In the early 1990s, the district was overcrowded with numerous classroom trailers at each building and multiple bond failures. It is at this time that initial conversations begin to occur about consolidating with Woodridge High School which was also in need of increased facilities. The Revere community quickly spoke out against the plan and a bond passed in November of 1992 which did not include new schools but rather additions/improvements to the existing schools.
School merger
Revere, Woodridge's fine idea

THE superintendents of two local school districts, Revere and Woodridge, have taken a positive step: They've suggested the possibility of sharing a new high school.

Cooperation on that scale would be a rarity in public education in Ohio. And it could set a good example for others.

The superintendents of Revere and Woodridge are looking at what they could offer together — a broader range of courses, for example, and a chance to try some new ideas, possibly including evening classes, that they couldn't afford separately. In the long run, both districts stand to gain: They could have a high quality new high school for everyone, yet they could share the cost of building it and running it.

Of course, nothing has been decided yet. Community meetings are scheduled for next week. And residents will be given several options to consider for dealing with expanding enrollments in each of the two school districts.

Possibly, residents will opt for new construction and expansions in each district, keeping all of their schools separate. Patrick Corbett, the Revere superintendent, and Richard Clapp, the Woodridge chief, have both said they intend to follow the wishes of people in their districts.

Ultimately, the issues will be decided on the ballot, since a tax issue would have to be approved for new construction.

Whatever the outcome, Corbett and Clapp deserve praise for putting the idea of a joint high school forward and trusting community members to look beyond narrow concerns in weighing the possibility.

If the districts are willing, the local concerns can be worked out. Names of schools or athletic teams could be combined, or there could be contests for new names.

The larger issues concern education and finances. And so far, the arguments stack up in favor of a joint high school.

Indeed, a joint venture between Revere and Woodridge would have implications far beyond those two school districts. Public education in Ohio is fragmented to a serious fault, Ohio has 612 school districts and some consist of only a few schools.

With so many districts, Ohio's education bureaucracy is bigger and more expensive than it has to be. And when schools are small, they can be limited in what they offer. If a larger school offers four foreign languages, a smaller one may offer two.

If plans go forward for a joint high school in Revere and Woodridge, the school could be a model for the state. As for Corbett and Clapp, they will have done Ohio a service if they inspire a few other superintendents to start talking about cooperation — for more effective schools and more efficient spending.

Woodridge and Revere

These districts are back on the ballot asking for approval of two separate bond issues for new construction. Both districts need to expand because of enrollment growth.

However, if voters continue their opposition to raising taxes for the current building proposals, it would make sense to reconsider the possibility of a cost-saving joint high school for Revere and Woodridge. The idea had been proposed last year by the Woodridge and Revere superintendents but was quickly dropped after some residents objected.

Those who remember Harold C. Schweisberger as Bath-Richfield superintendent may not know that he died Jan. 17 at age 85 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Services were held Jan. 26 at North Canton with burial in Canton's Forest Hills cemetery.

Schweisberger went to Richfield High in 1928 as coach and history-math teacher. He retired in 1964 and six years later married the former Marian Davidson Fruth, a 1931 Richfield alumna. Until a year ago, they had a home in Lakeside as well as Florida.

Besides his wife, he leaves a sister, Esther Schweisberger of North Canton. The late William S. Parry was president of the Northampton Board of Education when the school served only eight grades.

Parry would call board meetings to order at 7:30 p.m. and adjourn promptly at 9 p.m. The agenda was handled in that time period. More presiding officers ought to try a similar system.