forward in raising its support level for the education of its children and youth—an additional 5 mills for operation (offset by a 2.4 mill decrease in debt millage) and a five-year building program of \$4,915,000.

Clearly, the following report of improvements thus made possible could not have been written in its present form, if at all, had any of these elements been missing. The importance of the ultimate goal—improved educational opportunity—suggests that such joint efforts are most necessary if our educational program is to continue to reflect our best possible thinking and support.

THE FUTURE

The assistance of the PTA Council has been requested for a fifth study by the Board of Education—a study of the elementary curriculum. This study follows two previous building needs studies since 1955, one in personnel and one in secondary curriculum. These studies have, and will continue to be, most significant in helping to determine the level of aspirations and financial support our citizens feel is appropriate.

FEED BACK

Most essential to all activities involved in improving educational opportunity and to communicate the changes they bring about is an effective two-way information program. Your Board of Education has committed itself to this important task. This second annual report is one example. Some of the other important elements include:

- **The Bulletin to the Board of Education**—This monthly publication contains detailed information about all Board of Education decisions and administrative action. It is the source book about our schools. It is distributed to PTA presidents, schools, the Baldwin Public Library, to those who attend Board of Education meetings and to others with a primary interest in schools.
- **Board of Education Briefs**—This is a monthly newsletter distributed to all homes in our school district. Essentially, it is a digest of the Board of Education Bulletin and other school information.
- **Community Survey**—Consumer research applied to schools is most important in the long range planning for good schools. Knowing with certainty what people expect of their schools is possible only in this way. Thus appropriate opportunities for all the children of all the people can better be planned. The excellent cooperation accorded survey interviewers both last year and this year is a most significant contribution.
- In addition, your phone call or visit to your teacher, principal, counselor or Board of Education offices can provide accurate first-hand information promptly.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the contributions of the PTA Council, its affiliated local PTA's and other organizations, cannot be over-estimated. In addition to its on-going activities, the Council has on request served with obvious distinction over a period of years in coordinating and organizing objective citizen studies of countless problems and demands faced by our schools. It continues to serve as a major source of authoritative information through the programs it sponsors or stimulates. Having this effective resource available to the Board of Education and professional staff bodes well for the children and youth of this community.



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