Eastern Illinois University The Keep

Masters Theses

Student Theses & Publications

1975

A Building Program Study

Dawsie Frederick Edwards

Eastern Illinois University

This research is a product of the graduate program in Educational Administration at Eastern Illinois
University. Find out more about the program.

Recommended Citation

Edwards, Dawsie Frederick, "A Building Program Study" (1975). Masters Theses. 3514. https://thekeep.eiu.edu/theses/3514

This is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Theses & Publications at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Masters Theses by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

то:	Graduate Degree Candidates who ha	ve written formal theses.
SUBJECT:	Permission to reproduce theses.	
institutions a in their libra feel that prof	ity Library is receiving a number of asking permission to reproduce disseary holdings. Although no copyright fessional courtesy demands that pern hor before we allow theses to be copi	rtations for inclusion laws are involved, we nission be obtained
Please sign o	one of the following statements:	
my thesis to	ry of Eastern Illinois University has a reputable college or university for ion in that institution's library or res	the purpose of copying
Da	ate	Author
•	y request Booth Library of Eastern I sis be reproduced because	llinois University not
Da	Pate	Author
pdm		

A BUILDING PROGRAM STUDY

(TITLE)

BY

DAWSIE FREDERICK EDWARDS

THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION

IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THIS THESIS BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE GRADUATE DEGREE CITED ABOVE

ADVISER

une 12, 1975

DEPARTMENT HEAD

A BUILLING PROGRAM STUDY

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

presented by Fred Edwards

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sect	ion I - Introduction										
	Purpose	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2
	Background	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3
Sect	ion II - Log of Activities										
	Log of Activities	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	9
Sect	ion III - Selected Activities	3									
	Needs Study - Grade School	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	14
	Basis for Recommendations .	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	14
	The Building Program	•			•	•		•	•	•	21
Sect:	ion IV - Recommendations and	Co	oncl	นร	ior	ns					
	Advantages	•			•		•	•	•	•	33
	Alternatives	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	34
	The Consolidation Question	•		•	•	4	•	•	•	•	37
40	Recommendations				•	•	•	•		•	39

TABLES

Table 1 - Projected Enrollment	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	16
Table 2 - Building Costs	•	•	ě	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	29
Table 3 - Bond Repayment Schedule	,	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	31
FIGURES												
Figure 1 - Present Grade School	Ü	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	6
Figure 2 - Present High School	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	7
Figure 3 - Grade School New Additions	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	22
Figure 4 - High School New Additions .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	23
Figure 5 - Junior High School		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	24
Figure 6 - New Construction Between bu	ilo	dir	ıgs	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	26
Figure 7 - Plan 1	• .	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	27
Figure 8 - Plan 2	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	٠	•	28
*												
APPENDIX												
Appendix A - Jefferson County Map	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	42
Appendix B - Informational Brochure .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	44
Appendix C - Sample Ballot	٠	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	46

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this field experience is two fold: (1) to fulfill the requirement for completion of the Educational Specialist Degree Program at Eastern Illinois University, and (2) to provide experience for the writer of this paper in the procedures and processes involved in the study before a building program, the problems of determining what and where to build, the bond procedures and election, and alternatives available after the election.

At the inception of this study the writer was Principal of the Waltonville Unit Grade School Building. His responsibilities, designated during the building program, were to make a study of the classroom situation at the grade school and make recommendations to the board of education.

At the December, 1974, board of education meeting, the Superintendency of the Unit District, beginning July 1, 1975, was offered to this writer. In accepting this position, the role of the writer changed to include such responsibilities as meeting with the architects to see that plans were drawn to board of education specifications, meeting with the bondsman to determine the costs to the district, drawing rough drafts for loard consideration, seeing that the wording on the bond referendum ballots was proper, and making recommendations to the board of education concerning the many plans which were submitted.

Some of the tasks which were assumed by this writer were drawing of rough sketches for determination by the board of education as to what to build, calculating costs of new construction and any remodeling, and recommendations to the board of education concerning all facets of the building program. After accepting the superintendency, this included recommendations concerning the total building program, not just the grade school portion of that program.

BACKGROUND

The community now served by the present school system is composed of three settlement: Scheller, Nason and Waltonville.

In the early years the communities' school system was made up of several elementary districts, composed of one-room schools, and a local high school. By 1951 all the one-room schools had consolidated with the Waltonville Grade School or the Nason Grade School. During these early years and until 1969 there was a parochial elementary school located in Scheller. At the present time no private or parochial schools exist in the district.

In 1959 there were rumors that the Sesser School District was attempting to form a Unit District to include the Nason area. At this time, Nason had a working coal mine and a high assessed evaluation. Literally, over-night, a petition for

a unit district, including Waltonville, Nason and Scheller was circulated and the unit was formed.

The Waltonville Unit School District is located in the southwest corner of Jefferson County. The unit covers an area approximately ten miles square with an area enclosed of 107 square miles. The population of the district is approximately 2,000 people. The present campus of over 20 acres serves all students in the district. The elementary building houses kindergarten through grade eight with a present enrollment of 312 students. The high school building, on the same campus, houses 132 students.

departmentalized to better utilize the strengths of the faculty. The high school is one of the feeder schools to an area vocational center located in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. With this program the district is able to offer vocational training to all of its students. With the district being adjacent to Rend Lake and located in close proximity to the fast growing city of Mt. Vernon, there is a predicted enrollment increase for the schools in the district during the next few years.

The Waltonville Unit is known as a relatively rich school district. The present assessed valuation if \$15,545,995.

This gives the district approximately \$35,000 in assessed valuation per student enrolled in the district. Two reasons for the high assessed valuation are four operating coal

mines and five railroads in the district.

