

November 8, 1962

Below is a copy of the statement that the League intends to make at the School Board meeting, November 13. If you have any suggestions, please call Janet Westenhaver.

Another new development has occurred. The School Study Committee is to meet with the School Board members on Monday night, November 12, for the purpose of a mutual exchange of ideas. We hope that this will be a healthy and fruitful discussion and there will be a report made later.

School Study Committee

We of the League assure you of our very real concern for the education of the children of Decatur. It is because of our concern that we have asked for time this evening.

We feel that the need for junior high space in the Lakeview area is desperate. Besides providing for the needs of the Lakeview junior high students, the building in this area would relieve the crowding at Johns' Hill by accommodating the students from the Muffley area who are presently bussed to Johns' Hill.

With the addition of the fifth junior high building the existing four buildings would then be at or near their optimum capacities.

We feel that a reevaluation of the space needs at the elementary level in the Mound and South Shores areas is indicated.

Another referendum is legally possible sixty days following the October ninth vote. The League urges the Board of Education to consider submitting another proposal while the interest of the community is still active.

SPECIAL MEETING LWV BOARD MEMBERS
November 16, 1962

The Meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Bachrach at 9:30 A.M. with Mrs. Bachrach presiding.

Present: Mrs. Carr, Smith, Dahlmann, Reeder, Hurst, Fuller, Westenhaver, Verbanac, Meyerson; Mrs. Miller, Becker, Grimm of the School Study Workshop were also present.

Absent: Mrs. Tenney, Redford, Doubleday, Manuell.

On November 13, League representatives attended a meeting of the Board of Education and Mrs. Westenhaver read a prepared statement asking for a referendum as soon as legally possible (60 days) on a bond issue to build a junior high at Lakeview.

The meeting was called to consider the suggestion of Dr. Flaxman of the Board of Education that if the League could arouse community interest in its proposals, the Board of Education would be willing to consider them. He said the LWV could be the nucleus of a citizens' group which could start action on building proposals.

Mrs. Bachrach said such a citizens' group would have to be selected very carefully to insure sympathy with the League's position.

Mrs. Westenhaver raised the question whether the School Study Workshop is large enough to work on a "Know Your Schools" booklet, and work with a citizens' group for a school referendum at the same time. It was suggested that only one or two members of the workshop would be needed for a citizens' committee.

Mrs. Verbanac asked if we might not push too fast and risk failure of another referendum, and if it might not be wiser to wait until February of 1963 to push for another referendum. Mrs. Smith said there would be a Candidates' Meeting for the City Council in February. It was pointed out that there will be a School Board election in April and the League did not want the referendum to become a political issue.

if the number of candidates requires a primary election.

Mrs. Carr asked if a public meeting would be involved in the formation of the citizens' committee, but it was felt that a steering committee should be formed first and then a public meeting would be considered.

The question was raised whether League representatives on the citizens' committee could accept new ideas on the referendum and incorporate them in proposals to the School Board, after League consensus had been taken on the Workshop's original recommendation. Mrs. Hurst said any new ideas would have to be taken up with League membership again. Mrs. Reeder said this was, basically, a question about whether the citizens' committee would be a political action group, or a study group that might become bogged down indefinitely in further study of school needs. She suggested that the citizens' committee be a political action committee for one junior high at Lakeview.

Mrs. Hurst suggested that the purpose of the committee be defined as follows: "To get the Board of Education to put up a vote for one junior high at Lakeview".

There was a suggestion that the bond issue and the tax rate increase be separated in any future referendum, with the bond issue first.

Mrs. Bachrach said, in answer to a question from Mrs. Fuller, that there is a complete junior high teaching staff at Lakeview at the present time.

Mrs. Westenhover asked how expenses of the citizens' committee should be met (postage, etc.). It was agreed that the LWV would support the committee financially from the ^{action in the} Community Fund.

A discussion of possible members of the steering committee followed. It was agreed that members should not represent organizations, since this might necessitate taking the proposal to their membership before action could be taken, but should be influential members of our community.

The following organizations were suggested as representing a cross-section of the community: the newspaper, Association of Commerce, Downtown Decatur Council, banks, AFL-CIO education committee, AAUW education committee, Bar Association, PTA Council, Staleys, TV stations, hospital auxiliaries.

