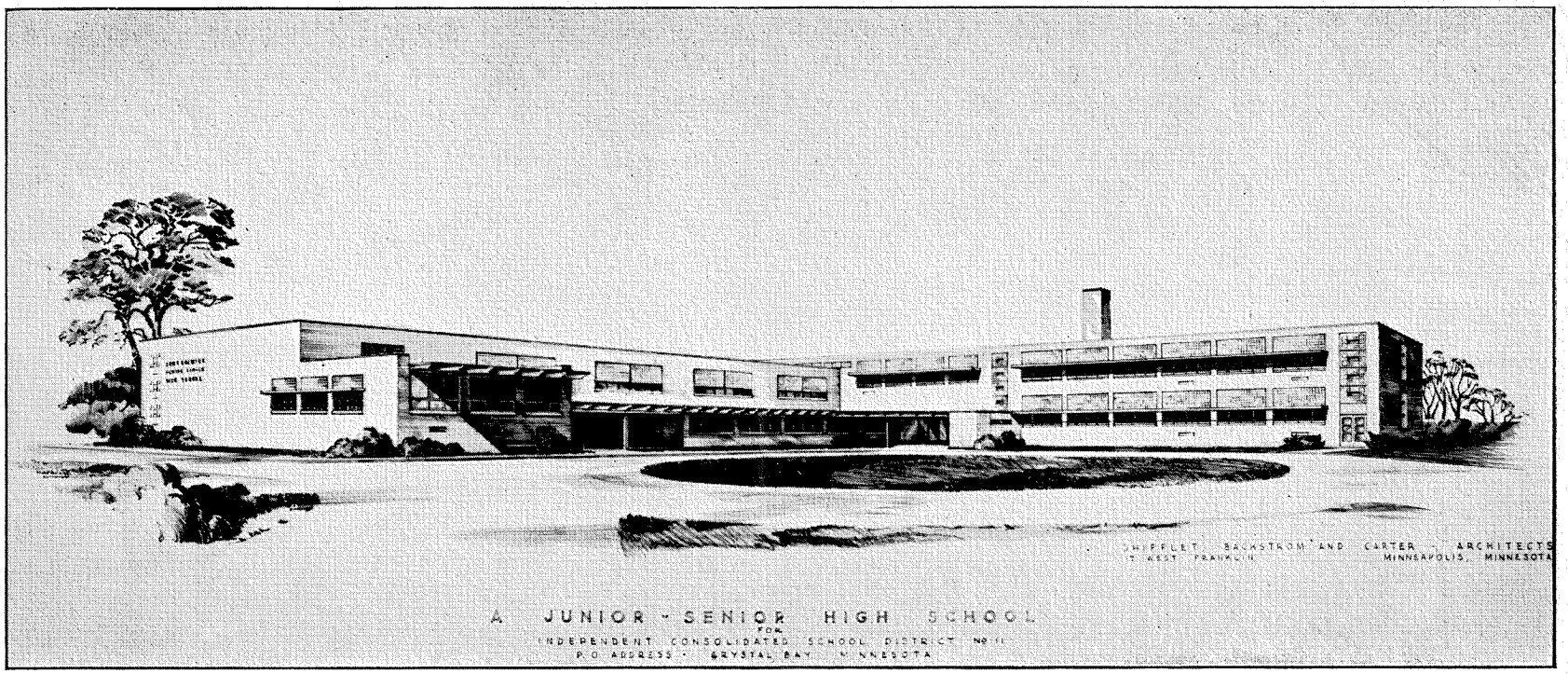
PROPOSED JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



A DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF INDEPENDENT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 11

The Question

Do **you** as a taxpayer—a parent—a resident—of the newly created Independent Consolidated School District No. 11 want a Secondary School in your District?

The Election

On May 2nd, between 1:00 o'clock P. M. and 9:00 P. M. you will have an opportunity to vote "yes" or "no"—should bonds be sold to finance the construction of a Secondary School? For your convenience, there will be four voting precincts and four polling places:

Precinct No.	Precinct Name	Former Common School District	School House Polling Place
1	Long Lake	7, 50	Long Lake
2	Crystal Bay	94, 200	Hill Elementary
3	Stubbs Bay	91	Stubbs Bay
4	Maple Plain	61, 62, 81, 125	Maple Plain

Background

1. THE CONSOLIDATION

In December, 1948, the people voted by a large majority to form a new consolidated school district. Common School District 7 (Reiser), 50 (Long Lake), 61 (Maple Plain), 62 (Spurzem), 81 (Armstrong), 91 (Stubbs Bay), 125 (Grove Center), and Hill (94 and 200) were combined into one district.

