

Education
Southside Elementary School
Enrollment Study
1984-85

file

CONSENSUS: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT STUDY - 1984-5

1. Should a new southside elementary school be built now?

An elementary school should be built now to maintain the quality of education in Appleton.

Reasoning:

- Lwv supports lower class sizes; classes should never exceed 30
- Elementary schools should not be excessively large to avoid management problems, common area crowding, street congestion in morning and afternoon, etc.
- The School District is experiencing dynamic growth in the elementary grades which is expected to continue.
- A new school will help all areas of Appleton.
- All other solutions are not educationally sound or are only temporary.

2. If a school is not built, what alternatives do you favor to deal with the projected enrollments?

The LWV feels the best solution is to build a new school. After discussing many options, these alternatives were found to be the least objectionable. The following measures are to be considered as short-term, not permanent solutions:

Boundary changes, leasing space, bussing.

Reasoning:

- Some alternatives are not educationally sound.
- All options seemed to be only temporary solutions.
- Some options, example: school day in shifts, would be last resort options and would definitely affect quality of education.

Board approved 1985

Executive Committee Members,

Please read the enclosed material & see if it meets with your satisfaction. If you have any questions, call me Fri. evening after 4:00 or Sat. before 10:30 am. Cynthia Johnson will call you this weekend for your vote on whether or not to adopt this consensus, as is. Our committee would prefer to only release statement #1 prior to the election as we do not wish to make the public think that ~~the~~ ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~advocating~~ ~~any~~ ~~alternatives~~ we are advocating any alternatives at this time.

Helen Swanson

Objective: To study the enrollments in Appleton schools with an emphasis on whether there is a need for a new southside school.

Method: The study committee gathered information, conducted interviews, and compiled data over the summer. The information was presented to members via the bulletin, and a general meeting was held with a panel of school and city officials presenting their information. One set of units was held with members coming to consensus on two questions.

Discussion questions:

1. Is there a maximum number that an elementary school should hold?
 - There was no strong agreement on one figure, but the roof was somewhere in the neighborhood of 560-600.
2. Should class size ever exceed 30 per room?
 - See LWV previous stand
 - There should be lower room ceilings in Primary I and II classrooms (ex. 25 maximum)
3. Are art rooms, music rooms, speech rooms, all-purpose rooms, auditoriums, Chapter I, and ECH rooms luxuries of low enrollment years and not essential to quality education?
 - Facilities are uneven among schools
 - Specialized programs deserve special space
 - Programs should have spaces suited to their need; rooms should be utilized as much as possible though
 - Don't convert every room in a school into a classroom to help enrollment problems; there must be flexibility within school buildings
4. After looking at both fiscal and educational impacts, what are viable options to building a new school?
 - HIGH SUPPORT: boundary changes, leasing space, bussing
 - MEDIUM SUPPORT: examine middle school concept, mass transportation of classes to leased space, I-III's in Jr. Highs
 - *LITTLE SUPPORT: mobile classrooms, school day in shifts, kindergarten magnet school, move school building into Appleton from another district (Kimberly?)

All units discussed the possibility of leasing or buying space from the Kimberly school district with possible bussing of Appleton students to those schools. It is an option that bears investigation, but there was no strong agreement that this is a viable option at present.

5. How would a new southside school affect education city-wide?
- EEN students would return to the southside thus freeing up space on the northside
 - Freeing space on the northside would help relieve crowding in some schools
6. Should we build a new school and explore another option?(i.e., middle school, leasing space on northside, etc.)
- Right now the important thing is to build a new school; first things first
 - Important to keep studying the issue to see if additional changes are needed
7. Should the school board continue its commitment to the neighborhood concept of schooling?
- Neighborhood school idea should be supported whenever possible, but with realization that not all students will have access to neighborhood school
 - Good for the quality of life, but not necessary for quality of education

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS ON ATTACHED PAGE.

Committee: Helen Nagler, Nancy Jones, Barb Grant, Pat Schinabeck,
Kathy Knott, Marti Hemwall, Stevie Schmidt, Lynn Debbink,
Anna Faye Dodd, Helene Iverson, Chair

Suggestions for LWV action generated by study committee:

- press releases to all media (include Bargain Bulletin)
- letter to the editor
- Personally Speaking column
- LWV spokesman participation in radio spots sponsored by Citizens for Appleton's New School
- Help C.A.N.S. spread the word; get involved with the committee
- Participate in newspaper endorsement page as a group or as individuals



The League of Women Voters of Appleton

APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54911

For Immediate Release:

October 8, 1984

NEWS RELEASE

The Appleton League of Women Voters is endorsing a "Yes" vote in the referendum on a new elementary school on the south side, Helene Iverson, chairman of the League's recent school study, informed the Appleton Area School Board tonight. In making the announcement, Iverson said, "We feel that this additional school will be an important factor in maintaining the quality of education throughout the school district, and, consequently, we intend to work actively to get the referendum passed."

The League came to its position after considerable study and discussion. Items that influenced its decision were: (1) the desire to hold the size of elementary school classes to a maximum of thirty pupils; (2) the dynamic growth evident for the elementary school population in the area; (3) the relief from over-crowding that the new building will provide to the current schools in the area; and (4) the fact that all other solutions considered proved to be either temporary or educationally unsound.

Contacts: 734-7499 - Helene Iverson, Chairman, School Study
739-5146 - Cynthia Johnson, President, Appleton LWV