

VALLEY STREAM UFSD #13

DISTRICT
NEWS
LETTER

1955 - 1997

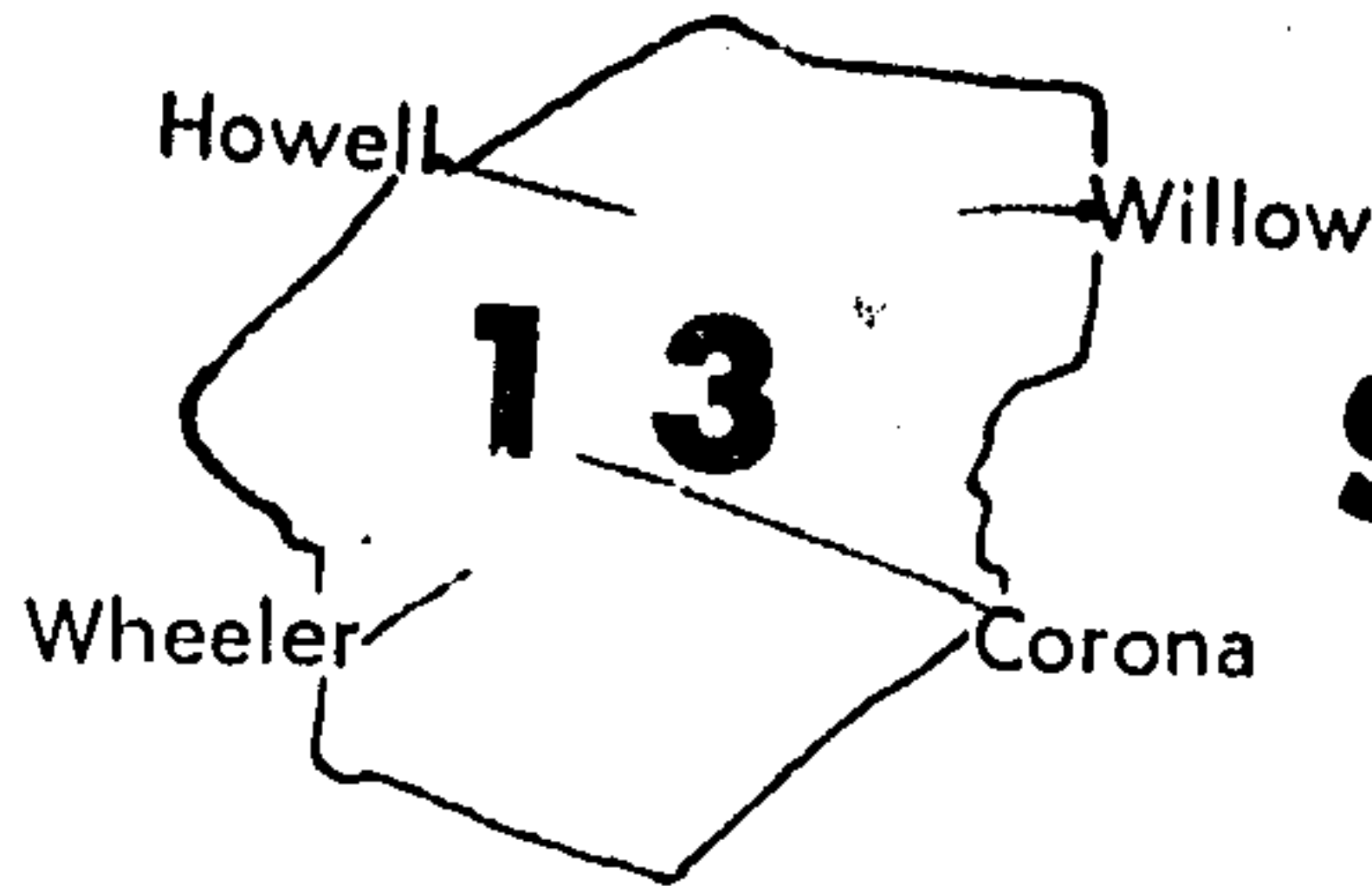
VALLEY STREAM UFSD #13

DISTRICT
NEWS
LETTER

1955

DISTRICT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



SCHOOL NEWS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

VOLUME III, NUMBER I

SEPTEMBER, 1955

DISTRICT TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL STATE AID

INTRODUCING: YOUR DISTRICT PRINCIPAL

Mr. James Dever, District Principal, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His family moved to New York when he was still a boy and he attended elementary school in Brooklyn. Another family move occurred before his education was completed and he attended high school in Peekskill, N. Y. After grad-



JAMES DEVER

uation he entered New Paltz State Teachers College. He graduated under a three year plan at the age of 19 and began his teaching career in Greenlawn, N. Y. From 1941 to 1943, he served as a lieutenant in the Army Air Force and upon discharge returned to New Paltz where he received his bachelor's degree. He then accepted a position in Shrub Oak, N. Y. where he taught for two years.