2. INITIAL STEPS AFTER CONSOLIDATION

A. The new Hill School and the schools at Stubbs Bay, Maple Plain, and Long Lake were kept open to take care of kindergarten and the first six grades. All 7th and 8th grade students were consolidated under one roof in the Old Hill School House. All the other small schools were closed.

B. Reconditioning of the Maple Plain School House and enlargement of the Stubbs Bay School House were begun. Salaries of teachers were adjusted on a systematic schedule to provide uniformity and fairness throughout.

There had been many meetings and much talk about splitting the area now included in District 11 between Mound and Wayzata. The voters rejected this proposal. The purpose of the consolidation was primarily twofold:

a. To streamline and improve the education offered by our elementary schools.
b. To provide a new secondary school.

C. A superintendent was hired to oversee the entire system, to provide full-time professional advice, and to spear-head the planning for the new secondary school.

3. INITIAL STEPS IN PLANNING FOR A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

A. **Architects:** In addition to the hiring of the Superintendent, architects were employed to prepare working drawings, plans and specifications.

B. **Purchase of Site:** An election was held in May, 1949, for authority to purchase a site for the new secondary school. Again by a big majority the voters approved the acquisition of the 42 acre tract known as the Ed Fries farm northwest of the intersection of Highway 12 and the Orono town road.

C. **Initial Bond Issue:** In October, 1949, the voters authorized the sale of $100,000 of Bonds to purchase the new school site, pay the architects, complete the Hill Elementary School, and improve the overall educational system as follows:

1. Purchase of site for new secondary school	$15,000.00
2. Architects fee for new secondary school	31,000.00
3. Attorney's fees	1,000.00
4. New equipment for our school system	15,000.00
5. Repairs, remodeling, and painting	4,000.00
6. Change orders on Hill Elementary School	3,000.00
7. Completion of Hill Elementary School	26,000.00
8. Reserve for unforeseen contingencies	5,000.00
Total	$100,000.00

D. **Actual Progress:** The site was purchased

The plans and specifications of the architects are nearly completed

New equipment, some of which will be used in the new secondary school, has been purchased

Repairs and remodeling of elementary schools are completed or at least well underway

The Hill Elementary School is completed

Financial Picture

1. AT THE TIME OF CONSOLIDATION:

A. **Budgets**—The Common School Districts in the fall of 1948 had voted combined budgets of $71,495 to run the schools in the fall of 1949 and the spring of 1950. Together with income from State Aid of $46,046 this made $117,541 available to pay teachers and operate the entire system. Even minimum standards of education could not be met with such a budget. To make up in part for this underbudgeting to run the school system in the fall of 1950 and the spring of 1951, the Board of Education voted a total budget, including State Aid, of $166,377.00.

2. YOUR CURRENT TAXES

Why are the tax statements which you have just received increased over last year? There are several answers. The complete answer is a combination of all.

a. If you live in Orono Township, your township tax has been increased **6.9 mills.**
b. Wherever you live, your combined state and county tax has been increased **4.49 mills.**
c. The county school tax to pay tuition for high school pupils being sent to other high schools has been increased **6.68 mills.**
d. If you live in the former Hill District, you are paying an additional **21.5 mills** to retire $7500 of bonds maturing this year, plus interest, plus a sinking fund for those bonds. This has been brought about because of the $150,000 bond issue put through at the request of the Hill District before consolidation—all to provide funds for the new Hill Elementary School. Next year this extra levy will be **reduced** to approximately **15.5 mills.**
e. Except in cases where your valuation has been increased (as it was by approximately 25% in 1948), the rest of the increase is attributed to your school tax. Why is your school tax greater this year?
    1. Deficits passed on to the new district
    2. Inadequate budgets voted in 1948
    3. A realistic budget voted in 1949 including salary increases for teachers
    4. A special one year **10 mill** capital outlay levy voted in 1949 to replace antiquated and worn out equipment and to purchase some equipment for immediate use which will be required in the new secondary school.

Your Board of Education could not ignore the above matter without jeopardizing the education of your children.

