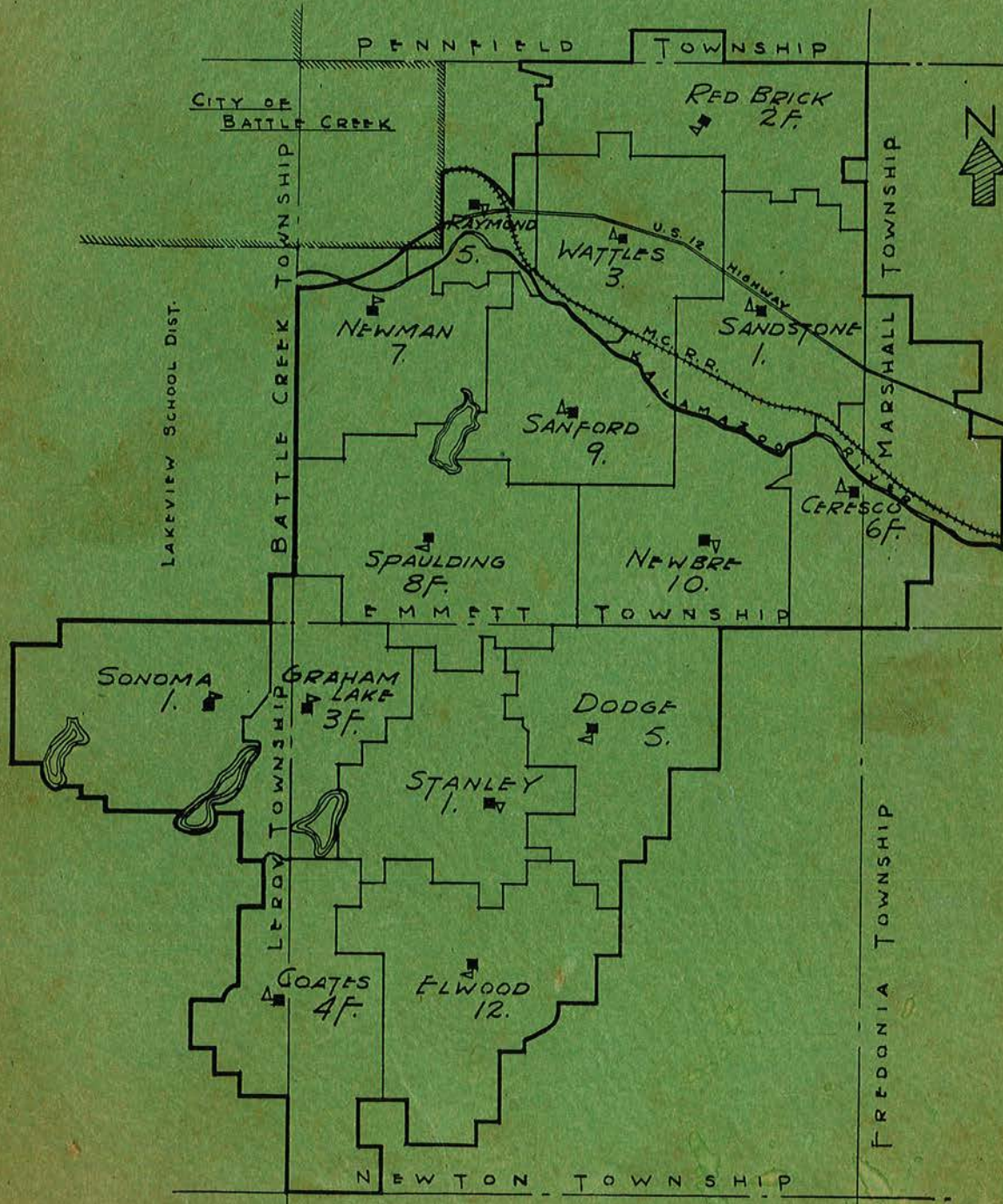


Proposed Reorganization of Schools

Emmett, Newton and Leroy Townships Calhoun County, Michigan



- V O T E -

FOR - THE ORGANIZATION OF A RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IN EMMETT, NEWTON, LEROY, AND MARSHALL TOWNSHIPS, comprising the fifteen contiguous rural school districts as shown on the map.

WHO - All persons 21 years of age and older; citizens of the United States; residents of the State of Michigan for at least six months, and residents in this area for at least twenty days prior to June 30, 1949. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A REGISTERED VOTER to vote on this proposal.