While teaching at Shrub Oak, Mr. Dever attended Teachers College, Columbia where he majored in Educational Administration. He was awarded a master's degree from Columbia in 1948.

(Continued on Page 2)

School District 13 will receive nearly \$45,000 of additional state aid this year. Over \$40,000 of this will come to the District under the so-called 10% law provided by legislative appropriation to assist districts having attendance increases more than 10% over the average of the preceding three years.

TAX RATE SET BELOW SPRING PREDICTION

A tax rate of \$4.55 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the school year 1955-56 has been set by the Board of Education.

This rate represents \$1.90 per hundred dollars for the cost of elementary schools in accordance with the budget approved on May 3rd. The rate compares with \$1.93 for the 1954-55 school year.

The remainder of \$2.65 per hundred is the district's share of the Central High School budget. This rate compares with \$1.74 for the 1954-55 school year, and accounts for the increase in the total levy.

SCHOOL TAX RATE

(Per \$100.00 of assessed valuation)

| | ELEM. | H. S. | TOTAL |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1955-56 | \$1.90 | \$2.65 | \$4.55 |
| 1954-55 | 1.93 | 1.74 | 3.67 |

The overall rate is much lower than the estimated \$4.81 announced earlier this year. This is due in part to an increase in the total assessed valuation of property within the district, and additional state aid. A substantial share reflects economies effected by the school board.

SCHOOL DOCTORS

The following school doctors were re-appointed for the 1955-56 school year:
 Dr. Zeiss — Corona Avenue School,
 Dr. Steine — Howell Road School,
 Dr. Jackson — Wheeler Avenue School,
 Dr. Ganz — Willow Road School.

Because of so qualifying the District is also eligible to compute supplemental aid of \$13.00 per pupil on last year's average attendance which accounts for the remainder of nearly \$5,000 of additional aid. The \$45,000 is in addition to the \$642,000 that will be received under the state education foundation program.

A vote of thanks is in order for the various community groups such as the Parent-Teacher Associations of the four schools in the district and the civic associations for their cooperation in achieving the high attendance necessary to qualify. The help of individual parents and teachers was also extremely important.

DISTRICT VALUATION IS UP

The assessed value of all property in District No. 13 for the school year 1955-56 is \$45,550,320.00, as certified by the Nassau County Board of Assessors.

This represents an increase of \$1,821,755 over the 1954-55 assessed value. New construction has been largely responsible for the rise.

**SCHOOL IS IN
SESSION
DRIVE
CAREFULLY!**

DISTRICT 13 SCHOOL NEWS*Official Publication of*

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13

*Address Communications to:*DR. JOSEPH GRIMES, JR., Editor
Corona Ave. School, Valley Stream, N. Y.*Board of Education*Paul R. Fromer, President
Richard Stimson, Vice President
Helen R. Bowers
Andrew J. Coppola
John Butler
Lillian Epstein
James F. Smollen, Jr.

Vol. III, No. 1 September, 1955

YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION'S FUNCTION

The school board is the public agency responsible for education in the local school district within the framework of state law. It is responsible for developing policies and for providing personnel and facilities according to the law and the educational needs of the school district.

Board members when assembled in a legally called meeting have considerable power and authority but a school board member by himself has no power or right to speak or act for the board. The board of education is held accountable to the

State Commissioner of Education through the District Superintendent.

Your Board of Education consists of seven members elected for three-year terms with two or three terms expiring each June 30. The regular monthly meeting is held on the fourth Monday of each month during which time is allotted for questions and statements from the public. All regular and special meetings are public except when the board is in executive session. The public is generally not invited to committee meetings. Executive sessions and committee meetings are used for study and discussion but official action is taken only at meetings open to the public.

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

Dear Drivers:

Today my daughter, who is six years old, started to school as usual—she wore a light blue dress, with a white collar—she had on white shoes and a new bracelet. Her dog, whose name is "Coot," sat on the front porch and whined his canine belief in the folly of education as she waved goodbye and started off to the hall of learning.

Tonight we talked about school. She told me about the girl who sits in front of her—the girl with the yellow curls—and the boy across the aisle who makes funny faces. She told me about her teacher, who has eyes in the back of her head and about the big tree on the playground. We talked about a lot of things—tremendously important things—and then we studied spelling, arithmetic, geography—and then to bed.

