

July 17, 1963

PAYMENT OF BILLS

The list of Bills as approved by the Finance Committee was presented as per attached sheets 3-A. On motion of Mrs. Jeffers, seconded by Mr. Harman, the bills listed were approved and the proper officers of the Board were authorized to sign checks in payment of these bills. Ayes Mrs. Jeffers, Messrs. Bickell, Harman, Hippel, Loesche, McGowin and Walther. Carried

ARDMORE AVENUE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA STUDY

At this time Superintendent Koopman and his staff presented a progress report on his study of possible changes in the Ardmore Avenue School attendance area and related changes. Four alternate plans were presented in the progress report as per attached sheets 4-A.

Each of the plans was described and the areas involved were defined on a school district map.

After the formal presentation, Superintendent Koopman and his staff replied to questions put forth by members of the Board of School Directors.

Following this President Hippel asked for comments from the audience of approximately 50 persons. Approximately 20 persons asked questions or made statements.

No action was taken on this question. Additional staff study was requested.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The report was read as per attached sheet 5-A.

RESIGNATIONS, RETIREMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS

On motion of Mr. Harman, seconded by Mr. Walther, the Board accepted the resignations and retirements, and approved the appointments listed on attached sheet 6-A as recommended by Superintendent Koopman. Ayes Mrs. Jeffers, Messrs. Bickell, Harman, Hippel, Loesche, McGowin and Walther. Carried

RECLASSIFICATION

In accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Morris, on motion of Mr. Harman, seconded by Mr. Walther, the Board reclassified Theodore A. Paul from general maintenance mechanic to the carpenter classification, effective July 1, 1963 and authorized an increment of \$200 in accordance with the new classification. Ayes Mrs. Jeffers, Messrs. Bickell, Harman, Hippel, Loesche, McGowin and Walther. Carried

SPECIAL INCREMENTS

On motion of Mr. Harman, seconded by Mr. Walther, the Board deferred action at this time on special increments for extraordinary service. Ayes unanimous. Carried

PLAN I - WYNNEWOOD ROAD AND ARDMORE AVENUE SCHOOLS

4A

\*K - 3 grade pupils from Wynnewood Road and Ardmore Avenue schools will be housed in Wynnewood Road School

\*4 - 6 grade pupils from both schools will be housed in the Ardmore Avenue School

Grade level	1963-64 Enrollment class sections in: Ardmore Avenue	1963-64 Enrollment class sections in Wynnewood Road	Combined Total	No. of Sections	
K	40 (2) <sup>6 w</sup> 34 e	44 (2)	84	(4)	2 teachers
1	33 (2) <sup>4 w</sup> 29 c	45 (2)	78	(3)	
2	38 (2) <sup>7 w</sup> 31 c	45 (2)	83	(3)	
3	38 (1½) <sup>5 w</sup> 33 c	55 (2)	93	(4)	
Sub Totals	149 <sup>22 w</sup> 127 c	189	338 <sup>211 w</sup> 127 c		Wynnewood Rd. School
4	31 (1½) <sup>4 w</sup> 27 c	45 (2)	76	(3)	
5	34 (1½) <sup>4 w</sup> 30 c	60 (2-3)	94	(4)	
6	30 (1½) <sup>7 w</sup> 23 c	50 (2)	80	(3)	
Special Class	18 (1) <sup>15 w</sup> 3 c		18	(1)	
Sub Totals	113 <sup>30 w</sup> 83 c	155	268 <sup>185 w</sup> 83 c		Ardmore Avenue School
Totals	262 <sup>52 w</sup> 210 c	344	606	25 (23 teachers)	

\* Reverse K to 3 grade pupils housed in Ardmore Avenue School - sufficient classrooms are available in each school

\* Reverse 4 to 6 grade pupils housed in Wynnewood Road School - sufficient classrooms are available in each school

