

File Substantive  
Memorandum for Mrs. W. S. Francis

Within the past 11 years, which is the normal time for the completion of the work of all grades of the public school system, a good many changes have taken place in our schools.

Of 35 one-room schools 25 have been closed. These pupils have been hauled to nearby larger elementary schools.

Of 11 high schools 5 have been closed, counting Waterford and Lucketts, which are to be discontinued after the current school year. Other high schools discontinued are Middleburg, Hillsboro, and Unison-Bloomfield.

Courses in home economics have been added in 2 high schools and plans made for adding it in a third next year. Courses in commercial subjects have been added in 4 high schools, industrial arts in 2 with plans to add it in 2 more next year, and the current budget for next year provides for agriculture to be taught in 4 additional high schools.

In this period of 11 years the per cent of pupils promoted has increased from 64 ~~to~~ to 74 and the per cent of attendance has increased 9 per cent.

The revision and adjustment of the curriculum to meet the needs of individual pupils has been a constant problem of the teachers and supervisor and superintendent for the past 6 years.

The underlying principals with which we are attacking our school problems may be summed up as follows:

Children are being brought together in larger groups so that the county will ultimately have 4 to 6 high school centers and 15 to 20 elementary centers. It is our hope to be able to teach pupils more and more within the same grade on different levels,



giving even more work to those who can achieve more and less work to those who are less mentally alert. Then as pupils grow older we hope to provide a more diversified school program. College preparatory courses along classical or academic lines will be continued for those pupils who can profit by them. These are the prospective college people,- scholars and professionally trained people. Courses to train for useful occupations are to be provided for those who can not profit by the college course or who not have the natural bent for the more academic work. The hand will be ~~trained~~ more for certain types of pupils and we shall stop trying to do something for vast numbers of children that our past experiences have shown us we could not do- that is, train them for college.

The school should have something to offer every boy and every girl that he or she can do reasonably well.

In 1926-27 there were 593 pupils in the first grade in our schools and 11 years later 101 of these pupils graduated. The others failed. We are accepting this situation as a challenge and propose to do something about it. People do better work when they are performing work they can do- this applies to grown people and growing people alike. We are making progress in the right direction because in ~~1919-20~~ 1918-19 with almost the same number of pupils enrolled in white schools as now and with 11 high schools then we had ~~any~~ 11 boys and 22 girls enrolled in the fourth year high school as compared with 101 who graduated last spring.

There must be no lowering of the standard for those who can achieve the most.