

OSU survey team reports:

Dover's 4 elementary schools adequate, but 5 in Phila are not

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourteenth 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 four existing elementary school centers in the Dover school district are well located to serve the Dover attendance area. However, elementary school facilities in the New Philadelphia attendance area leave much to be desired.

Those are 2 of the conclusions drawn by the survey team in its report on improving the educational facilities of the two districts.

The team noted that the Do-

ver elementaries are adequate in size, and are in good condition. Dover Avenue is the only center which is over 15 years old. It has been recently renovated and maintenance of the building has been good. Park, East and South can all be expanded if necessary.

The primary concern about elementary school facilities in Dover is the adequacy of facilities to meet program needs.

The non-graded elementary school organization encourages individualization of instruction which requires variable and flexible spaces in the schools. The existing elementary schools were constructed to house a different program than envisioned. The major concern of the sur-

vey staff is how best to house this new program direction.

Five of New Philadelphia's centers — Front, Stone Creek, South, Tuscarawas and York — are inadequate due to size, condition and or site. Each is smaller than the minimum size desired by the district staff.

The Central building was constructed originally to serve as a high school and had not been modified interiorly to house an elementary school program.

East and West are relatively new centers and have the potential to serve the district for a number of years into the future. Due to location, size, and or condition of building, only East and West have potential expansion.

The middle school facility needs are the same for each district. In both districts 7th and 8th grade students are housed along with students in grades 9 through 12 in a large secondary school complex in the center of the city.

Facilities are not available which permit accommodating an educational program specifically for the middle school age student. A plan must be developed which permits middle school youth to have their own program and facilities.

Senior high facilities are very similar in each district. Present conditions inhibit the development of a comprehensive high school in either city. Senior high facilities must be provided which offer flexibility to house a variety of learning activities.

A long-range school plan is needed for the consolidated district to identify the ultimate facilities desired at an indefinite time in the future.

The guiding principles upon which a long-range plan is developed are:

(1) — The school centers should be of sufficient size that the desired program can be implemented efficiently and economically.

(2) — The location of the schools should allow them to serve as walk-to centers to as great a degree as possible.

The centers continued in the long-range plan are: Dover Park and East, continued at 15 classrooms; Dover South, expanded to 15 classrooms; New Philadelphia West and East, expanded to 15 classrooms; New

Philadelphia Central, continued at 10 classrooms; New Philadelphia South, replaced by a new 15-classroom center; Dover Avenue, replaced if subsequent analysis of enrollment shows an eighth center required.

Middle school centers are recommended in both cities and are to be equivalent in size beginning at approximately 1000 pupils each, expandable to accommodate 1200 students each.

In the long-range plan a high school is continued in each city.

The high schools will range in size between 1000 and 1500 students in grades 9 through 12. Enrollments in the high schools could be substantially less than 1000 if the vocational school being proposed is completed and utilized.

Should the vocational school for the three-county area not be approved, vocational facilities will have to be provided the Dover and New Philadelphia students. These facilities should be considered a part of the existing facilities, adding to the comprehensiveness of the senior high program, and not be considered a third senior high center.

In summary, the long-range school facility plan for the consolidated district is as follows:

Dover attendance area — Park, East, South, (Dover Avenue replaced) elementaries, middle school, and high school.

New Philadelphia attendance area — West, East, Central and new South elementaries, middle school, and high school.

(NEXT: Elementary school recommendations.)