( ) Numbers in parentheses refers to the probable number of sections per grade

PLAN II - ARDMORE AVENUE, WYNNEWOOD ROAD, BRYN MAWR, AND PENN WYNNE SCHOOLS

- A. Grades K - 3 of Ardmore Avenue School Special Education, Sheltered Workshop will remain at Ardmore Avenue School Annex
- B. Assign Ardmore Avenue Grades 4, 5, and 6 to the three schools as follows:

Grade	Wynnewood Rd. + E. side Simpson Road and east.	Bryn Mawr + All of Holland Avenue and west	Penn Wynne + W. side Simpson Rd. to Holland Avenue
4	$(2) 45 + \overset{3\text{ w}}{7\text{ c}} = 55\text{ (2)}$	$(3) 72 + \overset{0\text{ w}}{8\text{ c}} = 80\text{ (3)}$	$(3) 81 + \overset{1\text{ w}}{12\text{ c}} = 94\text{ (4)}$
5	$(2) 60 + \overset{2\text{ w}}{10\text{ c}} = 72\text{ (3)}$	$(2) 63 + \overset{0\text{ w}}{13\text{ c}} = 76\text{ (3)}$	$(3) 85 + \overset{2\text{ w}}{8\text{ c}} = 95\text{ (4)}$
6	$(2) 50 + \overset{1\text{ w}}{8\text{ c}} = 59\text{ (2)}$	$(3) 60 + \overset{1\text{ w}}{8\text{ c}} = 69\text{ (3)}$	$(3) 82 + \overset{5\text{ w}}{7\text{ c}} = 94\text{ (4)}$
Totals	$155 + \overset{6\text{ w}}{25\text{ c}} = 186$	$195 + \overset{1\text{ w}}{29\text{ c}} = 225$	$248 + \overset{8\text{ w}}{27\text{ c}} = 283$

Five additional sections needed in these three schools to which pupils in grades 4 - 5 - 6 from Ardmore Avenue are assigned. Five classroom teachers will be available from Ardmore Avenue staff.

( ) Numbers in parentheses represent the number of sections per grade.

4A

PLAN III - CLOSE ARDMORE AVENUE SCHOOL - ASSIGN ALL PUPILS FROM ARDMORE AVENUE AND THE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASS STUDENTS TO WYNNEWOOD ROAD, BRYN MAWR, AND PENN WYNNE SCHOOLS. SHELTERED WORKSHOP WOULD HAVE TO SEEK NEW QUARTERS

Grade	WYNNEWOOD ROAD	E. Sides of Lippincott Walnut Rittenhouse to Lancaster	BRYN MAWR	All of Holland Avenue and West	PENN WYNNE	E. of Holland to west side of Lippincott, Walnut, Rittenhouse to Lancaster
K	(1) 44 +	0 w 8 c = 52 (1)	(1½) 75 +	0 w 3 c = 78 (1½)	(2) 80 +	3 w 7 c = 90 (2)
1	(2) 45 +	1 w 7 c = 53 (2)	(2) 58 +	0 w 8 c = 66(2+3)	(3) 79 +	4 w 12 c = 95 (4)
2	(2) 45 +	1 w 11 c = 57 (2)	(2) 52 +	1 w 8 c = 61 (2)	(3) 80 +	5 w 12 c = 97 (4)
3	(2) 55 +	0 w 14 c = 69 (3)	(2) 50 +	0 w 12 c = 62 (2)	(3) 78 +	5 w 5 c = 88 (3)
4	(2) 45 +	3 w 12 c = 60 (2)	(3) 72 +	0 w 8 c = 80 (3)	(3) 81 +	1 w 7 c = 89 (4)
5	(2) 60 +	2 w 11 c = 73 (3)	(2) 63 +	0 w 13 c = 76 (3)	(3) 85 +	2 w 7 c = 94 (4)
6	(2) 50 +	1 w 10 c = 61 (2)	(3) 60 +	1 w 8 c = 69 (3)	(3) 82 +	5 w 5 c = 92 (4)
Totals	344 +	8 w 73 c = 425	430 +	2 w 60 c = 492	565 +	25 w 55 c = 645

Rooms could be made available for this plan, however, Penn Wynne would be under maximum pressure.

