

file petitions

Mr. Chairman, Superintendent Emerick, Members of the Loudoun County School Board:

We the Citizens Committee, have been appointed by the County-Wide League to, again, bring to your attention some of the many inconveniences now existing at the Douglass High School, and which has existed for a number of years.

The aim of any school is to provide the opportunity for the greatest possible development of the child as an individual and as a member of society. Fundamentally, the educational program results in improvement in opportunities, ideals, and general conduct of the learner and in their efforts to select and engage in some useful occupation with sufficient success to insure security and peace.

To accomplish these objectives, it is very essential that the school plant be adequate. The school plant in a great measure, determines the courses which are taught, the teaching materials which are used, the quality of the teachers who are employed, and the extent to which the general atmosphere of the school is conducive to learning.

We believe that you will agree with the above point of view. However, in 1948, and again in 1950 we brought to your attention many negative conditions which prohibited Douglass High School from satisfying this point of view. We have come to the point now where something must be done in the very near future, if this school is to retain its present rating of the State Board of Education.

This Committee has visited the school and found conditions very unsatisfactory. Some of these conditions are:

1. Two or more class activities being conducted daily in the auditorium; each conflicting with the other to the extent that total confusion results.

2. The Eighth grade homeroom adjacent to the shop is deplorable because of noise generated by saws, hammers, machines, etc. in industrial arts classes.

3. The Home Economics Department which has an objective of teaching home making consists of one classroom where cooking, sewing, theory, home budgeting, child care and development, and improving and beautifying the home are all taught.

4. Thirty pupils are trying to occupy space in the library that can adequately accomodate twelve.

5. The stage which serves as a regular classroom does not have proper lighting system, blackboards, proper ventilation or anything that lends itself to classroom atmosphere.

6. Space must be provided for an additional section in the tenth grade next term. This should be one room.

7. Space must be made available for at least too Foreign Language Classes for 1952-53.

8. Judging from the present enrollment at Douglass High School and the seventh grade enrollments in the county, there will be an increase in this enrollment at Douglass High School in 1952-53.

9. The commercial classroom contains only twelve typewriters. This room is also used for other classes.

10. There is a great shortage in equipment and supplies:

- a. Work tables and sewing machines for the Home Economics Department.
- b. Typewriters, desks, and chairs.
- c. Hot water system for Home Economics Department and showers, etc.
- d. Gas line for science laboratory and cooking.

There are other unsatisfactory conditions that we might mention, but the above are sufficient to point out to you that Douglass High School is desperate in need of additional classrooms.

We are not over-looking the imperative needs for a gymnasium, and a cafeteria, but it is a case of emergency that more classrooms be built.

The committee suggests that a minimum of six rooms be added to the Douglass High School in the immediate future.

We hope that you will give us the necessary improvement in the very near future.

The citizens Committee

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