The district provides all supplies, such as pencils, paper, etc., free to the students. Textbooks are provided to all students rent free. The educational opportunity for all students is enhanced by the fact that many supplemental materials not provided by most districts are provided by this school system.

	Figu Present Gra	ide School				FURNACE.	ROOMS CITICE
MUSIC	Room	N 19817	REMEDIAL	REST	Rooms	REST	C 1 A S S R O
55470	KCOM S		5			CLASSROOMS TRACKTURE	S W S S W Z J

DRESSING ROOM			CLASSROOM SCIENCE LAB	
	(X X)			C/Fict
Dr. 55 175 Room	SHOP	FURNACE	CLASS ROOM & STOR	(+ 1) 55 F CO. 7 ROOM LIBERAL

SECTION II

LOG OF ACTIVITIES

LOG OF ACTIVITIES

- October 14 1d: The superintendent and I made studies of
 each of the buildings to determine what added facilities
 were needed. We met to discuss the recommendations to
 be presented to the board of education.
- October 21 25: The board of education retained an architectural firm at its regular monthly meeting. The superintendent and I made recommendations to the board concerning facilities needed.
- October 28 November 1: The superintendent and I met with the architects to give them ideas to begin the drawings.
- November 4 8: No activities; waiting on architects.
- November 11 15: The superintendent and I met with the architects to go over plans which they would present to the board of education.
- November 18 22: No activities.
- November 25 29: Net with the board of education at its regular monthly meeting. The architects plans were

presented and discussed. The board determined that the costs were too high. It was suggested that a junior high school be built as a separate building from the high school and grade school. I was asked to draw such plan.

December 2 - 6: I drew plans for a junior high building.

Discussed problems and costs with the superintendent.

December 9 - 13: No activities.

December 16 - 20: No activities.

December 23: I met with the roard of education at its regular monthly meeting to discuss problems concerning the junior high building. Plans were scrapped. This writer was hired as superintendent of the unit effective on July 1, 1975.

December 24 - January 5: Christmas vacation. No activities.

January 6 - 10: At the December board meeting a suggestion was made concerning connecting the high school and grade school. This would consist of as many classrooms as possible and a new cafeteria. I drew rough sketches of this plan.

- January 13 17: I discussed these plans with the superintendent and took them to the architects for their consideration.
- January 20 24: I met with architects to view the plans between the two buildings.
- January 27 31: I met with the board of education. A bondsman was selected to work with the architects on total costs and preparing for the referendum. The plans of a building between the high school and grade school were presented by the architects. There were four alternatives provided.
- February 3 7: Plan 14 presented by the architects was the one considered best by the board of education. I met with the architects to discuss some revision of Plan 14.
- February 10 -14: I met with bondsman to discuss plans for bond referendum and costs to the district.
- February 17 21: I did a study to determine the desirable size of a school district to provide a good education to all students.
- February 24 28: I met with the board of education at its regular monthly neeting. The board accepted the final

plans and approved the bond resolution for April 12, 1975 in the amount of \$600,000.00.

- March 3 7: I met with the bondsman to work out repayment plan on the bonds.
- March 10 14: I met with bondsman and architect to work out
 the wording on the pamphlet concerning the bond referendum
 which was to be distributed to the citizens.
- March 17 21: I met with the board of education at its regular monthly meeting. PTA officers were present and were asked by the board for their help to pass the bond referendum. I picked up pamphlets from the architects.
- March 24 28: Spring vacation. No activities.
- March 31 April 4: The board of education, superintendent, and I met with the PTA in a public meeting to discuss the building project.
- April 4 12: I met with volunteer workers from the PTA to explain, in detail, the building program, for them to begin a district-wide canvass. I helped the election judge begin the election in one of the voting precincts. Met with the board of education to canvass votes on the election. The referendum was defeated.

SECTION III

SELECTED ACTIVITY ANALYSES

At the September, 1974, board of education meeting the superintendent and this writer were asked to make recommendations at the next monthly meeting concerning building needs of the district. This writer made the following minimum and maximum recommendations to the board of education on October 23, 1974 concerning the facilities needed at the grade school.

HI VIII UNI

- (1) two additional classrooms
- (2) an art room
- (3) an instructional media center
- (4) remodeling of the cafeteria to make it larger
- (5) science lab for junior high students

MAXIMU.

- (1) two classrooms per grade or 6 additional classrooms
- (2) an art classroom
- (3) an instructional media center
- (4) remodeling of the cafeteria to make it larger
- (5) science lab for junior high students
- (6) two restrooms

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To determine facilities needed for the elementary school two procedures were followed: (1) a projected enrollment study and (2) a present facility study.

In 1968 the Educational Administration Department of
Eastern Illinois University conducted a study of the schools
of Jefferson County. The projected enrollment, based on
this study, was 413 students for the Valtonville Unit
School District. Of this 413 projected enrollment figure,
258 were projected as grade school students. As reported
in the introduction to this paper, there are presently
444 students in the district.

As diagrammed in Table 1, a projected enrollment study was made by this writer. The diagram indicates enrollment in the Unit can be expected to increase in the next few years. Kindergarten enrollment figures presented in this study are a result of a survey taken in the community last school year.

Many people feel that the Waltonville District will double in enrollment by 1980. This feeling is due to several factors which were not evident during the 1968 study.