WHEN - On June 30, 1949, from 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. you will have the opportunity to vote on the proposal for which a great majority of you (78%) signed a legal petition during March, 1949.

WHERE - THE NEW EMMETT TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION ON CLIFF STREET just off U.S. 12, west of the Raymond School, will be the voting place for the people from the entire area.

REMEMBER - You will vote for one proposal only - to reorganize and pool the resources of fifteen districts into one district for better education. You will not be voting to raise our school taxes at this election. A simple majority of the total votes cast in the entire area establishes the new District. Votes from the individual districts will not be kept separate.

The Emmett-Newton-Leroy School Reorganization Committee requests that you read and study all of the pages in this pamphlet. This proposal is very important to the future of our children. If there are questions you would like to ask, we urge you to call on any member of the Committee or your School Board members. After reading this pamphlet, plan to attend a discussion meeting in your own or an adjacent district. The School Boards will announce such meetings within a few days. We have confidence in the citizens of this area and believe that each one will feel it his or her duty to vote on this matter which will constructively shape school developments for years to come.

The Committee has tried to conduct this project in the most democratic way possible, and we sincerely hope that our new Rural Agricultural School District will always be actively guided by the cooperative efforts of the overwhelming majority of the people throughout the area.

REMEMBER TO VOTE JUNE 30th

SCHOOL REORGANIZATION AIMS

1. To distribute the load of elementary children throughout the area, thus giving each teacher and room 25 to 30 pupils.
2. To place all of the 7th and 8th grade students in buildings now on hand, but separate from the elementary grades, thus starting the plan of an adequate Junior High School in our area.
3. To obtain a superintendent for general administration, and for the purpose of attaining uniformly higher teaching standards and assisting all teachers on special problems.
4. To increase the efficiency of our teachers by placing teachers in the grades they are most capable to handle, and by greater uniformity of teaching standards, number of pupils and salary schedules.
5. To continue and improve the fundamental training in the three R's and give our children as sound an educational foundation as possible.
6. To broaden the scope of education to include useful vocational and business courses, such as Agriculture, Homemaking, Shop, Typing and Bookkeeping. Some of these would not be given until a Junior High is established.
7. To make possible a greater student participation in supervised athletics and playground activities.
8. To extend the audio-visual (sound movies) educational programs to all children in the area.
9. To allow all pupils better opportunities for developing abilities in music, drawing, acting and writing.
10. To promote leadership and character building by cooperating in the establishment of such organizations as 4-H, Future Farmers, Future Homemakers, Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, etc., for all the young people in the area.
11. To benefit financially by obtaining more State aid, eliminating a part of excess tuition, and by more economical operation through buying supplies on a larger scale.
12. To standardize and furnish free textbooks to all the children in the area.
13. To provide adequate bus service for all children living more than one-half mile from the school attended. Traffic hazards will thus be greatly reduced.
14. To improve the health and sanitation conditions, and to cooperate more fully with the Calhoun County Health Department.
15. To benefit the community at large by providing a social, recreational and educational center for the children, as well as the adults of our area. At present there is no adequate community center for young people in this area.
16. To continue and strengthen the close association between home and school as it has existed for many years in the primary school districts, and to extend this relationship to a Junior High School when it is established.
17. To be in a position to plan immediately for future needs by building up a fund while there is still time, without later forcing an excessive tax burden on the people when we will be forced to build. This is just good business.

NEXT YEAR'S SCHOOL PROGRAM 1949-1950

I TRANSPORTATION

The present plan is to use a bus system (requiring 12 buses) to transport all of the High School Students to Marshall, Lakeview, and Battle Creek.

The bus system will take care of all children from the kindergarten to the 8th grade inclusive who live more than a mile from the schools they are to attend, and as many others as can be accommodated that live over half a mile from school or have dangerous highways to cross.

II INSTRUCTION

The present school buildings will be adequate for all of the children from the kindergarten thru the 8th Grade. Sixty-seven children from the 8th grade and below who went out of the area this past year will attend school in the district next year. Plans will be made to provide supervised physical education (or playground activities) music, and art in all the grades. The 7th and 8th grade students will not attend school in the same buildings with the lower grades.