This is the actual breakdown of your mill rate for school purposes this year to provide:

From Direct Taxes	$110,670.00
From the State	55,707.00
Total Budget	$166,377.00

Breakdown of Mill Rate for school purposes

Dist No.	Valuation	Mtnc.	Cap. Outlay	Bonds & Int.	County School	Fixed One Mill Levy	State Loan	Rate
7	75,288	53.90	10.00		14.18	1.00		79.08
50	363,078	53.90	10.00		14.18	1.00		79.08
61	204,208	53.90	10.00		14.18	1.00		79.08
62	75,032	53.90	10.00		14.18	1.00		79.08
81	84,588	53.90	10.00		14.18	1.00		79.08
91	168,682	53.90	10.00		14.18	1.00	3.20	82.28
94	174,001	53.90	10.00	21.50	14.18	1.00		100.58
125	46,696	53.90	10.00		14.18	1.00		79.08
Hill	539,631	53.90	10.00	21.50	14.18	1.00		100.58

3. THE FUTURE FINANCIAL PICTURE

A. Budget-wise the Board of Education feels that "the house has at last been put in order." We can pay our bills and we shall continue on a pay-as-we-go basis where your tax-dollar will buy sound education for your children.

B. Based upon the large majority voting at three separate elections for

1. Consolidation to provide a new secondary school, and
2. Approval for acquisition of a site for the new secondary school, and
3. Sale of $100,000 of bonds to start work

on the new secondary school your Board of Education is calling this election to provide funds to complete the job already begun. Without any frills or fancy extras the new secondary school can be built and all necessary equipment purchased for $765,000. That is the amount of the proposed bond issue. As long as valuations remain the same, we cannot spend more without exceeding the bond limit set by law. There is a separate section of this brochure dealing solely with the new building and equipment.

C. WHAT WILL A BOND ISSUE OF $765,000 MEAN TO YOU AS A TAXPAYER?—The exact cost of a bond issue can never be determined until the actual sale is made on competive bids. Assuming a 30 year bond issue with equal maturities—$25,500 —each year, and assuming no increase in valuations, you will be taxed at a rate of **14.7 mills** each year to pay off the bonds as they mature. Interest at $2\frac{1}{4}\%$ will be an additional **10 mills** the first year. This interest rate decreases as bonds are paid off. There are actually numerous different possibilities in the sale of bonds but to begin with you can assume about **25 mills** increase for principal and interest.

D. WHAT WILL TOTAL COST OF THE NEW PROPOSED SYSTEM BE TO YOU—

1. **Principal and interest on the $100,000 bond issue:** This will cost 2.9 mills each year to pay off maturing bonds plus 1.1 mills in the first year to pay interest—a total of **4 mills** increase.
2. **Maintenance of Entire School System With New Secondary School:** Naturally it costs more money to operate 6 plants than the 5 now operating. The Old Hill School will be sold if a new secondary school is built, but costs of running and staffing a new secondary school must be considered. An estimated budget has been prepared for the overall system. To meet that budget will require a maintenance tax of around **93 mills.** While that is of course only an estimate it has been purposely estimated high.
3. **Special Capital Equipment Levy:** It may or may not be necessary to continue the special equipment levy of 10 mills this year. Only time will tell.

The New School - What Are The Plans? What Will You Get?

1. **NEW JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING FACTS**

   a. Two-story, brick, concrete and steel construction
   b. 20 study, laboratory and classroom units
   c. Administration offices
   d. School nurse's quarters
   e. Physical education gymnasium 112'x86', plus stage
   f. Boys' and girls' locker and shower rooms (for adult use also)
   g. Cafeteria with a seating capacity of 250
   h. Ample storage for entire district to insure quantity purchases for best prices
   i. Adequate industrial arts shop
   j. Non-expandable areas in building ample to take care of probable increases
   k. Type of construction will permit expansion of all other areas when necessary
   l. School designed to accommodate 400 students —enrollment 1951 estimated from census— 358 students—with gradual growth for following years.

2. **THE LAND**

   42 acres already purchased by your direction.
   Size insures space for all activities.

3. **THE CURRICULUM**

   a. Strong College Preparatory—Complete college preparatory program will be offered, English, social studies, sciences, languages, mathematics, specials, etc.

   b. Industrial Arts and Farm Shop—Basic course open to all junior high students. Advanced courses offered to senior high students

   c. Home Economics—Basic course open to all junior high students. Advanced courses offered to senior high students.

   d. Commercial—Courses in typing, bookkeeping, shorthand, business machines.

   e. Physical Education and Recreation—Extensive intra-mural recreational program for **all** boys and girls. A complete athletic program for boys.