She's back there now—back in her room—sound asleep with "Mary Ann" (that's a doll) cuddled in her arm.

You guys wouldn't hurt her, would you? You see, I'm her daddy—when her doll is broken or her finger is cut or her head gets bumped, I can fix it. But when she starts to school—when she walks across the street—then she's in your hands.

She's a nice kid, she can run like a chipmunk. She likes to ride horses and swim and walk with me on Sunday afternoons.

But I can't be with her all the time. I have to work to pay for her clothes and her education.

So help me look out for her. Please drive slowly past the school and intersections and please remember that children run from behind parked cars.

Please watch out for my little girl.

EVERY DADDY

TRANSPORTATION PLANNED FOR SAFETY

Safety is the primary consideration in the operation of our school buses. Many safety measures are used to provide a simple workable plan for safeguarding school children from the time they leave home until they return.

The vehicle must conform to the New York State Public Service Commission regulations and is inspected at regular intervals. Before these busses are used for transportation of children to and from school, bus routes and bus stops must be established. In assigning bus stops, a representative of the school district staff inspects the area considering the following points:

1. Availability for such use.
2. Possibility of eliminating stops on main traffic arteries.
3. Safe loading and unloading.

The bus route is established so that children will not need to cross main traffic arteries to enter or leave the bus at any bus stop. For entering and leaving busses at the schools, special areas have been reserved to assure the maximum of safety.

All of the drivers used by District 13 have met the qualifications required by law and have also attended a training school for bus drivers sponsored by the New York State Department of Education.

Questions or complaints about school bus operations should be directed to the building principal. Complaints should be made promptly with accurate identification of the bus involved.

DISTRICT PRINCIPAL (Cont. from pg. 1)

Mr. Dever was appointed Supervising Principal in St. James, N. Y. in 1948 and served in that capacity until he assumed the principalship of Wheeler Avenue School in 1951.

Since coming to District 13, he has served as principal at Wheeler Avenue School for two years and as Assistant District Principal for two years. Upon Mr. Mummert's retirement, Mr. Dever was appointed District Principal. This series of promotions within the district is a definite tribute to his success and an indication of the respect which the Board of Education and the community have for him.

Mr. Dever is a member of many educational organizations at the local, state, and national level. While principal at Wheeler Avenue, the Parent Teachers Association presented him with an Honorary Life Membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. He is a member of the Valley Stream Rotary Club and presently actively engaged in a fund raising campaign sponsored by that organization. Mr. Dever is interested in the boy scout movement, and in the past played an active part in it. Golf is his favorite hobby and the Dodgers his favorite team.

He recently purchased a home in the Wheeler Avenue section of District 13 and his son, James, is attending the second grade at Wheeler. Mrs. Dever is also a graduate of New Paltz and taught school before moving to Valley Stream.

SEVENTEEN TEACHERS ADDED

Seventeen teachers have been added to the District Thirteen school staff bringing the total teaching staff to 196. The additional teachers are necessary to take care of the increase in enrollment.

These teachers are graduates of state teachers colleges, liberal arts schools and universities. All are fully certified by the State Department of Education. They range from beginning teachers to those with five years of experience in other systems. Many of them have masters' degrees.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN N. Y. STATE

The New York State education law requires a qualified teacher to be over eighteen years of age, possess a teacher's certificate and be a citizen of this country.

The Board of Regents has the responsibility of establishing the rules and regulations for teacher certification.

A person who desires to teach in New York State must obtain the proper certification or letter of eligibility from the State Department of Education before a contract may be granted by a Board of Education.

Academic Requirements for Elementary School Teachers

The candidate shall have completed an approved four year curriculum leading to the baccalaureate degree (or approved equivalent preparation) including 36 semester hours in appropriate professional courses, 12 of which shall have been in observation and supervised student practice teaching in elementary schools.

The holder of a permanent certificate shall during each successive ten-year period from date of issuance complete six semester hours in approved courses or the equivalent in approved professional activity other than classroom teaching such as membership in study groups for professional and cultural improvement, travel, educational research, authorship, operating critic and demonstration teaching, occupational experience, leadership in professional associations and leadership in appropriate community activities.

(Continued on Page 4)

Articles of clothing clearly identified are difficult to lose. Is your child's clothing marked?

? QUESTION BOX ?**Q. Who is responsible for this publication?**

A. District 13 School News is the official organ of the Board of Education. Communications concerning it should be addressed to: Dr. Joseph Grimes, Jr., Assistant District Principal, Corona Avenue School, Valley Stream, New York.

