

OSU survey team reports:

Middle schools needed for Dover-Phila system

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the sixteenth 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 merge.)

Survey teams recommended that two new middle schools be constructed in grades 6 through 8.

The recommended locations

are north of Crater Stadium in Dover and east of Rt. 16 just southeast of Quaker Stadium in New Philadelphia.

In the 50 to 60 years of its history, the junior high school has never escaped from the shadow of the senior high school. It has to a large extent initiated the high school program instead of developing its own program consistent with its stated purpose.

It is the judgment of the sur-

vey staff that the proposed middle schools should be located on their own sites. The location should be such that a sufficiently large number of students can walk to the center.

The site for the middle schools should be approximately 30 acres, 20 acres plus one acre for every 100 students. Both of the sites proposed have the potential for providing the 30 acres required.

It is suggested that the initial capacity of the proposed middle schools be set at 1000 and that this figure be reviewed just prior to construction in the light of new enrollment projections made at that time.

The survey team recommends that the existing high schools in Dover and New Philadelphia be continued to house students in grades 9 through 12 with modifications to accommodate the desired program including vocational spaces.

This decision was reached after careful consideration of a number of other alternatives. Among the major alternatives considered were a 5-5-2 plan of reorganization which consisted of constructing a new high school for students in grades 11 and 12 from the combined districts and using existing secondary school centers in each district to house students in grades 6 through 10.

Other alternatives were considered which proposed various middle school grade groupings utilizing the existing secondary school complexes.

The major factors which directed the plan selected are:

(1) — The opportunity for the district staff to develop a creative and modern program for middle school students in a new facility.

(2) — The better adaptability of the existing secondary school complexes for high school use.

The future of the vocational education opportunities to serve the students in the district is another factor.

There is an uncertainty of high school plant needs created by the status of vocational education plans. By removing grades 7 and 8 from the existing complexes, spaces can be freed in which a substantially increased and improved vocational program can be offered to students in the existing facilities.

One of the major detriments to continuing the senior high schools in the existing secondary school complexes is the inadequate site at each complex.

Each of the high schools are served by excellent physical education and interscholastic athletic facilities in the buildings as well as excellent football and other outdoor sports facilities elsewhere in the city, which can help compensate for building site inadequacies. The existing sites should be expanded as conditions permit.

(NEXT: Financing the plan.)