

April 13, 1965

Selection of School Site

A joint meeting of the Allendale Board of Education, the Borough Council, Planning Board, representatives of the P. T. O. and utility members was held Wednesday, March 10, 1965 to begin a second study for a site selection for the proposed elementary school (K - 3).

John R. Gilchrist, architect for the Board of Education, presented seven different plans showing the possibility of building on the present school site and recreation area. Each plan was studied and discussed in terms of its feasibility. Mr. Seibel and Mr. Dorner presented the administrative and educational problems which would be encountered in adding to the present school site.

Dr. Edward Spare and Mr. Charles Updyke, School Plant Planning Consultants of the State Department of Education, made the following recommendations for school house construction and site selection to the borough boards:

1. It is suggested by the State Department that there be provided a minimum of five acres, plus an additional acre for each 100 pupils for an elementary school; a minimum of twenty acres plus an additional acre for each 100 pupils for a junior high school (Gr. 7 - 9).
2. Dr. Spare quoted from the National Council of Schoolhouse Construction that an elementary school size should not exceed 500 students. This fact is based on the empirical knowledge of educators across the nation.
3. In the state of New Jersey, 79% of the elementary schools are under 600 in enrollment. The present Allendale School is an elementary school.
4. School buildings should be kept to a size where a home-like atmosphere can be maintained where the principal and teachers can know the children and their families, where the staff can work as a close knit unit in school improvement. It is frustrating for a new child to enter a large building. An informal atmosphere in a small class is similar to a small school.
5. Large elementary buildings present safety hazards and control problems.
6. It is more economical to build a large school but it is detrimental to the education of the children.
7. During the discussion, it was shown that capital cost under which the site purchase costs are included, comprise only 10 - 12% of the entire educational expenditure. The school building and all permanent equipment which are also capital costs, reduce the land cost to less than one percent. It was also pointed out that the only additional capital cost a second site would add, would be the

equal land cost. Spread out over thirty years or forty years, the total additional annual cost to the borough amounts to \$1500 - \$2000, based upon an acquisition cost of \$60,000.

With two members abstaining, the final vote was unanimous that a separate site be selected for the proposed elementary school. A site selection committee comprised of representatives from the citizens of Allendale, the Borough Council, Planning Board, P. T. O. and Board of Education was named. Mr. Elias Schoen, Board of Education, was selected as chairman. The first meeting of the site selection committee was set for March 23, 1965.

H. C. Seibel, Superintendent
Allendale Public School

Appendix

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO BUILDING ON THE PRESENT SITE OR RECREATIONAL AREA

1. Too large a concentration of students in one area
2. Cafeteria and auditorium would be inadequate
3. Building would be too spread out for proper supervision, discipline and control
4. Scheduling of library, cafeteria, gymnasium and departmental program would be most difficult
5. With the library, clinic and auditorium in the main building there would be excessive traffic in this area
6. Continued maintenance problems from overuse, on original building and wings
7. A large building is difficult to supervise and check during after-school hours and weekends
8. Dispersal of student population would create many safety problems, 3 P.M., Fire Drill, etc.
9. Too many classes would be playing too close to the building while other classes are in session. This situation already exists.
10. Lack of adequate paved play areas
11. Administrative offices would be too remote from new additions
12. Inadequate parking facilities for picking up and discharging students
13. Indoor lunch periods and 30 minutes duty-free lunch time for teachers (required by law) would be a problem
14. Restricted land area for expansion
15. If we added to this site or on the recreation area, we would only be compounding the problems that already exist