Q. What is the purpose of this publication?

A. Its purpose is to provide a medium of expression between the school system and the public. We will try to give facts and figures and worthwhile information through this publication and by other means. You can help make this a two-way communication by submitting questions or ideas as indicated above.

Q. Will each issue be mailed to every home in the district?

A. Every home in the district should receive the publication. If you know of anyone who does not, please have them contact Dr. Grimes.

Q. Where may I obtain information about school matters?

A. The principals of the various schools can give you complete and accurate information concerning the individual schools and will be glad to do so. Matters of a district nature may be clarified by calling the District Office at VA 5-8545.

REGULAR ATTENDANCE PAYS

It is important that your child be punctual in arriving at school and regular in his attendance. This will make it possible for him to be present for the introduction of new work and the sequential development of skills, and it will insure adequate instruction.

Regular attendance results in learning skills and pays in achievement.

It also pays in dollars and cents. Our schools are aided financially by the state, and the amount of money received from the State Education Department is based on the number of children who attend school. Every day a child is absent from school means a loss of state aid money.

Sometimes a child is unable to attend school. Sickness, family illness, quarantine, religious observance and remedial health treatment are all legal excuses. Illegal absences occur when a child remains away from school without just cause.

Very few children are kept out of school for illegal reasons. But some absences that are legal may be unnecessary. For example, it would be better not to keep a child home from school for a dental appointment if it could be scheduled before or after school hours. However, a child who is ill should not be sent to school, not only for his own sake, but for the sake of other children who might be exposed to the same disease. If sick children are sent to school to see the nurse, by the time they reach the nurse's office, they have probably infected many other children in their classroom, through the halls, and often in the school bus. This happens frequently when there is an epidemic of such mild diseases as chickenpox, or three-day measles. The nurses are always glad to assist parents whenever possible, but making a diagnosis requires a physician. When parents are in doubt, they should consult their family doctor.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

(Cont. from page 3)

Courses, studies and activities offered by teachers toward the satisfaction of the in-service study and training requirement shall be submitted to the State Education Department for approval prior to the beginning of such study or service.

Time Validity

The permanent certificate shall be valid continuously except when the holder thereof has not been regularly employed in a teaching, supervisory or administrative position in the public schools of New York State within a five-year period and has not satisfied the in-service study and training requirement prescribed in the above paragraph, in which case the validity of the certificate held by such person shall lapse.

Special Subject Teachers

The requirements for teachers of subjects such as music, art and physical education are similar to classroom teaching requirements; however 18 semester hours must be in professional courses and 36 hours in appropriate technical courses in the subject for which the certificate is to be issued.

**All District No. 13 Teachers
Are Properly Certified**

Because of the present shortage of classroom teachers, emergency certificates have been issued in many instances, but it has not been necessary to employ other than properly certified teachers in our system. All of our teachers are *properly certified*.

Notes . . .

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

AUGUST 22, 1955

- The Board of Education called a special meeting for August 29th to study census and enrollment projections.

* * * *

- Bids were considered and contracts awarded for special transportation.

* * * *

- The plans for the additions to our four schools have been approved by the Board and have gone out for bid.

* * * *

- Action was taken to provide a second access road to Howell Road School.

* * * *

- The 5th and 6th grades at Howell, Wheeler and Willow will be on part time in their own schools until the North High School is completed.

* * * *

- Meeting adjourned at 12:50 A.M.

CENSUS REVEALS INCREASE

Preliminary census figures based on the annual school census taken during the summer indicate a district population slightly over 23,000 people. Of this number approximately 11,000 are children from birth to 18 years of age. This represents an increase of about 500 children over last year.

STOP !!

It has become increasingly apparent that the lives of school children are being endangered by the failure of drivers to obey the New York State traffic regulations.

The safety of the children attending our schools is of utmost concern to us and every effort is being made to provide adequate protection for them.

Perhaps the most serious phase of this problem with the opening of school is the passing of stopped school buses by motor vehicles. We feel that many drivers, some of whom may be parents, commit this traffic violation because they are unaware of the State Law which specifically prohibits the passing of halted school buses by any vehicle. We hope that by clarifying this law for the parents, you may help others to understand it.

For your information, we quote from the "Handbook on New York State Education Law."

What is the law in New York State in relation to vehicles overtaking or meeting buses transporting children to or from school?

"A vehicle OVERTAKING or MEETING an omnibus, being used solely for the transportation of children to or from school, which has stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers, shall come to a complete stop, and remain stationary until such omnibus shall resume motion, or until signaled by the driver to proceed, providing such omnibus carries FLASHING RED SIGNAL LIGHTS and signs designating it as a school bus are displayed as required by law."