REND LAKE: The completion in 1972 of a lake with 160 miles of shoreline in the Jefferson-Franklin County area has provided an opportunity for growth, both economically and in population. Lany industries have not located in the area because of the lack of sufficient water supply. Development of Rend Lake as a major tourist attraction will mean hundreds of job opportunities in the area. A recreation complex composed of resort hotel, a 27-hole

FTable 1
PROJECTED ENROLLATIONT

						,				
	70-71	71-72	72-73	73-74	74-75	75-76	76-77	77-78	73-79	79-80
K	24	28	36	36	31	33	30	30	37	36
1	37	28	36	40	36	35	38	34	34	42
2	35	36	25	30	40	33	33	35	32	32
3	33	35	36	24	30	40	33	33	35	32
4	31	33	32	33	30	31	41	34	34	36
5	31	31	34	31	33	30	31	41	34	34
6	37	30	31	33	33	33	30	31	41	34
7	34	39	29	35	40	36	36	33	34	45
8	33	33	38	25	37	39	35	35	32	33
9	31	28	36	40	29	38	42	36	36	33
10	34	38	35	3 3	40	32	42	45	40	40
11	30	27	34	32	33	36	29	38	143	36
12	39	33	30	31	32	34	37	30	39	42
Total	1429	419	432	423	<u> </u>	450	456	455	469	475

golf course, a major convention center, marina facilities, a commercial hotel and restaurant, and camping areas are either completed at the present time, are in the process of being built, or are still in the planning stages. Much of the Rend Lake shoreline borders on the Maltonville District boundaries. This means that the housing growth potential for the district is very good.

TWO NEW MINES: Inland Steel of Chicago opened a new coal mine in 1970 just inside the district's south boundary line. This mine employs some 600 men. In 1972 the Peabody Coal Company opened another mine in the district which employs some 200 men. Many of the employees live in surrounding towns, some driving up to 75-80 miles, one-way, to work each day. If housing were available, these people would move closer to their work.

CITY WATER AND SENAE SYSTE: With the completion of Rend Lake, Waltonville and Nason have a water system. This has resulted in an increase in building activity. In the summer of 1976 a sewage system for the town of Waltonville is to be completed. This should also result in an increase in building activity.

GENERAL TIRE PLANT: General Tire opened a new manufacturing plant in Mt. Vermon in 1974. This plant, when in full production, will employ approximately 1,200 people. Since Mt. Vermon is located just twelve miles from the school the outlying area of the county will probably house man, of these families.

THE EFFECTS OF INTERSTATES 57 AND 64: With the completion of these two four-lane highways, one traveling north-south and the other east-west, the area is linked to a well-traveled highway system. The area is centrally located between metropolitan cities which makes it a desirable area for living.

The present facility of the elementary school is composed of the following rooms for student activities:

- (1) 11 classroom one being used as a library.
- (2) Music room (double classroom size).
- (3) 1 Remedial room.
- (4) 1 gymnasium.
- (5) 1 gymnasium stage.
- (6) 1 cafeteria and kitchen.
- (7) 4 rest rooms.

At the present time there are two exceptionally large classes in the elementary school. These grades are the second with 37 students and the third with 41 students. With the additional space available these two classes could be divided into two sections for an improved pupil-teacher ratio.

The art classes for both the high school and grade school students are held on the gym stage at the grade school. Not only is there a lack of space and storage on the stage for these classes, but physical education classes must be held in the gym while art is being taught on the stage.

For the past three years the library has been located in a room which was built for a classroom. Due to limited space, use of the library is on a scheduled basis only.

At the present time, the only use which can be made of the library by students is to check-out books, do reference work, or study during scheduled time periods.

The cafeteria, now in use, serves grades 1-12, averaging 330 students per day. The cafeteria will seat approximately 100 students. Therefore, serving of students is done in four shifts. Serving begins at 11:00 o'clock and ends for the last group at 12:30. This does not permit enough time for students to eat in a correct manner. If the cafeteria were remodeled to seat 150 students, there would be sufficent time for eating by using the same time schedule and having three shifts.

In October of 1974, the state evaluation team visited the district. The following recommendations concerning facilities were made:

- (1) Additional elementary classrooms are essentially needed.
- (2) Lab facilities are needed for junior high science.
- (3) A new cafeteria is needed.
- (4) Industrial artsfacilities and equipment are needed.

One of the major recommendations made by the state evaluation team was to update our science program and provide lab experiences for our junior high students. Last school year a committee made a study of the science textbooks

and materials. This committee recommended new textbooks and supplemental materials be purchased. This recommendation was followed. As yet, there are no lab facilities for the junior high students.

The following recommendations were made to the board of education by the superintendent for additional facilities needed at the high school:

- (1) three additional classrooms.
- (2) an instructional media center.
- (3) a new shop to provide agriculture and industrial arts facilities.
- (4) remodel the shop to provide a science classroom and lab.