A. Elementary - Kindergarten to the 6th Grade inclusive.

The table below gives the present teacher-pupil ratio for the year 1948-49

Name of School	No. Teachers	Enrollment - Kindergarten to 6th Grade Incl.		
		Total	over max. load of 30 per teacher	under max. load of 30 per teacher
Sandstone	1	9	—	21
Red Brick	1	48	18	—
Wattles	4	145	25	—
Raymond	5	153	3	—
Ceresco	2	51	—	9
Newman	4	125	5	—
Spaulding	2	63	3	—
Sanford	1	72	42	—
Newbre	1	15	—	15
Stanley	1	29	—	1
Graham Lake	1	20	—	10
Dodge	1	18	—	12
Elwood	1	21	—	9
Sonoma	3	76	—	14
Coates	1	19	—	11
TOTAL	29	864	96	102

This variation in teacher-pupil ratio will be equalized to approximately 30 pupils per teacher as in the following examples: (1) 18 children from the South and East parts of the Red Brick district will be transferred to the Sandstone School. (2) The problem at Sanford will be solved by transferring the children from the Southwest part of Spaulding and the Southern part of Newbre District to Graham Lake and Dodge Schools respectively, and replacing these with children from the Southern part of Sanford. A few children in the Northwest part of Sanford will go to the Newman School.

B. 7th and 8th Grades

A Junior High departmental program will be started by bringing the 7th and 8th grades together at two schools - (1) Wattles, where there are four classrooms available, and (2) Newman, where there are three classrooms in the new building. Seven teachers will be required for 207 students in these two grades.

A good supply of material is on hand for reference libraries at each of these schools. There are two nearly new 16 mm. sound projectors for audio-visual-aid instruction.

C. High School Students from the 9th to 12th Grades inclusive Will attend the schools of their choice.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR A RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IN EMMETT, NEWTON, AND LEROY TOWNSHIPS. (IN CALHOUN COUNTY).

	<u>Total Receipts</u>		
	<u>1948-1949</u>	<u>1949-1950</u>	<u>1950-1951</u>
Balance on Hand	19,840.91	14,547.60	14,547.60
Current Tax	34,564.00	45,339.50	51,731.50
Primary Money	26,416.30	27,911.00	27,911.00
State Aid	63,336.40	96,560.00	96,560.00
Sales Tax	31,741.38	32,318.00	32,318.00
Library	1,190.02	1,200.00	1,200.00
Other Revenue Receipts	<u>883.09</u>	<u>900.00</u>	<u>900.00</u>
Total Receipts (Inc. Cash Bal.)	177,972.10	218,776.10	225,168.10

	<u>Total Disbursements</u>		
General Control	2,778.50	8,278.00	9,000.00
Instruction	114,066.00	126,554.00	132,224.00
Auxiliary & Coordinate	16,780.00	19,400.00	19,400.00
Operation of Plant	18,000.00	24,939.00	24,939.00
Fixed Charges	1,000.00	1,057.50	1,057.50
Maintenance	7,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Capital Outlay	3,000.00	13,400.00	13,400.00
Non-Budget Exp.	300.00	600.00	600.00
Total	<u>163,424.50</u>	<u>204,228.50</u>	<u>210,620.50</u>
Balance on Hand	14,547.60	14,547.60	14,547.60

<u>Bus Budget</u>		<u>1949-1950</u>
Elementary students transported	518	
7th & 8th. grade students transported	200	
Marshall High School "	125	
Lakeview High School "	50	
Battle Creek High School "	50	
Total students to be transported	<u>943</u>	
Number of buses required	12	
Number of buses owned	<u>3</u>	
Number of buses needed	9	
*Initial cost on 12 new buses @ \$700.00 each per year		8,400.00
Housing for Buses (Included in Capital outlay above)		1,800.00
12 drivers salary @ \$1,020.00 each		12,240.00
1 mechanic's salary		2,400.00
Maintenance and parts		2,400.00
Gas & Oil (118,800 bus miles)		2,500.00
Total cost operation of 12 buses		<u>29,740.00</u>

Average cost per student about \$30.00 per year

*This includes insurance and interest.

RECOMMENDED BUILDING PROGRAM FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD

I. Plan of Building Program

A. Elementary Schools (Kindergarten to 6th Grade, inclusive)

1. Continue with the present buildings for the next four years. Make necessary repairs and improvements with the \$5,000.00 set aside each year in the budget for capital outlay.
2. Work toward the development of the seven elementary school centers (Ceresco, Wattles, Raymond, Newman, Spaulding, Stanley, and Sonoma) as recommended by Mr. R. S. Strolle, of the State Dept. of Public Instruction, in his report of May 25, 1949. If absolutely necessary, build a one-room addition during the 10-year period at Spaulding with funds accumulated from the capital outlay budget. The ultimate aim will be to build modern (brick and block) 3 to 8-room schools in all of the seven centers such as we now have at Newman, Wattles, and Raymond. However, the Committee believes the need for the next 10 years will be the greatest for a centrally located Junior High School. This will relieve 7 rooms for Elementary children which should allow sufficient room for the period 4 to 10 years from now. We may even be able to discontinue and dispose of at least two of the poorest one-room buildings during this period.