( ) Numbers in parentheses refers to the probable number of sections per grade.

PLAN IV - CLOSE ARDMORE AVENUE SCHOOL - DISTRIBUTE ALL ARDMORE AVENUE STUDENTS TO WYNNEWOOD ROAD AND BRYN MAWR, SPECIAL EDUCATION TO PENN WYNNE - WORKSHOP MUST SEEK NEW LOCATION

Grade	WYNNEWOOD ROAD	East of East Cricket	BRYN MAWR	West of Cricket
K	(1) 44 + 3 w 10 c = 57 (1-1½)		(1½) 75 + 0 w 8 c = 83 (2)	
1	(2) 45 + 3 w 10 c = 58 (2)		(2) 58 + 1 w 18 c = 77 (3)	
2	(2) 45 + 5 w 14 c = 64 (3)		(2) 52 + 2 w 17 c = 71 (3)	
3	(2) 55 + 1 w 17 c = 73 (3)		(2) 50 + 4 w 16 c = 70 (3)	
4	(2) 45 + 3 w 12 c = 60 (2)		(3) 72 + 1 w 15 c = 88 (4)	
5	(2) 60 + 4 w 12 c = 76 (3)		(2) 63 + 0 w 19 c = 82 (3)	
6	(2) 50 + 3 w 11 c = 64 (3)		(3) 60 + 3 w 11 c = 74 (3)	
Totals	344 + 22 w 86 c = 452		430 + 11 w 104 c = 545	

13+ teachers at Ardmore Avenue

( ) Numbers in parentheses refers to the probable number of sections per grade

There would not be sufficient rooms in either school to carry out this plan.

11A  
1234 Transportation Center  
Philadelphia 4, Pa.  
July 7, 1963

Mr. John F. E. Hippel  
President, School Board  
Lower Merion Township  
Ardmore, Pa.

Dear Mr. Hippel:

I wish to express my strenuous opposition to the proposal for transferring students from the Wynnewood Road School to the Ardmore Avenue School, as described in the Main Line Times of July 5.

I sympathize with the desire of the NAACP to change the pattern of racial predominance in classrooms; but it is entirely unreasonable to attain this by uprooting children from a school in their own neighborhood and transporting them daily by bus to a school far from home.

I regret to see the report that your Board is being subjected to "tremendous pressure" to obtain a solution that certainly would be unfair to a large group of children and householders caught in the middle of this social controversy. I feel certain that you will not be willing to give in to such "pressure". My wife and I plan to attend the next meeting of the Board to voice our support for any action you take to prevent the penalizing of one group of citizens for the sake of the aspirations of another group.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Shallit, Editor, The Pennsy

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Dear Mr. Hippel

As parents of four children who go to the Wynnewood Road School, my husband and I are deeply concerned about the article concerning the NAACP and the Ardmore Avenue School which appeared in the Main Line Times.

We are against segregation, but certainly do not feel that the Princeton plan as presented by the NAACP should stand.

I would not want two of my children to go to Wynnewood Road (which is within walking distance) and two to go to Ardmore Avenue. The inconvenience it would cause is minor compared to the insecurity this plan would bring to small children who all of a sudden must change schools.

Certainly there must be some other plan that would permit those children now in Wynnewood Road and within walking distance to continue there and at the same time end the segregation at Ardmore Avenue. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Philip) Enid Eidelson  
1522 Knox Road  
Wynnewood, Pa.

\* \* \* \* \*

Philip C. Thorogood, Jr.  
233 Marlboro Road.  
Ardmore, Pa.  
July 11, 1963

Gentlemen:

I am writing you to protest any action you may take to integrate the Wynnewood Road School with the Ardmore Ave. School, in compliance with the whims of the NAACP. As we all know, the reason for the Ardmore Ave. School being predominantly Negro, is the fact that it is in a Negro community, and for no other reason.