THE BUILDING PRIGRAL

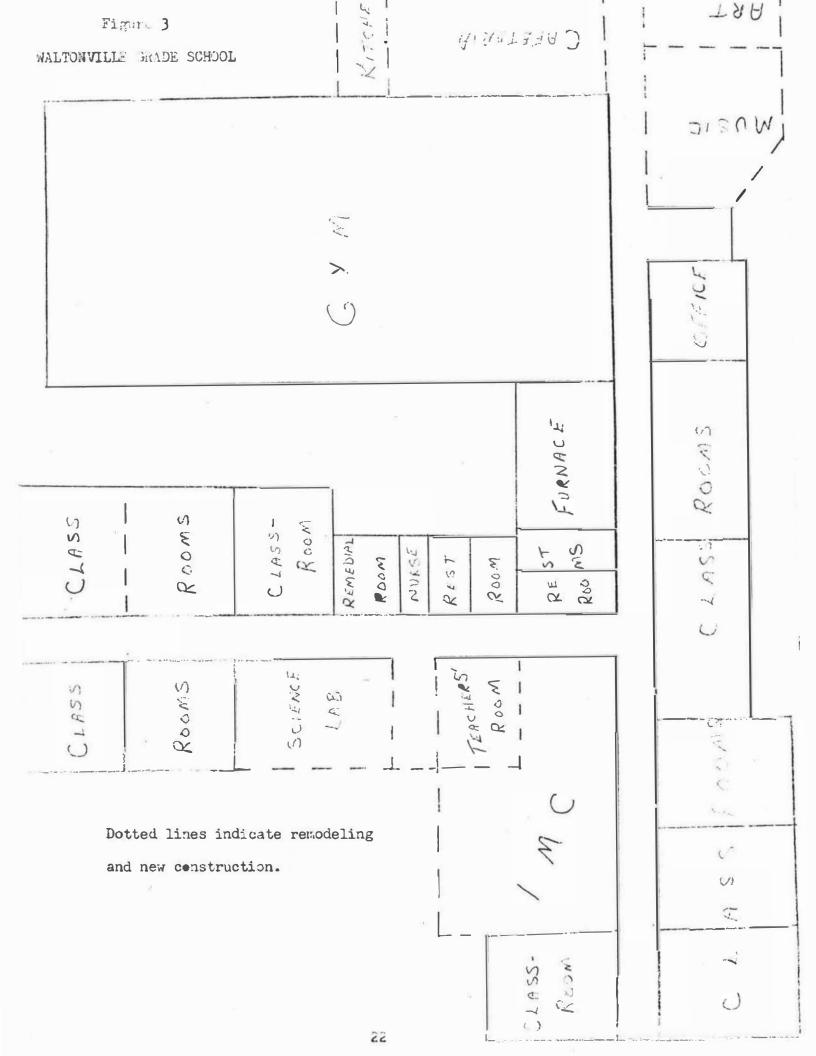
After recommendations were made to the board of education concerning minimum and maximum needs, the board discussed the recommendations at great length. To get an idea of the cost factor it was decided to have the architects draw plans and estimate costs for the maximum needs. The plans illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 show the basic plans provided.

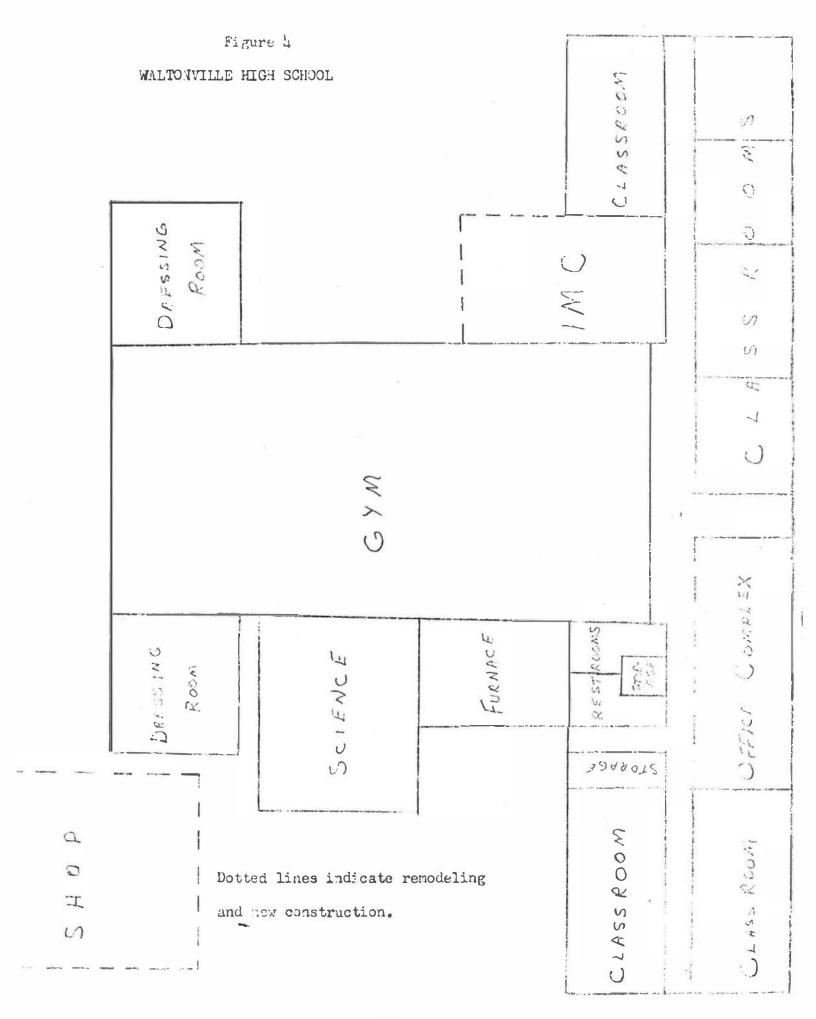
There are two areas in each figure which are not included in the drawings. At the grade school six additional classrooms were provided on the east wing. At the high school three additional classrooms, a teachers' room, and a guidance office were provided on the west wing.

The estimated cost of the total remodeling and new construction was \$1,212,983.00. This would be an increase of approximately .23 per \$100.00 evaluation to the taxpayer.

After considerable discussion it was decided that, at the present time, this was too much to ask the taxpayers to assume.

At the conclusion of the meeting this writer was asked to draw plans which would provide for a Junior High School as a separate building. Figure 5 shows such a plan. The estimated cost for such a building was \$234,612.00. After including the cost for remodeling to include an instructional media center at each building, a larger cafeteria, and a new shop, the estimated cost was \$362,744.00. Again the board of education decided this cost was too great.





