

Dover-Phila school merger bears price tag of \$8 million

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last 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.)

For the educational development plan to be practical and useful to the educational systems involved, it must be implementable within the financial ability of the system.

The financial plan must give consideration to both the operating monies necessary to implement the educational program and also the capital outlay funds necessary to provide for housing the program.

Many of the improvements in the administration and service elements of the plan can be absorbed through the elimination of duplication of effort in the two districts.

For example, each district at the present has a superintendent of schools. With the consolidation of the districts only one superintendent will be required.

However, the money released through the non-duplication of the superintendency will be used to provide more central administrative personnel, such as, the assistant superintendent for development and the assistant superintendent for administration.

One item of improvement proposed in this study is the development and operation of large and sophisticated instructional materials centers in each school.

These centers will require an expanded amount of materials and equipment than are currently available in the existing libraries and also will require specially trained personnel to supervise these centers.

Considering these types of program improvements, the survey staff estimates that approximately \$200,000 will be required additionally per year to operate the program.

Using an estimated assessed valuation for the consolidated district of approximately \$133,000,000, the \$200,000 could be

raised by an additional 1.5 mills for operating.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Supts. Dr. Philip Tieman and Bill Kinneer point out that the 1.5 mills only finances the survey team's recommendations and does not take into account inflationary factors, salary adjustments, increased costs of supplies, deficits such as the \$116,000 faced by Dover as of Jan. 1, 1971, etc.)

A major construction program has been recommended by the survey staff. New construction is to take place on both the elementary and middle school levels.

Extensive modification and renovation are proposed on the senior high level. Modifications and additions are proposed for the elementary schools. The estimated cost of the school plant plan are as follows:

Elementary projects — Modifications \$85,000 to \$100,000, additions \$550,000 to \$700,000 and new construction \$700,000 to \$750,000 for a sub-total ranging from \$1,435,000 to \$1,550,000.

New middle school projects — \$5,500,000 to \$6,000,000.

High school projects — Modifications \$150,000 to \$180,000 and renovation \$100,000 to \$200,000, for a sub-total ranging from \$250,000 to \$380,000.

Central office project — \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Grand Totals — \$7,285,000 to \$8,080,000.

The survey staff recommends that the board of education for the consolidated district submit a bond issue to the voters for approximately \$8,000,000.

For planning purposes, the survey staff has calculated the millage required for a \$8,000,000 bond issue at 6.75 per cent for a 23-year period on the estimated assessed valuation of \$133,000,000. The average millage for the issue would be 4.65 mills. First-year millage would be approximately two mills higher.

Combining the 1.5 additional millage for operation with the higher average figure proposed for capital outlay costs would require that the citizens of the district tax themselves 6.2 mills to complete the plan proposed.

In addition, the vocational educational plan submitted to serve the students of the region including Dover and New Philadelphia will require additional millage from citizens of the Dover and New Philadelphia attendance areas.

The exact amount will depend upon the ultimate contribution of state and federal funds to the program.

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