

DIST. NO. 17 HAS NO ALTERNATIVE—MUST BUILD, 1948

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fountains in the main building. These conditions, plus the location of the gymnasium which is used every period of the day, create a problem that is not encountered in most schools.

The lack of rooms and the fact that all the rooms are small also creates problems of maintaining discipline and an environment conducive to work. All these factors are undoubtedly contributing to the present condition which has to be recognized as not being good. It is a fair appraisal to say that, at the present time under existing conditions, the morale and spirit of the school is poor and is certainly not of the standard that the people of this community desire for their children.

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Commendable features about the school are:

1. The attitude of the staff and administration to continue to do the best that is possible under adverse conditions.

2. Most of the staff were observed in a classroom situation and the quality of instruction is average. It has the usual weak and strong points which are often due to differences in experience and preparation. Several members of the staff are competent teachers.

3. There is evidence that at least part of the community is interested in good schools to the extent that they are willing to wage an aggressive campaign on their behalf. One must differentiate between those who merely give "lip service" and those who make the necessary sacrifices through support of the annual budget and necessary bond measure.

The school can improve its program through the following action:

1. Provide more space. First of all this should include building on to the present grade school unit enough rooms for grades seven and eight. (Please note that this is only one way in the space problem may be solved. An architect who specializes in school buildings and the building specialist of the state department of education may offer better suggestions.) This would leave the present building available for approximately ninety students making up the upper four grades. With some alteration the building would probably be satisfactory for the minimum basic program which does not include homemaking, industrial arts, music, and art.

2. If the extra space is provided, then the staff could be increased and the program enriched. It is important to realize that the increase in the size of the staff

and the enrichment of the program are contingent on the number of classrooms and laboratory units and should not be considered if the present condition carries over next year. Furthermore the two go together to the extent that it would be unsound and impossible to attempt to offer industrial arts, music, art, and homemaking unless the size of the present staff is increased. An analysis of the present staff and pupil enrollment indicates that a minimum of one additional teacher should be added even if the program remains the same next year, and if the additional space is provided and the program enriched, then a minimum of two additional teachers should be employed.

3. The program of this school could be increased in its ability to "reach" the students if additional work could be offered in industrial arts, and a homemaking department could be organized. These can be done only if additional laboratory space is provided. It is very important that the present problem should not be aggravated further by an attempt to install sub-standard departments in these areas.

4. The present evaluation will enable the district to bond itself for about \$100,000. This amount is probably adequate to complete the grade school units, construction of a new unit for housing the gymnasium, industrial arts department, and homemaking department, and for the necessary remodeling in the main building. A competent architect should be consulted on this problem. There is a possibility that the present gymnasium may be utilized in the academic program, but its location and the difficulty encountered in securing natural light poses a difficult problem.

5. The building needs additional lockers for the students. At the present time about forty-nine lockers are serving one-hundred and thirty-three pupils.

6. The school should be provided with a bell system that can be heard by the students all over the building and the playground. This would tend to improve the between-period tardiness that is now quite prevalent.

7. The four-minute passing period is longer than that recommended for a building of this size, but it is probably necessary because of the location of the toilets and their inadequacy for the enrollment.

8. The cumulative records are adequate and well kept. The new card system developed by the principal and in use in the upper six grades has a lot of merit. It is recommended that an individual folder be set up for each student and all of his records be placed in it. This should be accessible for all members of the staff. Such a procedure would develop into a very strong guidance and counselling aid, if use of the folder and record system could be established in the first grade and follow the child in his entire progression through the school.

9. It is noted that the Brookings High school is organized as a six-year high school. This department is of the opinion that this type of organization has merit in some situations and that it is probably suited to the Brookings school. It is hoped that the continuation of this program be conditioned to a sound educational philosophy embodying this type of organization rather than merely a building expediency. The program should exist in practice as well as in name and it should be included in any plans for future development. The program of studies and the curricular content of the subjects should be adapted to this organization. Teachers should be employed who

have adequate preparation for working with this age group.

The supervisory program of the state department of education hopes to include at least one official visit every year to each school. Those that are found to be sub-standard will be rated "conditionally standard" for a specified period of time, during which they will be entitled to the privileges of a standard school. At the expiration of this period, the school will be re-evaluated in terms of the progress it has made toward correcting the sub-standard condition that was pointed out. The re-evaluation will also include the total program of the school.

To be concluded next week

Merrills Return to Home After Winter Spent Here

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Merrill, parents of Mrs. A. P. Hendricks, left by bus last Thursday for their Portland home after spending the three winter months here to avoid the cold at Portland.

They are the parents of Joe Merrill, former resident of this area who now resides at Portland.

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