1 A B	Figure 5 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
SCIENCE	CLASSROOM
OFFICE	CLAS
REST ROOMS	CLRSS ROOM
CLASSROOM	

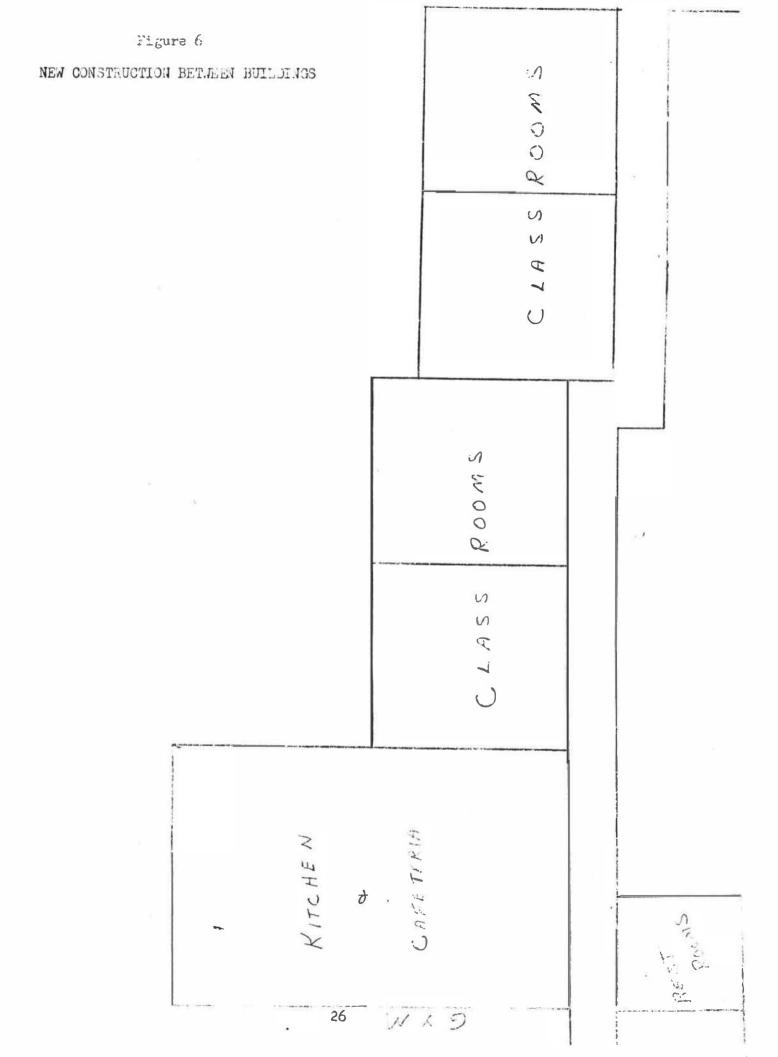
This writer suggested to the board of education to consider connecting the two buildings with a junior high complex in the middle. This would permit a combined use of the science lab.

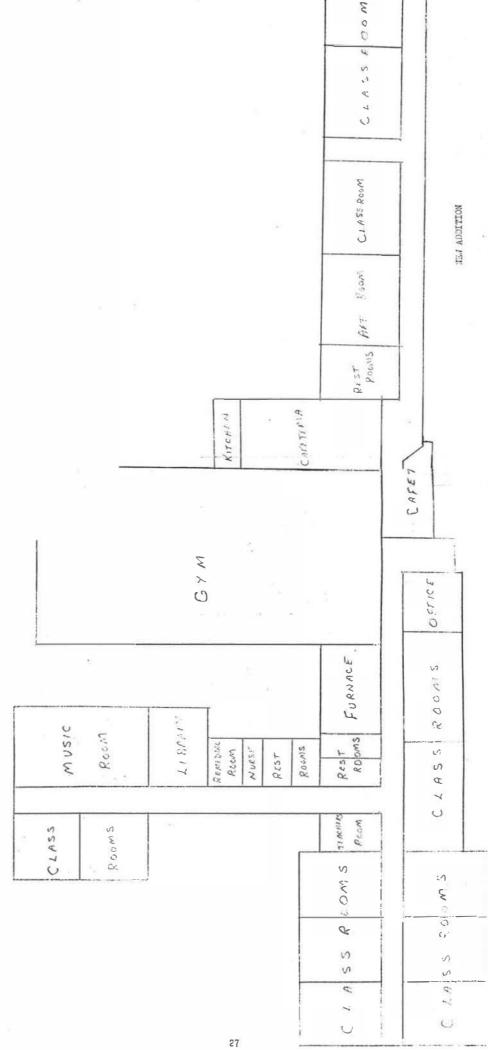
Also recommended was to provide a new shop, a new cafeteria and a minimum of remodeling. The board of education discussed these recommendations and asked this writer to present such a plan at the next scheduled meeting.

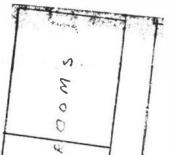
Figure 6 shows the plan presented. The cost estimate was \$489,667.00. The board of education discussed this plan at great length and asked that it be taken back to the architects for a detailed diagram.

At the next meeting of the school board, the architects presented plans 1 and 2 for consideration. These are detailed in Figures 7 and 8. The estimated costs of the two projects were as follows: Plan 1 - \$526,415.00 and Plan 2 - \$508,184.00.

It was the board of education's decision to accept plan 2 with two modifications. The first modification was to increase the classroom sizes by eight feet added to the back. This would add an estimated \$38,400.00. The other modification was to add an additional twenty feet to the shop to take it 40' x 80' instead of 40' x 60'. This would result in an additional added cost of \$16,000.00. The total estimated cost of the entire building project was \$562,584.00. A complete breakdown of costs is detailed in Table 2.







