

OSU survey reports shows:

New bonding potential for Dover-New Phila district is \$8,733,240

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

The solution to the problem of providing adequate finances to enhance the educational pro-

gram demands a careful analysis of the available financial resources.

This analysis must focus on two main factors:

(1) — The feasibility of securing financial resources for operations and for capital outlay purposes.

(2) — The maximum dollar amount of potentially available

funds for capital outlay purposes.

"A combination of the Dover and New Philadelphia school districts would result in a district with an assessed valuation of \$128,047,111 and a bonding capacity of \$11,524,240," the survey team reported.

"The total potential for the combined district minus the debt of the combined district

would result in a potential for new bonding of \$8,733,240.

"If the assessed valuation of the combined districts increases at the anticipated average of \$5 million and the debt is paid off at the rate of \$326,500 during 1970, the combined district will have a potential for capital outlay of approximately \$9,500,000 by January 1971."

In looking at the financial resources of the individual districts the survey team found the assessed valuation in Dover has shown a potential increase from almost \$40 million in 1960 to almost \$65 million in 1970.

Voters of the district approved every request for additional money for schools except a bond levy which was defeated in 1960. It was passed later the same year.

"Dover ranks high among the school districts in the four counties in average daily membership, assessed valuation per pupil and per-pupil local tax revenue," the survey team reported.

Dover, when compared with all schools in Ohio with average daily memberships between 3400 and 3800, ranks high in assessed valuation per pupil and per-pupil local tax revenue. A comparison of total school tax rates places Dover 17th out of the 19 schools compared.

The excellent potential provided by the district's tax base is not being fully utilized to develop an outstanding educational program due to the comparatively low tax rate. The good tax base and the history of money issues for schools indicate a favorable outlook for continued support.

According to state law, a school district may issue up to nine per cent of their total assessed valuation. Based on Dover's assessed valuation, this gives the district a bonding capacity of \$5,846,550.

As of Jan. 1, 1970, the total bonded indebtedness of the dis-

trict was \$1,798,000, providing a potential of \$4,048,550 for new bonded indebtedness.

An anticipated \$2 million average increase per year in assessed valuation plus the annual debt payment of \$163,500 would result in \$343,500 additional bonding potential on Jan. 1, 1971. Funds are potentially available to meet many of the facility needs of the district.

The assessed valuation of New Philadelphia school district has increased 62 per cent since 1960. A \$7 million increase between 1969 and 1970 was the most marked increase during that period.

Increased enrollment has resulted in a more moderate increase in the assessed valuation per pupil.

Voters of the district have supported every operating levy submitted to them since 1960, but have twice defeated a proposed bond issue, once in 1968 and again in 1969.

In comparing New Philadelphia district with other districts in Tuscarawas, Holmes, Coshocton and Guernsey counties, the survey team found the following:

(1) — The district has the largest average daily membership in the four-county area.

(2) — The district ranks about in the middle of the 17 schools

with regard to assessed valuation per pupil, school tax rate and per-pupil local tax revenue.

In comparison with all other school districts in Ohio with average daily memberships between 4000 and 4700 the survey team found the following:

(1) — New Philadelphia ranks just above the median in assessed valuation per pupil.

(2) — New Philadelphia ranks in the lower third of the schools compared in both total school tax rate and per-pupil local tax revenue.

(3) — In order for the district to offer an outstanding educational program, it will be necessary that a greater tax effort be made.

The school district has substantial bonding potential for capital outlay. Its total bonded indebtedness capacity as of Jan. 1, 1970 was \$5,677,689. The total debt for capital outlay as of Jan. 1 was \$993,000, leaving a potential of \$4,684,689 for new bonded indebtedness.

An anticipated average increase of \$3 million in assessed valuation per year along with the \$163,000 debt payment would result in an additional \$433,000 in potential bonded indebtedness by Jan. 1, 1971.

The district does not have the funds potentially available to meet its facility needs.

(NEXT: The educational plan.)