

Building and Bonding



The new Berkshire Junior High School, 14 Mile and Lahser, which opened in September 1963, already has an enrollment of 966 seventh and eighth grade students. The building capacity is 1,000.

In November 1961, our citizens approved a \$4,915,000 bonding issue to construct new buildings and additions, to update older buildings, to provide necessary service buildings and to purchase sites for future schools while they were still available.

At the same time, the board promised a reduction in the building debt levy from 7.4 to 5 mills beginning July 1, 1962. This was made possible by paying off our old bond issues and by the increasing property valuations. As it appears now, all future buildings can be done within this 5 mill debt levy.

This bond issue was based upon recommendations of a study completed by Ohio State University in 1961—with one important exception. The Board and Administration decided to build fewer, but larger school centers, to reduce future construction, maintenance and operating costs and to provide for a more flexible curriculum. This decision would save about \$8,000,000 of the \$20,000,000 in buildings which the 1961 study indicated would be needed in order to house all of our students when the district is built up. The eventual number of students was estimated to fall between 18,000 and 22,000 students at that time.

The \$4.9 million program in 1961 represented a cut from the Ohio State Survey recommendation of \$8.7 million.

This cut was achieved by eliminating two elementary schools and adding to existing ones, postponing an administration building and by building one larger

junior high school, rather than two smaller ones. All of the building projects approved by the voters in 1961 are now completed.

The following is a summary of how the money was spent:

| Building | Estimated Cost in 1961 | Actual Cost |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| Meadow Lake Elementary School | \$ 670,000 | \$ 637,786 |
| Berkshire Junior High School | \$2,425,000 | \$2,432,300 |
| Additions to schools: | \$ 755,000 | \$ 807,600 |
| Barnum, science wing; Bloomfield Village, 4 rooms; Marlon, 8 rooms; Franklin, 6 rooms; Pembroke, 4 rooms, and enlarged library. | | |
| Renovation, development and equipping of existing buildings (included every school) and sites | \$ 290,000 | \$ 290,000 |
| Central Receiving and Storage facility, bus garage site | \$ 80,000 | \$ 68,400 |
| Site acquisition and expansion of existing sites (a continuing program) | \$ 695,000 | \$ 630,000 |
| Total | \$4,915,000 | \$4,886,086 |

Building Policies

Your Board of Education and administration are guided by the following building policies:

1. To provide buildings which are functional, flexible and expandable so that the quality of the curriculum can be easily and efficiently maintained for an increasing number of students.
2. To specify economical building materials consistent with the life expectancy of the building and of future maintenance costs.
3. To establish a firm, initial budget for the architect.
4. To provide, as nearly as possible, equal facilities throughout the district consistent with sound building use and transportation practices.
5. To plan for maximum and multiple use of space both during and after the school day by students and the community.
6. To maintain flexible attendance boundaries rather than to overbuild.
7. To select architects carefully.

By following these policies it has been possible to reduce the per-square-foot cost of new buildings. Meadow Lake Elementary School cost \$12.83 per-square foot; Berkshire Junior High, \$13.10.



Sliding walls provide the teacher with more flexibility for grouping and team teaching.

The Future

Once again the annual rate of enrollment growth has turned sharply upward. The previous peak of over 1,300 in 1956 fell to 319 in 1961. Propelled by an unusually prosperous and sustained economy, the rate of growth promises to reach 1,000 students next year.

Instead of the projected 14,400 students in September 1964, we expect to have 15,160. Growth prospects, for the Birmingham School District, and of the areas surrounding, appear to be good for the foreseeable future.

This means that we immediately need a new elementary school, a fourth junior high school, additions to Valley Woods and Meadow Lake elementary schools and expansion in the western part of the district.

Additional library facilities are needed in a number of our schools, especially Groves and Seaholm high schools and Beverly, Torry and Valley Woods elementary schools. These building projects plus modernization of the older buildings will total \$5.4 million.

Based on projections, major future projects will include a fifth junior high school plus a high school addition before we expect to reach saturation. We also must continue to modernize older buildings to keep pace with the changing curriculum—libraries, science and team teaching methods.

Our three junior high schools are now almost at full capacity. Until another junior high is built, Berkshire Junior High will continue to remain a two-year school. (At the present time, the ninth grade attends Groves High School).

Our bus transportation is also under study. Efforts are now being made to coordinate the transportation of non-public school and public school children.

This is a complicated problem because of the geographical locations of the schools which the non-public school students attend, the opening and closing times and holidays.

This fall, it will also be necessary to transport about 400 elementary students from Beverly and Valley Woods schools because of the lack of adequate facilities due to heavy population growth. These children will attend schools where space exists. Some elementary redistricting will also be required.

The following is a history of the building done in our school district:

| Building | Built | Additions or Major Renovations |
|------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Hill (Admin. Building) | 1869 | ? |
| Adams | 1921 | 1925 |
| Baldwin | 1916 | 1923, 1957 |
| Barnum Junior High | 1912 | 1930, 1952, 1962 |
| Berkshire Junior High | 1961 | |
| Beverly | 1954 | |
| Bloomfield Village | 1927 | 1955, 1962 |
| Darby Junior High | 1956 | |
| Franklin | 1923 | 1946, 1949, 1952, 1961 |
| Greenfield | 1957 | |
| Groves High School | 1958 | |
| Harlan | 1957 | 1962 |
| Meadow Lake | 1962 | |
| Midvale | 1957 | |
| Pembroke | 1954 | 1955, 1962 |
| Pierce | 1924 | 1949, 1956 |
| Quarles | 1927 | 1954 |
| Seaholm High School | 1950 | 1953, 1955 |
| Torry | 1951 | 1953 |
| Valley Woods | 1957 | |
| Walnut Lake | 1936 | 1946, 1950 |
| Westchester | 1962 | |

POST WAR EXPENDITURES FOR NEW BUILDINGS AND ADDITIONS

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1946 | \$ 62,795 |
| 1949 | 3,276,345 |
| 1952 | 3,300,000 |
| 1954 | 3,300,000 |
| 1955 | 3,300,000 |
| 1957 | 6,800,000 |
| 1961 | 4,915,000 |
| Total | \$27,374,340 |