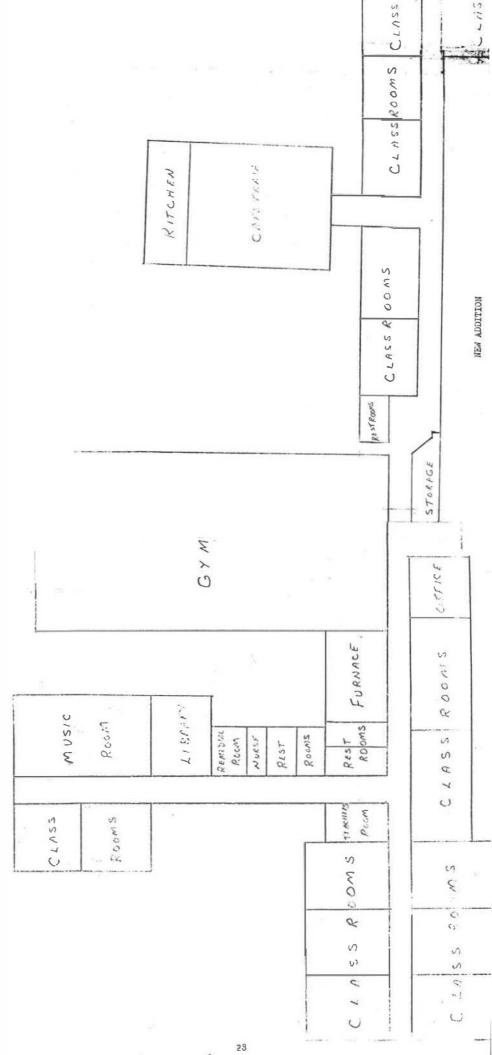


Table 2

BUILDING COS'IS

New Construction - 9288 square feet - \$32.00 - \$297,216.00
New Shop - 3200 square feet - \$20.00 64,000.00
New Construction Costs \$361,216.00
Site Preparation 16,000.00
Remodeling - 6948 square feet - \$16.00 111,168.00
Total \$488,384.00
Architect's Fees 28,200.00
\$516,584.00
Contingency 51,000.00
Total Estimated Project Cost \$567,584.00

The board of education decided to propose a bond referendum to the voters of the school district on April 12, 1975, in the amount of \$600,000.00.

During the following three weeks this writer met with the architects to detail the changes proposed by the board of education and with the bondsman to propose a payoff schedule for the bonds, brochures for distribution to the public and the ballot proposal. The schedule of bond repayment is shown in Table 3.

At the final board of education meeting, approval was given to the resolution for the bond referendum and to the finalized plan of building and remodeling. Also, at this meeting the Parent-Teacher Association officers met with the board of education. The plans were discussed and the officers agreed to help in trying to pass the referendum.

Appendix B is the brochure which was developed to provide information to the public. Appendix C is a sample ballot for use in voting.

The reason for asking for an addition amount in the bond referendum was to allow for the construction of a new parking area. This area would be separate from the construction. The estimated cost of the new parking area was \$30,000.00.

Table 3

BOND RE-PAYMENT SCHEDULE

12-1-1975	Interest \$24,500	Principal \$ 0	Total \$24,500
1976	42,000	0	42,000
1977	42,000	25,000	67,000
1978	40,250	25,000	65,250
1979	38,500	25,000	63,500
1980	36,750	30,000	66,750
1981	34,650	30,000	64,650
1982.	32,550	30,000	62,550
1983	30,450	35,000	65,450
1984	28,000	35,000	63,000
1985	25,500	40,000	65,550
1986	22,750	40,000	62,750
1937	19,950	45,000	64,950
1988	16,800	1.5,000	61,800
1989	13,650	50,000	63,650
1990	10,150	50,000	60,150
1991	6,650	55,000	61,650
1992	2,800	40,000	42,800
	\$467,950	\$600,000	\$1,067,950

Average tax rate: .42429 cents per \$100 evaluation.

Average increased cost ever 1973 bond levy: .14129 cents
per \$100 evaluation.

SECTION IV

RECOLMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

ADVANTAGES

The plan of construction and remodeling chosen by the board of education has several advantages which the other plans do not offer. The decision to connect the two buildings has several advantages. Noteable among these is placing the entire elementary and high schools under one roof.

Junior high students, seventh, eighth and ninth graders, are to occupy the new classrooms between the buildings. This permits these students to be near and to use the new science laboratory facilities which are to be located in the old shop area. The state evaluation team's recommendation of laboratory facilities for junior high students would be fulfilled.

Another advantage of placing the elementary and high schools under one roof is that high school students in music and art and students eating lunch in the cafeteria would not be required to go outside the building. Nor would junior high students attending classes in homemaking and industrial arts be required to weather the elements of winter by going from one building to the other.

One of the foremost advantages offered is to change the parking area to the front of the building. The present parking area is located between the buildings and is the only blacktop covered area on the campus. This is a drive through area which is not available for a play area for students during school hours. By connecting the two buildings there will be no traffic or parking at the rear of the building during school hours. This would provide an excellent play area for elementary students.

ALTERNATIVES

Quality education during the past several decades has been defined in terms of the programs and classes of the secondary school. It is necessary that the schools provide sufficient course offerings to take into account the individual differences among students.

In the small high school one of the major problems is enough electives to provide varied educational experiences. In a small high school electives are either limited or taught on an alternating year basis. By limiting the electives the educational program is also limited.

Perhaps the biggest problem of the small high school is that in the field of vocational education. Basically, the major vocational programs in the small school are in the three areas of home economics, agriculture and business education.

The Waltonville High School is fortunate due to the fact that it is part of the Area Vocational Center housed in the Mt. Vernon Township High School. Students are bused to the center daily for a half-day vocational program. Course

offerings at the vocational center are:

- 1. Health Service Aide
- 2. Data Processing
- 3. Building Trades
- 4. Auto Mechanics
- 5. Drafting
- 6. Electricity
- 7. Machine Shop
- 8. Welding

In 1968 when the study of the schools of Jefferson County was made by Eastern Illinois University, the following statement was included: "There seems to be little sentiment at this time for including the district in a larger consolidation." This statement was very true at that time and still is. The people, as a general rule, in the county are strongly opposed to a county unit.