B. Junior High School

1. The peak load in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades will be 4, 5, and 6 years from now, when the present 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade children enter Junior High. Therefore, we plan to have the Junior High building ready for use by the fall of 1953. If this is not accomplished, we probably will be forced to send the 8th and continue to send the 9th grade children to outside High Schools, with no assurance that any of the adjacent schools will accept our children at that time.

There are 409 children in the present 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in this area. This will require a 14-room Junior High School building, allowing 30 children per room. The building should be designed to allow for expansion after the 10-year period. The census of children from birth to 5 years of age decreases slightly in comparison with the next age group mentioned above. Hence, this tapering off should about equalize the new children moving into the area 5 to 10 years from now.

2. The recommended site for this building should be in the vicinity of the geographical center of the area, not on a main highway, but reasonably accessible from all directions. Several sites are suitable and available that meet these specifications on a north and south road, exactly in the center of Emmett Township, running north from the Spaulding Road.
3. The Committee recommends a modern, sound, but attractively designed one-story brick and block building, with the necessary facilities and equipment for proper instruction. We have no desire for unnecessary "frills," but we want a building of which we can be proud.

II. Probable Cost to the Property Owners

The 1948 equalized valuation of this area was \$4,242,921.00. Judging from the steady increase in valuation during the past 15 years, it is safe to estimate the average valuation at \$4,500,000.00 for the next 5 years and at least \$5,000,000.00 for the period 5 to 10 years from now.

The budget now set up calls for 9.7 mills for school operation, etc. (which is the same as it was in 1948 for the average of the 15 districts) with our present buildings to teach the Kindergarten to the 8th grade, inclusive. At present, in Emmett Township, this is 1.7 mills over the 15 mill limitation.

According to a Battle Creek architect, a Junior High School building can be built now for \$25,000.00 per room. Hence, a 14-room school would cost approximately \$350,000.00. To this should be added about \$10,000.00 for the purchase of land.

In order to keep the tax rate as low as possible, the Committee recommends that we immediately vote a *5 mill increase in the tax rate; the proceeds of which will be put into a building fund starting with the 1949 taxes. This will bring in approximately \$67,000.00 over a 3-year period, which will leave \$293,000.00 to be raised by selling bonds three years from now. These bonds can be paid off in 13 years by increasing the tax rate 2 mills, or a total of 7 mills for debt service. The school tax rate would then be 16.7 mills for about the 13-year period or a total tax rate of 23.7 mills.

The additional operating expense of a Junior High School should be nearly met by the increased State Aid obtained and by the elimination of excess tuition to outside schools. The tax rate for school operation may have to be raised less than 1 mill to take care of this additional load.

*(Note: five mills means \$5.00 on each \$1000.00 valuation)

III. Plan for the Development of the Building Program

1. Reorganize into a Rural Agricultural School District by July 1, 1949.
2. Vote this summer or early fall to increase the school tax rate 5 mills above the 9.7 mills for operation for the purpose of starting a building fund.
3. Concentrate our efforts during the next 3 years to improve the elementary schools in the quality of instruction and make all physical improvements within the limits of the budget (\$5,000.00 per year).
4. Three years from now vote on a bonding issue to raise approximately \$293,000.00 for a Junior High School building. At the same time, discontinue the 5 mill building fund levy, and vote on a 7 mills tax levy for debt service to pay off the bonds in 13 years.
5. Have the Junior High School building finished and ready for use by the fall of 1953. Thus, the congestion in the Elementary Schools will be relieved by making 7 rooms available that were formerly occupied by the 7th and 8th grades.
6. Continue with the improvement of our Elementary Schools, and make plans to build one or more new Elementary School buildings, where most needed, after the ten-year period.

