

Revere-Woodridge Merger

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.



THE BEACON JOURNAL WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6, 1991

Woodridge and Revere may build high school to serve both districts

By Kim McMahan
Beacon Journal staff writer

Revere and Woodridge school districts are considering building a high school that would serve all students in both districts, school officials announced Tuesday.

Revere Superintendent Patrick Corbett and Woodridge Superintendent Richard Clapp said a broader tax base and lower construction and operation expenses would justify combining the two high schools.

School officials said that enrollment is growing in both of the northern Summit County districts and that each eventually would have to expand ex-

isting schools or build new ones.

The superintendents emphasized that the proposal is in the infant stages and that research will be necessary involving the school boards, faculty, staff, students, parents and residents.

"It's going to have to be something that both communities embrace," Clapp said. "We have to sense considerable support for the project to proceed."

Officials say that by combining the 800 students in grades nine through 12 at Revere High with the 300 stu-

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Woodridge, Revere may build one high school for both districts

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In addition to the joint high school, Revere is considering three other options:

• Renovating and expanding the middle school, high school and Hillcrest Primary; building an elementary school, and closing Richfield and Bath elementary schools. Those buildings would be converted to community use.

• Renovating and expanding the high school and Hillcrest, converting the middle school to an elementary school, building a new middle school and closing Richfield and Bath schools.

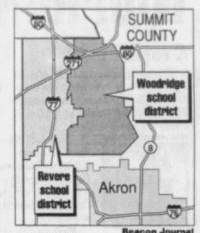
• Converting the middle school to an elementary school and the high school to a middle school, renovating and expanding Hillcrest, building a high school and closing Richfield and Bath schools.

Options in the Woodridge district include building an elementary or middle school while renovating the other school, or building major additions to the district's three schools.

Both districts are holding public meetings to discuss the joint high school proposal.

Woodridge will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Woodridge High School on Quick Road. Revere's meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Revere High School on Everett Road.

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THE BEACON JOURNAL • WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13, 1991

Concerns voiced in Revere over joint school

By Matt Kelley
Special to the Beacon Journal

A Revere school district resident said the Revere and Woodridge districts should take a long, hard look at all options before deciding to proceed with a proposed joint high school.

Like many Revere residents at a special school board meeting Tuesday night, John Fink said he was worried that students from different districts would have trouble adjusting in one high school.

"The problems are more than financial, they're societal," Fink told the crowd of about 150 in the Revere High auditorium. "Communities develop in

different ways and have different identities." Fink said he attended a consolidated high school himself.

The meeting was the first in the Revere district since the joint high school option was announced Feb. 5. Both Revere and Woodridge need to renovate and expand their school buildings to keep pace with growth.

Building a joint, 255,000-square-foot high school would cost about \$28.5 million, said Revere Superintendent Patrick Corbett. Revere residents would pay about 60 percent of the cost, plus another \$11 million for changes at other district schools, he said. Building a new high

school and renovating other buildings would cost about \$30.9 million, putting the district at the limit of debt it can legally hold, Corbett said.

Other options — such as building a new middle school or elementary school — would be cheaper but would allow the high school to expand to hold only 1,000 students. Revere High would reach that mark in 1998.

At a meeting Monday, Woodridge residents expressed fears that all or part of their district could be annexed by the Cuyahoga Falls school district.

The main fear Revere residents cited was the possibility that voters would de-

feat a tax levy, further straining district finances. Corbett said the district could place a levy for the full \$30.9 million on the May ballot. If that levy passed, the district could decide to use the full amount for a new high school or to use part of it for a joint high school.

Resident John Skidmore said, "I'm concerned that the public at large doesn't have enough information to make an intelligent decision. If the levy were up for a vote right now, I'd probably vote no for lack of information."

The Revere board will decide on Tuesday which option to put before voters in May, said president Michele Hanke.

Revere-Woodridge Merger

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Friday, February 8, 1991



EDITORIALS

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.

Page A8, Wednesday, January 29, 1992 • The Beacon Journal

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.

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Monday, February 11, 1991

School talk

The proposal for Revere and Woodridge schools to share a new high school brought back thoughts of predecessor schools.

Woodridge came out of the merger of



Fran Murphey

the Northampton and Boston districts. Bath and Richfield schools went together and later became Revere.

At the time of mergers, there was much discussion and some opposition. Time tends to erase that. The new generations seldom

know, or care, about the past.

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.