

of Philomont, is the students choice for maid of honor. The two princesses from the senior

night will be the principal features of Homecoming Day at the school on October 22.

# School Building Program Proposed

Loudoun's overcrowded school system, with a record enrollment of 4,966 this year, may seek new school buildings, additions to existing schools, and a new school bus garage in the near future. Possibilities of floating a bond issue to build new schools and additions was discussed pro and con at the meeting of the Loudoun School Board Monday.

Integration of white and colored school systems, which has held up the Virginia building programs of many perplexed school boards, was also freely discussed by the Loudoun board, which has said little on the subject since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that segregation of races in public schools must end.

## Way to Find Out

"There is but one way to find out whether improved schools for

Negroes would keep pupils segregated," said Superintendent of Schools O. L. Emerick in proposing a building program, "and that is by a public meeting." He suggested that a bond issue be passed on the basis of segregated schools.

On the State of Virginia's policies concerning segregation in schools, Superintendent Emerick also said: "I think it is going to be entirely a matter of working it out with white and colored people in Loudoun. I don't think the state of Virginia will be able to help us one bit."

Mr. Emerick told the Times-Mirror: "It is my considered opinion that both the white and colored children would profit more if taught separately than if together in the unfriendly atmosphere that

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I am sure would prevail."

"I am convinced that the colored peoples' educational advantages will be greater if they stay in their own schools—if these are good schools."

Mr. Emerick suggested to the somewhat reluctant board—that a public meeting be held to discuss: new additions to Arcola, Middleburg and Sterling elementary white schools; a new colored elementary school in Leesburg to replace Douglass elementary Negro and Ashburn, Waterford, Bull Run and Mountain Gap Negro schools; a new school for over 100 Loudoun Negro pupils of Oak Grove School, in Fairfax County to be located probably near Sterling, an addition to Douglass High School for Negroes in Leesburg with a gymnasium, cafeteria and one or two extra classrooms; an addition at Banneker (Negro) elementary, Middleburg, which "is terrifically overcrowded" which would include pupils from Willisville elementary school; a new school bus garage.

## Site For Douglass

No suggestions for a site for the new school to replace Leesburg's Douglass Elementary School were made, but it was said at the meeting of the board: "if we build a new elementary school for Negroes, it could later be used for mixed students."

Stated Mr. Emerick: "We have an obligation to provide more space."

If integration of public schools "comes in Virginia," children will attend school by districts in Loudoun, Mr. Emerick said. A new building is needed in Leesburg whether school pupils remain segregated or not.

Said School Board member E. F. Marshall, of the rapidly growing Broad Run District: "I think we are going to have to build something."

## PEPCO Might Help

The proposed \$100 million steam generating plant which may be built by PEPCO in Broad Run District "would be a little late to help with the money problem," Mr. Emerick said, as taxes could not be collected for three years.

To chairman of the board Douglas Myers, who thought "a public meeting would end up in an argument for or against an increase in taxes," Mr. Emerick said: "If we don't get a lot of support at (such a ) meeting, as far as I am concerned we are through."

Mr. Myers favored a petition for both white and colored county citizens on the subject of a bond issue for school building.

## Bond Issue Steps

In order to float bonds to raise money for schools, Circuit Court Judge Rayner V. Snead must be petitioned and the Board of Supervisors must before the issue is put to public vote. The School Board favored waiting until January to ask supervisors' approval from the new board—if such ap-

proval indeed is asked at all.

Additions to frame school buildings, such as those at Hami and Purcellville, cannot be b with state funds.

## Other Members' Views

Opinions of other school board members:

Miss Frieda Johnson, on integration: "It will come gradually, and I don't think it will be as bad as we think."

About a bond issue, Yeager Gum: The supervisors may favor an increase in taxes rather than a bond issue. Supervisors should be consulted as to means of raising money."

Douglas Myers: "I favor sales tax. Even if you float a bond issue it will show in your tax rate. In all honesty I do not favor a bond issue."

Concerning school building, and the need for it, Superintendent Emerick said enrollment in county schools has increased in 1,062 "not higher birthrate—more people moving in" from 1945-55. "Our new Loudoun High School would probably hold that number of people," he said. Enrollment at Loudoun County High School this year is 1,029—21 more than last year.

## Gains Largest this Year

Largest gain in pupils has been this year. Gains over ten years have been: high school white, 303; elementary white, 604; high school negro, 671; elementary negro, 84. "If we are going to have the same kind of thing happen in the next two years we are going to be in terrifically bad shape."

On a motion by Miss Johnson, seconded by Mr. Marshall, the board voted "to put this matter" on the agenda for the November meeting. The meeting will probably be held in the Courthouse, if the attendance of school patrons is large. The board meets at nine o'clock, Monday morning, November 14.

# School Board Completes Permanent Teacher Roster

New teachers will be appointed at Arcola and Carver elementary schools following School Board action this week.

The board voted to add Mrs. Vivian Cross halftime to the staff at Arcola to assist "certain teachers" under the direction of principal Weldon Reeves. Mrs. Cross is already employed at Arcola School as secretary.