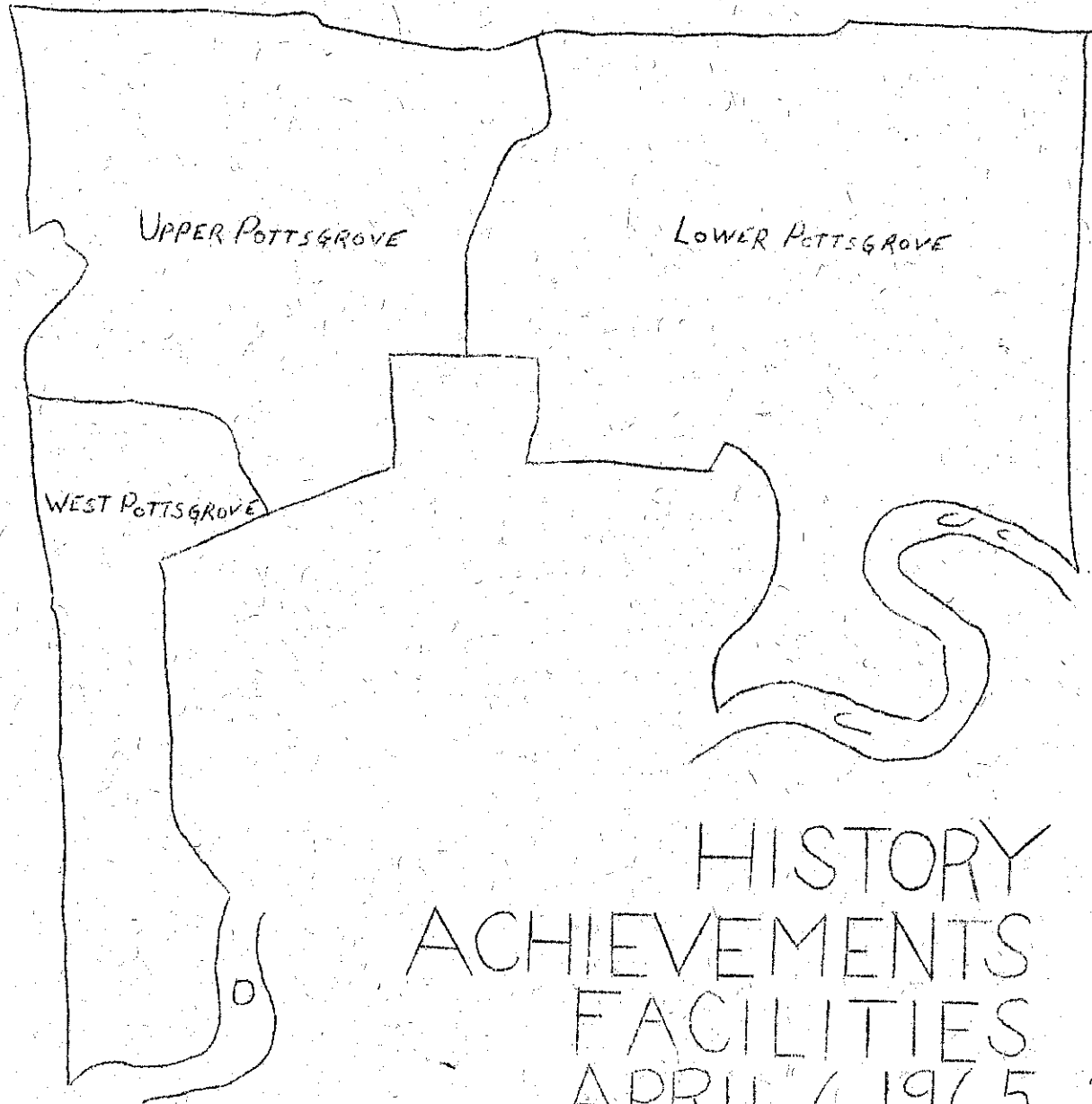


# POTTSGROVE SCHOOL SYSTEM



HISTORY  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
FACILITIES  
APRIL 6, 1965

POTTSGROVE SCHOOL SYSTEM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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In July, 1956, the Directors of Lower Pottsgrove Township, Upper Pottsgrove Township and West Pottsgrove Township signed Articles of Agreement forming the Pottsgrove School System. This endeavor was consummated in order to provide quality education for the boys and girls of these three townships from Kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Two years later, in September of 1958, Pottsgrove High School, the first Jointure Building to be constructed by this new organization, was opened and utilized for regular classroom instruction. This building which cost \$2,200,000.00 is State rated for reimbursement purposes at 944 pupils and can accommodate about 850 comfortably with the four track program being offered.