The NAACP are wrong in their protest, and it is up to you to tell them so.

I am White, and would much rather send my three daughters to the Penn Valley School, but would not be permitted to do so because I do not live in the district of the Penn Valley School.

Very truly yours,

Phillip C. Thorogood Jr.

July 11, 1963

Lower Merion School Board  
Lower Merion Twp., Montgomery Co., Pa.

Members of the School Board:

This is to register a vehement protest to any consideration of rearranging assignments to Lower Merion Schools. This does not imply resistance to the law of the land in resisting integration. However, when such a group as the NAACP attempts to impose their arrogant will on the people that pay the taxes to help educate the very members of the NAACP in such a way as to disrupt a satisfactory geographical assignment to schools, it is time we heavy taxpayers call upon you to put a halt to this nonsense. As a taxpayer, I ask that this nonsense of making children travel greater distances be ignored. To provide the busses alone to do this would farther increase an already tripled tax burden.

We who have contributed to the welfare of this community for many years must be sure that those who represent all the people do it wisely and equably and yield neither to pressure or threat from an organized minority. In closing, again I state that I am not against any human's rights but intend to protect mine.

Henry M. Stewart  
527 Sussex Rd.  
Wynnewood, Pa.

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April 11, 1963

To whom it may concern:

My wife and I bought our home on Wynnewood Road so our children could be close to a school and friends.

We have lived in this community a good many years and as a tax payer and etc.

I'll be darn if the NAACP or any party of any kind are going to tell me I have to send my children to another school, to accommodate their situation!

"A Wynnewood Rd. Resident"

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100 North Washington Ave.  
Ventnor, New Jersey  
July 15, 1963

Board of School Directors  
Lower Merion Township  
School Administration Building  
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

The question of the integration of the pupils of the Ardmore Avenue School requires grave consideration.

Certainly, where segregation is imposed, as in too many communities in our country, because of racial bigotry, integration is an immediate and just necessity.

But to integrate artificially, as, I understand, would be the case in respect to the pupils of the Ardmore Avenue School, would be patently to cater to the unwarranted inferiority complex of the members of the NAACP.

Take schools at random throughout the country, particularly in large cities. In many instances, the majority of pupils in a specific school will be found to be of one specific ethnic group -- be it Jewish-extraction American, Italian-extraction American, Spanish-extraction American, Polish-extraction American, Lithuanian-extraction American, Armenian-extraction American, etc., etc., etc. Would you have it that members of each of these ethnic groups become militant and ask that their children be forced away from the school in their neighborhood and be transported by hazardous bus to a school that is far away in order to satisfy graphs in the office of some statistician?

The safety of the pupils and the optimal advantages to be found in offering instruction to pupils in their own geographical area should be the dominant considerations in deciding about the pupils of the Ardmore Ave. School.

May I suggest that attention be paid to upgrading the physical plant of the Ardmore Avenue School and that, with Ardmore Avenue pupils, and with all pupils throughout the district, efforts be made to diminish rather than to increase the hazards of getting to and from school?

Yours sincerely,  
Catherine Kushner

721 Sussex Road  
Wynnewood, Pa.  
July 15, 1963

11A

Mr. John Hippel  
President, Board of School Directors  
Lower Merion School District  
Ardmore, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We do not feel that the voice of an adamant pressure group with regard to school policies should be heard alone. For this reason we are writing to express our opinion and to provide you with an excellent article from the Sunday New York Times of July 14, 1963.

The herding of students between two school districts in an attempt to correct social, economic, or racial problems is an expensive needless procedure that may have more far-reaching effects upon the community than simple racial equality. Furthermore the acceptance of percentages to establish theoretically optimum distributions will establish a precedent that may in the future provide grave political weapons for minority organizations. Acceptance of a ratio concept whether it is one color vs. another, one national or ethnic group against another, or whether it is for unions, businesses, schools, or political appointments is contrary to the principles that have governed our country as well as many others.