The Committee believes that any increase in enrollment due to new homes being established in the area will be paralleled by an increase in valuation. This has been the case in the school districts adjacent to Battle Creek during the past 15 years. Industrial developments in this area are almost a certainty during the next 10 years or more. Therefore, we have confidence that the tentative building program outlined above can be accomplished without imposing excessive taxes on the people. The chances are that the increase in valuation during the last half of the period for paying off the bonds will result in a surplus from the 7 mills tax levy that can be set aside for a later building program.

1948 CENSUS AND 1948-49 ENROLLMENT OF SCHOOLS INCLUDED
IN THE PROPOSED EMMETT-NEWTON-LEROY RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School		Census (1948)	Enrollment By Grades (1948-1949)												
No.	Name		Kinder.	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Emmett															
1	Sandstone	15	4	2	3	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
2	Red Brick	79	6	4	9	11	4	7	7	5	2	4	4	4	1
3	Wattles	244	21	17	17	33	17	22	18	19	17	13	15	11	7
5	Raymond	276	22	29	25	30	12	14	21	13	20	18	13	12	8
6	Ceresco	110	5	12	7	5	11	5	6	9	8	5	1	5	4
7	Newman	206	10	18	16	22	20	19	18	13	12	10	9	6	8
8	Spaulding	115	10	7	7	10	11	9	9	11	10	10	6	5	4
9	Sanford	104	15	12	13	10	7	6	9	10	5	7	1	4	4
10	Newbre	25	3	2	3	1	3	1	2	2	1	3	1	0	0
Newton															
1	Stanley	36	4	5	3	2	4	8	3	2	1	2	2	2	2
3	Graham Lake	34	5	5	0	1	4	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	1
5	Dodge	32	1	6	4	4	3	0	0	2	2	4	1	4	1
12	Elwood	28	5	4	3	2	1	4	2	2	2	2	1	0	0
Leroy															
1	Sonoma	141	14	14	12	12	12	5	7	8	6	14	4	10	1
4	Coates	24	4	3	2	1	4	1	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
TOTAL		1,469	129	140	124	145	116	106	108	99	89	94	59	63	41

Enrollment (Membership)

Total in Elementary Grades (Kindergarten to 6th incl.) 868

Total in Junior High School (7th to 9th incl.) 282

Total in Senior High School (10th to 12th incl.) 163

Grand Total in the 15 districts 1,313

1948 EQUALIZED VALUATION, CENSUS, ENROLLMENT, AND SCHOOL TAX RATE FOR
THE PROPOSED EMMETT-NEWTON-LEROY RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMPARED WITH SEVERAL OTHER SCHOOLS

School		Census	Enrollment	Equalized Valuation - 1948		School Tax Rate	
No.	Name	5-19 yrs.	Member.	Total	Per Cen.	Per St.	
		1948	K.-12 1948-49		Child 5-19 yrs.	Enroll. K.-12	on Equalized Valuation 1948 Mills
Emmett							
1	Sandstone	15	17	161,539	10,769	9,502	6.00
2	Red Brick	79	68	202,725	2,566	2,981	7.90
3	Wattles	244	227	635,055	2,603	2,798	7.90
5	Raymond	276	237	465,502	1,687	1,964	10.98
6	Ceresco	110	83	464,397	4,222	5,595	7.90
7	Newman	206	181	508,662	2,469	2,810	17.90
8	Spaulding	115	109	465,347	4,047	4,269	7.90
9	Sanford	104	103	244,158	2,348	2,467	9.00
10	Newbre	25	22	169,554	6,782	7,707	4.00
Total for Emmett Twp.		1,174	1,047	3,316,939	2,825	3,168	9.66
Newton							
1	Stanley	36	40	115,823	3,217	2,896	10.40
3	Graham Lake	34	25	93,468	2,749	3,738	12.90
5	Dodge	32	32	104,505	3,266	3,266	9.55
12	Elwood	28	28	165,008	5,893	5,893	8.00
Leroy							
1	Sonoma	141	119	329,621	2,338	2,770	8.70
4	Coates	24	22	117,557	4,898	4,344	8.70
Total for Newton & Leroy		295	266	925,982	3,139	3,481	9.64
Grand Total & Average		1,469	1,313	4,242,921	2,888	3,231	9.66
Kellogg Agr. School		536	630	2,907,477	5,424	4,615	12.25
Athens Agr. School		708	670	2,626,637	3,724	3,920	7.60
Homer Agr. School		901	807	3,588,519	3,983	4,447	21.35
Pennfield Agr. School		1,020	880	2,560,477	2,510	2,910	14.86
Lakeview Con. School		2,155	1,976	7,953,240	3,691	4,025	28.00