Pottsgrove High School, located on Kauffman Road and Pottsgrove High School Lane in Lower Pottsgrove Township, has 17 regular classrooms, 5 science-geography rooms, 3 commercial rooms, 3 homemaking rooms, 2 industrial arts shops, 1 agriculture shop and classroom, 1 art craft room, 1 music room, a library, a student activity room, a conference room, a cafeteria to seat 285 and kitchen, a double playing floor gymnasium, an auditorium which seats 850, a health suite, 2 faculty rooms and administrative offices. Presently this school is accommodating in grades 7 through 12 all Jr.-Sr. High School boys and girls of the Pottsgrove School System, or a total of 1032 students. Applications have been approved for an addition to this building which should have been under construction by mid 1965; however, State School District Reorganization has delayed

this project for approximately two (2) years. Such an addition would boost the state rated capacity to approximately 1300, although the four track program and varied curriculum being offered would probably limit this to about 1185 en toto.

The Elementary School population, totaling 1351 students, is housed in four (4) separate buildings. Approximately 544 youngsters attend the Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School which is situated on Pleasantview Road in Sanatoga. This building, which combines both the old and the new, is a fine structure including a cafeteria and an all-purpose room. The Upper Pottsgrove School, which is comprised of six (6) grades is located on Farmington Avenue near Halfway House and houses approximately 181 students. The former West Pottsgrove High School, which is now the West Pottsgrove Elementary School accommodates 400 youngsters. This building is located on Grosstown Road in Stowe and also has a cafeteria and a gymnasium-all-purpose room. In September, 1962, the Ringing Rocks Elementary School, the first Jointure Elementary Building, was opened for use. This building which was economical in construction occupies land already owned by the Pottsgrove Jointure. It houses 228 students and incorporates many elements of modern design and easy inexpensive, maintenance.

The School System is indeed proud of the advances which it has made in curriculum and points to the fact that for a system of this size it offers children a wide variety of courses. In the Sr. High School, students have a choice of Academic, Commercial, General, Homemaking, Industrial Arts and Agriculture courses of study. Provision is also made for acceleration of those students who are above average in Academic ability.

Those who are not able to cope with normal school program are placed in an ungraded situation under the supervision of a qualified teacher who has had special training. All curriculum requirements recommended by the Department of Public Instruction are being met in Pottsgrove High School. Moreover, three foreign languages have been offered for the past several years. A student can take four years of French, or two years of Latin and three years of French, or three years of French and two years of German. In 1964-'65, Spanish was also introduced into the Jr. High School. A complete math program is available including algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus. Typing is available to all students. Algebra is offered in Grade 8 for selected children. Developmental reading, remedial reading and remedial math are also provided. During the 1964-'65 school term, the faculty also inaugurated a new team-teaching program designed to utilize our resources at a maximum level. Pottsgrove High School is proud of the achievements of its students. During 1963, one of our students became the spelling champion of Montgomery County. Our business students have won positions of honor in State Contests involving sixty-five schools. In 1964, we placed first in Shorthand competition. During that same year, one of our students won the Area National Office Management Contest. Annually, Pottsgrove students do well in National Merit Scholarship Examinations and in the American Legion Oratorical Contests. The School Newspaper has received first place awards; our Football and Basketball teams have had a recent history of Championships. The School Band won the Class B, Cavalcade of Bands first place honors in 1965. Many other honors, too numerous to mention here, have been accrued in our short history. Many letters of commendation have been

received from institutions praising the School System for the excellent training which children have received. In 1963, the Evaluation Visiting Committee sponsored by the Middle States Association of Universities and Secondary Schools, inspected the Pottsgrove High School Curriculum and, among its recommendations and commendations, noted that Pottsgrove High is "a very fine school." As a result of the Evaluation, word was received shortly thereafter that Pottsgrove High School was added to the list of accredited high schools. This means that our students are in an excellent position to be accepted by Universities and Colleges throughout the land. In addition to boasting an excellent staff of well trained and qualified teachers, the High School provides a handbook for students, a handbook for teachers and a written curriculum guide.

The Elementary Program including Kindergarten through Grade 6, also provides for all levels of ability in the teaching of children. Three separate reading systems are utilized each being correlated with the other so that all children are taught in accordance with their respective ability at a proper level. A system of phonics is utilized. This was instituted following an experimental program. The Elementary Staff, which is completely certified and qualified, has worked during the past few years to complete a faculty handbook and a written curriculum guide which are believed to be as fine as any in the entire area. As of September 1, 1964, a parent handbook is also being provided. In addition to handling the subjects normally attributed to the elementary curriculum, the Pottsgrove Elementary Schools also incorporated a Spanish Program in 1963 which eventually will be taught from fourth grade through the high school. We are among the few districts to