   Community Center for adults—available spaces for meetings of civic groups.

   Strong central library.

   Evening extension classes for adults in all departments.

   Opportunities for recreational, athletic, and social programs for adults.

All phases of our building plans have been completed with the assistance and approval of the State Department of Education.

4. DOES NON-AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY BEAR MORE OF A BURDEN OF MAINTENANCE COSTS THAN AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY? NO.

A. At the present time mill rates for maintenance are the same on both types of property.

B. Under a law passed in 1949, even after the secondary school is operating, in our case, mill rates for maintenance will still be the same for both classifications of property.

C. Payment of principal and interest on bonds will also call for the same mill rate on both types of property.

5. WILL OUR PICTURE BE OUT OF LINE WITH OTHER COMPARABLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

Wayzata, School District No. 144, has almost the same total valuation. Its present mill rate for school purposes is **117.9.** That includes nothing for maintenance of the new secondary school to be constructed out of the recent $1,200,000 bond issue. Wayzata is collecting $66,800 a year alone for its new bond issue—a mill rate of about 38 mills each year on present valuation.

Mound, School District 85, now has a mill rate of 102.3. Voters have just approved an $800,000 bond issue to build a new elementary school. The cost of that bond issue plus increased maintenance will undoubtedly increase their total mill rate above the estimated for District No. 11.

In other words, your School Board does not feel that by approving this bond issue you will be out of line with other districts around us. If we do not provide for the new bond issue, we will be the ones "out-of-line."

6. CONCLUSION

A. Is it worth a maximum increase of $5.30 per $100.00 of assessed valuation as shown on your tax statement to you to have your own secondary school —something that the voters have three times approved and demanded? **or**

B. Do you as a taxpayer and a parent wish to save your $5.30 per $100.00 of assessed valuation, give up the idea of your own secondary school, sell the site you authorized the Board to purchase, and, after paying the architects, tear up the plans and specifications that are nearly completed?

Summary for First Year of Operating Entire Proposed System:

	Approximately
Principal and interest on $765,000 Bonds	25 mills
Principal and interest on $100,000 Bonds	4 mills
Maintenance	93 mills
Total	122 mills
Increase over present levy—43 mills	
Special Equipment levy (if necessary)	10 mills
Total	132 mills
Increase over present levy—53 mills	

What Alternatives Do We Have?

1. **STAY AS WE ARE**

Turn down the bond issue, give up our plans, sell the site and stay as we are. In at least the first few years high school pupils can be taken by Wayzata after their new school is completed. There is no guarantee that this will continue year after year. In view of the position taken at the time of consolidation that the people of District No. 11 wanted their own secondary school, **if this bond issue is turned down, there is a good possibility that the 9-man Hennepin County School Survey Committee will recommend the dissolution of our District and splitting it up between Mound and Wayzata. If this is done, you as a taxpayer will be paying just as much money—or more—without having your own school.**

2. **DISSOLVE THE DISTRICT AND SPLIT UP BETWEEN MOUND AND WAYZATA**

You will save nothing. You will lose your school and your independence.

3. **APPROVE THE BOND ISSUE AND BUILD YOUR OWN SCHOOL**

Education—good education—costs money. Everyone around us is building better educational facilities and systems. They have demonstrated that they are ready to pay for better education for their children. Our District No. 11 has one of the highest valuations per pupil unit in Hennepin County. We, more than most, should be in a position to afford good education for our children.

The future of our children is up to you as taxpayers and parents. Ask yourselves these two questions:

A. Do I approve of the proposed new secondary school and do I want it?

B. Is the new secondary school worth to me a maximum increase of $5.30 a year for each $100.00 of assessed valuation as shown on my tax statement.

Whatever You Decide . . . VOTE ON MAY 2ND

Respectfully submitted,
The School Board of Independent Consolidated School District No. 11
H. R. Ross, President
Winnifred Bryant, Clerk
Edmund B. Walsh, Treasurer
Emory H. White, Director
Russell B. Johnson, Director
Donald R. Willis, Director
Carlton W. Lytle, Superintendent of Schools