

Survey team takes a look at age, condition of Dover school buildings

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the eighth in a series of articles detailing the findings of an Ohio State University survey team which led it to the conclusion that the Dover and New Philadelphia school districts should merge.)

Educational facilities exist to serve and advance the educational programs conducted in them.

Facilities must do more than house the numerous personnel

who are active in the educational system. The building must not dictate the type of program, but the program must dictate the type of building.

That's how the survey team prefaced its report on school facilities, to be covered in this series by two articles.

Dover Avenue, erected in 1920 had additions in 1936, 1952 and 1962. It is located on a two-acre site and two adjacent houses have been purchased to be

razed to provide more playing ground space.

The three-story building is in generally good condition, although minor cracking is noticeable inside the building and moisture is evident in some of the basement rooms.

Park Elementary, the newest of Dover's grade schools, was erected in 1962 on a 12-acre site. It has adequate playground equipment.

The one-story structure is in good condition, although build-

ing settling has resulted in some cracking in the interior walls.

East and South, built in 1952, are identical structures with the exception that the addition at East has four more classrooms than does the one at South.

Both schools had additions to them in 1962 and are located in residential sections of town on approximately six acres of ground.

The two-story structures are in generally good condition, al-

though there is a small crack in the exterior of the South building.

The basketball area at South is located next to the street, resulting in a potentially dangerous situation.

All of the available classrooms in Dover's four elementaries are being used.

The percentage of utilization of pupil stations indicates that all buildings are at or over capacity when all students housed

in the buildings are considered, if an average class size of 28 is considered.

Other rooms available in the buildings are used to house program activities, i.e., libraries and multi-purpose rooms.

Dover senior high is the oldest of all buildings in the district, with the Fifth Street wing having been constructed in 1915. The structure had additions in 1939 and 1962.

The survey team pointed out

that it would be impractical to expand the site to an adequate size beyond the current five acres.

It was noted that the building is in generally good condition, although there is some flaking of plaster in the oldest wing of the building.

Art and general science facilities are overcrowded, physical education facilities are slightly overcrowded, and the building is adequate in size to accommodate the existing enrollment

and the existing program.

Central office facilities, provided in a house across the street west of the high school, are easily accessible. Spaces within the house are minimally satisfactory to serve central office activities.

Finally, the survey team noted that football facilities, which are provided at a stadium on the near east side of the city, are very satisfactory.

(NEXT: New Philadelphia school structures)