boast a completely uniformed and well trained elementary band. In 1964, we also instituted a string instrumental program. In the realm of physical education, in 1962-'63, the Elementary Faculty as a result of a thorough study, inaugurated a planned program of physical education for all elementary youngsters (one of the first in this area). Interestingly enough, the following year a mandate was issued by the Department of Public Instruction to the effect that all schools must offer a program of this type within the near future. Pottsgrove was also one of the first schools to employ a full-time elementary librarian and has, in addition to classroom libraries, the facilities of a central library in each of its buildings. In 1964, the Pottsgrove Elementary Library Program was selected as one of the four to represent the State of Pennsylvania in National competition (Britannica contest). A Dental Clinic was added to our School System in 1962; this, again, is another notable advance. The fine elementary program presently offered, is further supplemented by two special education classes which accommodate those children who are unable to cope with the normal class routine. The second class was inaugurated in 1963-'64 in order that very young children would not be in the same group with much older ones. It is our belief that it is commendable, indeed, for a school system this size and of our economic ability to provide two classes for ungraded elementary youngsters.

Just as we experimented with phonics prior to adoption, an experiment was also conducted with closed circuit T. V. (later discontinued) and with another reading program. We are now working with modern mathematics. During 1964-'65 certain classes experimented with this innovation. It will become a part of the program in 1965-'66.

The Elementary Faculty conducted a self-examination of the curriculum during the period 1962-'64. Their goal was an evaluation by a Visiting Committee in early 1964. This represented another effort on our part to evaluate our weaknesses and to improve our program. Very few elementary schools in the Commonwealth have undergone evaluation programs of this type. Many benefits are accrued; of utmost importance perhaps, is the fact that each teacher is awakened during the two years of self-study to all aspects of the curriculum, to new ideas and methods and, generally, an over-all improvement is realized. Subsequent to the formal evaluation in October, 1964, the report filed by the Evaluation Committee commended the Pottsgrove School System for "pioneering in the field of a complete elementary evaluation program." Their report, including many commendations and recommendations, rated us as a good system.

Pottsgrove is also a member of the Western Montgomery County Area-Vocational Technical School Program. It is planned that this school will open its doors to students in 1966, offering a minimum of ten (10) vocational-technical courses, initially. These course offerings will be broadened as the student population grows. The three Pottsgroves were the first of the nine (9) participating districts to approve the Articles of Agreement for this program.

Some of our auxiliary facilities are worth discussing also. The Pottsgrove System owns all fifteen of its school buses. These are all of 1962 vintage or later. Children are transported, regardless of distance, if walking might be considered hazardous. Kindergarten transportation is also provided.

Every school has a cafeteria to serve our youngsters. Hot meals are

provided at thirty (.30) cents per child in the elementary school and thirty-five (.35) cents per child in the High School.

It is worth mentioning that during 1960-'61, Pottsgrove was 19th among the twenty-one (21) Elementary-Secondary Jointures in Montgomery County in cost of instruction per child. In 1961-'62, based on a study conducted by the University of Pennsylvania, Pottsgrove was sixty fourth (64th) of a group of seventy-four (74) Southeastern Pennsylvania Districts in cost of instruction per child. During the period, 1961-'62, and again in 1962-'63, Pottsgrove had the lowest cost per instructional unit of any Elementary-Secondary Jointure in Montgomery County. In spite of this, we meet or exceed every State curriculum mandate. We also consistently maintain unusually high budget figures for text-books and library books. Our teacher salary scale and fringe benefit programs are among the best in this area. In the realm of financial resources, however, we are only mediocre. According to State figures for Montgomery County in 1960-'61, only one of our townships was above the median in wealth. Another was listed as the poorest in the County. The present Montgomery County Plan for Reorganization of School Districts places the three (3) Pottsgroves in a single Administrative Unit, effective July 1, 1966.

This Kindergarten through Grade 12 Jointure is governed by policies established by a Joint School Board comprised of five Directors each from Lower Upper, and West Pottsgrove Townships. A staff of approximately one hundred-fifty (150), excluding bus drivers, is administered by a Supervising Principal, Jacob E. Dailey; an Administrative Assistant, William W. Welliver; a High School Principal, Miss Jessie H. Rosenberry; an Assistant High School Principal, Richard J. Radel; an Elementary Principal, William W. Means;



and an Assistant Elementary Principal, Thomas R. Valinoto. The President of the Joint School Board is Gerald G. Kochel; the Vice-President, John R. LaPish; Treasurer, Robert C. Petrilla; and Secretary, John L. Morello. Other Board of Education Members are: Norman Lepperd, Charles H. Bernhart, Michael J. Petrick, George W. Needhammer, Joseph J. Powell, Harry J. Pollock, W. Drexel Pierce, W. Forrest Ginder, Steve Stavrou, Robert L. Stauffer, and Leroy H. Prutzman.