Some sentiment, in the rural areas, has been expressed for three separate units. One would follow the boundary line of the Mt. Vernon Grade School, and the other two would be east and west of Route 37, excluding the territory inside Mt. Vernon. This would give a high school enrollment to each unit of approximately 600 west, 450 east and 1,200 Mt. Vernon. As can be noted, this does not appeal to the city of Mt. Vernon, as it would decrease the size of the school by approximately 500 students.

In 1972 the school districts of Waltonville, Woodlawn Grade School and Woodlawn High School proposed to form a unit of these districts. Sentiment at that time was against the proposal.

Since the study of 1968, the Waltonville High School has expanded its curricular offerings from 34 courses to 55 courses. However, in this writer's opinion, Waltonville High School is not of sufficient size to offer the optimum educational advantages to its students. Many of the classes are taught with under ten students.

Many educators agree that with fewer than 600 students a high school cannot expect to offer a broad educational program at reasonable cost. It is this writer's opinion that a high school with a minimum of 400 students could be an adequate school.

On Saturday, April 12, the bond referendum was voted upon. The results of the election were as follows: Precinct No. 1 in Waltonville, 197 yes, 294 no; Precinct No. 2 in Nason, 48 yes, 173 no. This was a total vote of 245 yes and 467 no. The referendum was defeated by almost a two to one margin.

With the defeat of the bond referendum, the board of education has the following three alternatives available.

(1) The board may propose the referendum at the same arount of \$600,000.00 at a later date.

- (2) The board may propose a referendum for a lesser amount.
- (3) The board may scrap the plans completely and forget about any building or remodeling.

In this writer's opinion, the second alternative would be the most advantageous. If the board of education were to propose the entire amount in another election, the chances are extremely likely that it would fail again. Much of the feedback from the community has been a feeling that the cost was too high. The cost of constructing both the existing buildings, one in 1952 and the other in 1958, was less than \$500,000.00. Many people realize that costs have increased but cannot believe they have increased this much.

A proposed referendum for \$400,000.00 would not increase the tax rate of the district. If such a proposed referendum were passed, the board of education would be required to determine what areas of construction or remodeling must be reduced.

THE CONSOLIDATION QUESTION

As has already been noted, a vast majority of the people of the community are opposed to consolidation. In this writer's opinion, the Waltonville Unit will not consolidate with any other district until the State Legislature mandates such consolidation.

The school district has basically two options available should the legislature mandate high school enrollment of 500 or more students. One of these options would be to consolidate with Mt. Vermon High School. Although this option has some distinct advantages, it would probably be the last option the people would select.

The following are two advantages of consolidating with Mt. Vernon High School.

- (1) The 140 students at Waltonville High School could be absorbed on the ht. Vernon campus with no need to build additional facilities.
- (2) Students would have a better opportunity to take courses not presently offered at Waltonville for a varied education.

As stated before, this would probably be the last option selected because most rural parents do not wish to send their children to a large school. Such a consolidation would also mean an additional thirty to forty-five minutes of riding a school bus.

The other option to be discussed is a consolidation among the schools of Sesser Community Unit, Waltonville Community Unit and Moodlawn Grade and High Schools. The Woodlawn districts borders the Waltonville Unit on the north and the Sesser Unit borders on the south. This consolidation would provide a high school enrollment of

approximately 600 students.

Such a consolidation would have a number of advantages. There would be less travel time on school buses to a centrally located school. There is a feeling among rural people that they have more in common than they do with the people of ht. Vernon. This consolidation would provide an adequate size school for a diversified educational program.

The major disadvantage of such a consolidation is that a new facility to house high school students would be required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the bond referendum has failed, what course of action should the board of education follow? As has been stated before, the people of this community will not consider consolidation until it is mandated by the legislature. This writer believes that some time in the future such legislation will be passed. If this writer had a crystal ball and could determine when that time would be, it would be easier to recommend what would be the best course of action at the present.

Since people are opposed to consolidation, the following recommendation will be made. To alleviate the immediate housing problems, the board of education should determine the minimum construction and remodeling needs. They must consider the fact that high school students will not occupy the building forever. If this is taken into consideration,

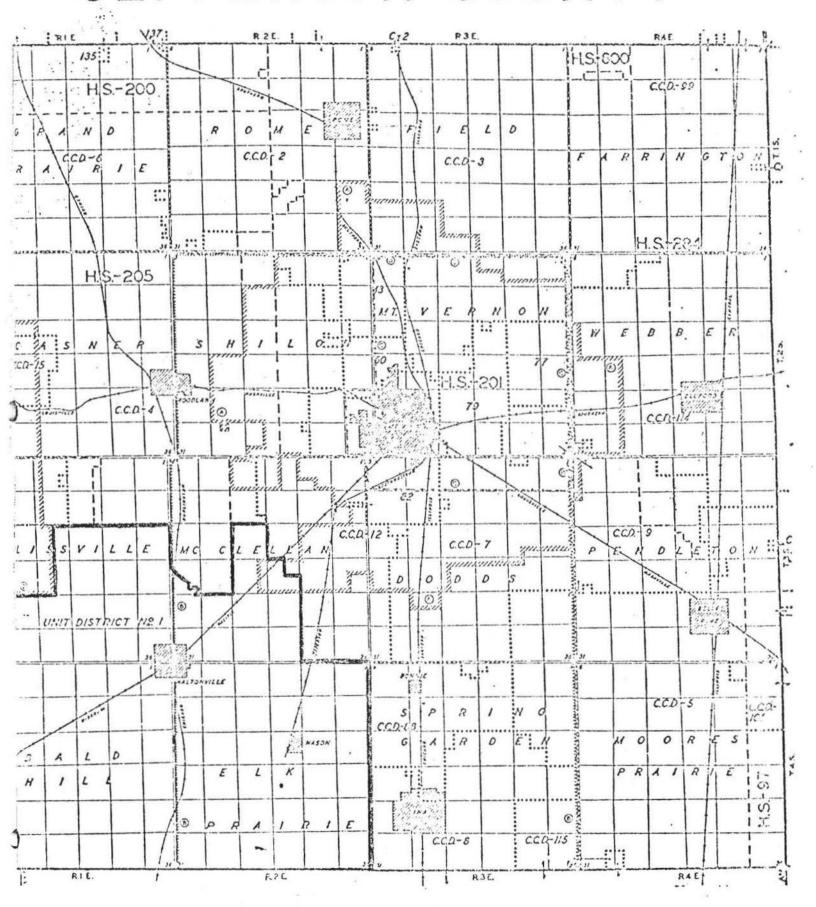
a bond referendum between \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 should be presented to the voters of the district to alleviate the most pressing problems of housing.