I (Dr. Lewis) have found in my visits to countries such as Puerto Rico, Panama, and Brazil, where there are no racial barriers, that the cities consist of communities of Italians, Spaniards, Portugese, French, Negro, Indian, and many other divisions that like to group together. I found no formula which picked out a specific color to say that it must be recognized, that law and order must be revised to suit this division.

To us this proposal of shifting students is a highly artificial attempt at social adjustment at the wrong place and time. The acceptance of all national backgrounds and colors in our communities requires a broader approach through communication and education. A more gradual process without sudden disruption will find greater acceptance than sudden major changes that antagonize even moderate groups.

For the reasons stated we both hereby express our opposition to the proposal to combine the grades at Ardmore Ave. and Wynnewood Road Schools. The newspaper item further reinforces our feelings with regard to this proposal.

Attachment: Newspaper Clipping

Sincerely yours,  
Elizabeth Lewis  
George C. Lewis Jr.

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647 Sussex Road  
Wynnewood, Pa.  
July 11, 1963

Lower Merion Township School Board  
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

This letter is written to express my strong opposition to a proposal reportedly made to you by a racial group regarding a student exchange plan between Wynnewood Road School and Ardmore Elementary. It is stated in the newspapers that the plan would possibly be effected through a so-called "Modified Princeton Plan". I am opposed to the aforementioned plan or any other plan which could result in a similar effect.

The so-called "de facto" segregation referred to in newspaper accounts is not racial but economic and also effects the children of other races attending the Ardmore School. Such economic segregation will continue to exist for so long as we are permitted the basic incentives of the free enterprise system.

Sincerely,  
Frank B. Stevenson

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530 Ballytore Road  
Wynnewood, Pa.  
July 12, 1963

President, Lower Merion Twp. School Board  
Ardmore, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We moved here from Pittsburgh two years ago and chose a house on Ballytore Road because of Wynnewood Rd. School. We felt it was an excellent neighborhood school that our children could walk to.



We are dismayed and discouraged to read of the efforts of the NAACP to change this. I think those Negro families should be grateful for the excellent schooling they are receiving. After all they attend Lower Merion one of the top ten high schools in the country.

Please do not destroy our neighborhood elementary school. Please don't bring Negroes in.

Sincerely yours,  
June S. Bourne  
(Mrs. Malcolm G. Bourne)

\* \* \* \* \*

July 15, 1963

To the Board of School Directors

Dear Sirs:

I have heard of the proposed plan (The Princeton Plan) the NAACP has suggested to the school board. I have bought my home near Wynnewood Road School the same as many other people, so our children would be close to home. I have been paying taxes in this town for 17 years. That's more than most of the colored people are doing.

I object to the Princeton Plan as a tax payer no one is going to tell me where to send my child to school. I have equal rights the same as any one else.

To shuttle children from one end of town to another in all kinds of bad weather just to please a handful of fanatics is the most stupid thing I have heard of.

Sincerely yours,  
Mr. L. LaPierre

\* \* \* \* \*

26 South Wyoming Ave.  
Ardmore, Pa.  
July 16, 1963

Mr. John F. E. Hippel, Chairman  
Lower Merion School Board  
Administration Building  
Montgomery Ave. and Church Road  
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Hippel:

As parents of four children living on Wyoming Avenue, three of whom were in Bryn Mawr School last year, my husband and I have long been deeply disturbed by what appeared to us as the obvious gerrymandering of the Ardmore Avenue School District.

We wish you to know that we are very glad that the NAACP has brought this matter into the open, in the fair, temperate, yet insistent report they presented two weeks ago; and we earnestly urge you to do all in your power to come to a solution, before September hopefully, which will be acceptable both to Ardmore Avenue parents and those of the surrounding schools.

Our great shame is that the white community of Lower Merion did not take action on this problem of our virtually segregated school before it was forced upon us, justly, by the Negro citizenry.

Yours very sincerely,  
Mrs. Pierson P. Harris, Jr.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Editor of the Main Line Times.