The board of education and administrators must also keep in mind that consolidation will come. They must in a low-key way begin educating the people of this community to this fact and the options available. Then, when the time comes, the people will be better prepared to make the decision which will affect the lives of the young people of this community.

APPENDIX A

JEFFERSON COUNTY MAP

JEFFERSON COUNTY



APPENDIX B

INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

OBLIGATION

The cost for the facilities described including construction, remodeling, equipping, etc., will require a bond issue of \$600,000.00.

At the 1973 assessed valuation it will require an average tax increase of approximately .14¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation.

For Example -

On \$1000 assessed value the increased cost will be \$1.40 per year.

INFORMATION

For further information contact any Member of the School Board or The Superintendent of Schools.

		VOTE
VOTING	*********	"YES"

Election Date - April 12, 1975

Hours - 12:00 Noon to 7:00 P.M.

Polling Places

Precinct No. 1

Waltonville Grade School

Precinct No. 2

Elk Prairie Town House, No. 1

Nason, Illinois

AN EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR THE SCHOOLS OF

COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 1 JEFFERSON COUNTY, WALTONVILLE, ILLINOIS

CONDITION

The future is here - we have reached the point where something must be done to improve our school facilities. Crowded conditions hinder the expansion of our educational program to the prescribed standards. These conditions will steadily increase.

The school board and administrator have discussed many ways and plans to correct the situation that now exists. The primary plan is to immediately raise standards, yet give the best facilities to the most children within the allotted expenditure.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

We are fortunate that the present school buildings can continue to serve us within their limitations. We propose to construct additional facilities thus --

FOR THE SCHOOLS OF

At the **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** -- to adjust the classroom loads by providing:

4 Classrooms. Art classes are presently being held on the Stage while P.E. classes are being held in the Gym.

Remodel two classrooms for Instructional Material Center (Library) with work areas.

Enlarge, by remodeling, the Kitchen-Cafeteria Area. Presently we are running four shifts. This does not allow sufficient time for a child to eat properly.

Toilet rooms.

General Storage

At the HIGH SCHOOL --

Remodel shop for improved Science program.

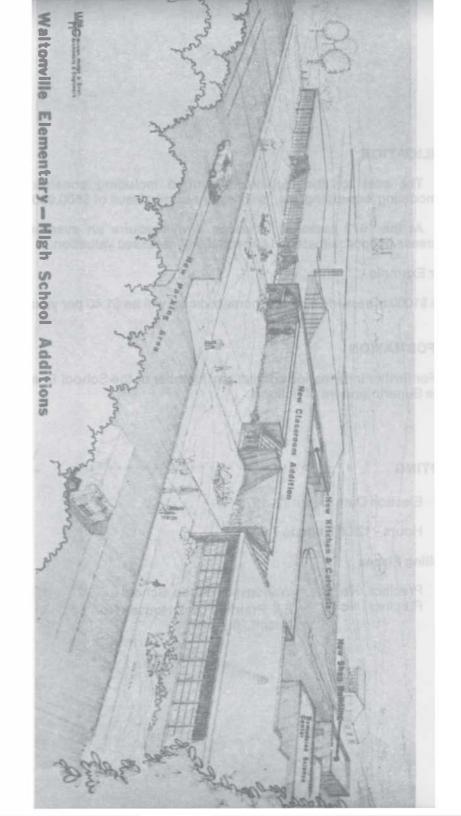
Instructional Material Center (Library) with work areas

Improvement of parking and loading areas.

Construct new shop which will have a greater area than the present shop.

Additional remodeling.

These additions are a necessity and will benefit everyone of us whether we have children in school, whether we attend activities as a spectator or whether our interest is only in maintaining a community that will continue to grow and prosper.



APPENDIX C

SAMPLE BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT

WALTONVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 JEFFERSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

SPECIAL ELECTION: APRIL 12, 1975

For voting on a proposition to build and equip an addition connecting the existing Waltonville Grade School building and the existing Waltonville High School building, to alter, repair, and equip said existing buildings, to build and equip a vocational education building, in said District, and to issue bonds of the District to the amount of \$600,000 for said purpose.

PRECINCT NO. 2

Polling Place Elk Prairie Town House No. 1, Nason, Illinois

OFFICIAL BALLOT

WALTONVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 JEFFERSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PROPOSITION

(Place a cross mark (x) in the space opposite the word indicating the way you desire to vote.)

Shall the Board of Education of Waltonville Community Unit School District No. 1, Jefferson County, Illinois, be authorized to build and equip an addition connecting the existing Waltonville Grade School building and the existing Waltonville High School building, to alter, repair and equip said existing buildings, to build and equip a school building for vocational education purposes, in said District, and to issue bonds of the District to the amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) for said purpose, and bonds to bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed seven per centum (7%) per annum?