The following members of the above named organizations were suggested for initial contact by letter: E. Lindsay, Henry Bolz, ^{Reike} Ralph Kraabel, Mr. Burstein, Everett Wilson, Clyde Betts, Dwight Nelson, Miss Milnes, Bob Winters, Mrs. Himes, Jim Beaumont, Bob King, Mrs. Shroeder, Mrs. Kinsey, Bill Record.

It was agreed that Mr. Katauski of the Board of Education and Mr. Beggs, Principal of the present Lakeview Junior-Senior High School, would not be asked to serve on the steering committee, but would be used as consultants.

A meeting of the steering committee will be held at the Association of Commerce at the end of November, if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Meyerson

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR LWV BOARD MEETING
Association of Commerce
November 30, 1962
1:00 P.M.

Minutes of October and special meeting
Treasurer's Report
Report of School Study Workshop
Plans for December 5 meeting
Report of City Manager Workshop
Discussion of recommendations for state CA
Plans for January 30 meeting - selection of speaker
Other business

LWV BOARD MEETING
Decatur, Illinois
November 29, 1962

The meeting was held in the Board Room at the Association of Commerce at 1:00 P.M. with Mrs. Bachrach presiding.

Present: Mrs. Manuell, Carr, Redford, Smith, Doubleday, Hurst, Reeder, Tenney, Dahlmann, Meyerson.

Absent: Mrs. Verbanac, Fuller, Westenhaver.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 30, 1962, meeting were approved with the following corrections:

Page 1, paragraph 10, last sentence on page, change "Mrs. Tenney said she had learned something about the way in which reporters work and would not be so trusting in the future", to "Mrs. Tenney said she felt responsible for the early publicity, and would in the future realize it's not always possible for the newspaper to keep information in confidence."

Page 2, paragraph 2, beginning of paragraph, change "The School Board had told the workshop committee" to "A member of the School Board had told our president".

Page 2, paragraph 2, 4th line, change "Mrs. Doubleday moved" to "Mrs. Doubleday suggested".

Page 2, paragraph 3, referring to the meeting at Skokie, add to paragraph, "Other leagues had found it was best to separate a bond issue vote from a tax rate increase vote, since one defeats the other. On the basis of this, our League would be justified in recommending a bond issue referendum soon."

The minutes of the Special Meeting on November 16, 1962, were approved with the following corrections:

Page 1, paragraph 8, line 4, change "a Candidates' Meeting for the City Council in February." to "a Candidates' Meeting for the City Council in February, if the number of candidates requires a primary election."

Page 2, paragraph 4, line 3, change "Community Fund." to "Action in the Community Fund."

Page 2, paragraph 7, line 2, change "Ralph Kraabel" to "Rolfe Kraabel".

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Carr reported COH as of October 20, 1962, was \$1,384.15; receipts of \$48.80; expenditures of \$77.24, leaving COH as of November 29, 1962, of \$1,354.91. There is \$1,013.75 in the savings account, giving a total of \$2,373.66.

Mrs. Carr said she had sent a description of our bookkeeping system to the State League office at their request, and had received forms for a standardized bookkeeping system.

Information on a new pledge formula was also received from State.

Finance Drive: Total is \$1,244 to date.

School Study: Mrs. Bachrach said WSOY was interested in having a statement from the School Study Workshop on their present plans to form a Citizen's Committee for another referendum. Since letters have been sent to prospective members of the committee, including some in the news media, it was agreed that the following statement be used at the present in answer to further requests for information: "The League of Women Voters is hoping to form a citizens' committee to arouse public interest in getting a new junior high in the Lakeview area. Our study has shown this need is immediate."

State Agenda - 1963-64: Mrs. Redford suggested that the telephone committee remind members of the December 5 meeting to consider recommendations for state study items, since the December Bulletin would be sent after the meeting. The Bulletin will include a report of the meeting.

City-Manager Workshop: Mrs. Hurst reported that, following the meeting with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Anthony on November 29, the workshop would meet with Mayor Grohne and members of the City Council on the legislative aspects of city-manager government on December 13, and will attend a meeting of the City Council on December 3.

Interviews with Representatives: Mrs. Bachrach said she had requested that another league be given the assignment from State of interviewing Rep. Springer, since the Decatur League had talked with him as recently as March of 1962. It was felt that the interview with Mr. Alsup should be open to all members and could be held the second week in January, if Mr. Alsup finds that time convenient.

Macon County Booklet: Mrs. Redford reported that 826 copies of the booklet have been sold, and there are 690 on hand. She said she had talked to Mr. Gore about additional purchases of the booklet by the public schools for social studies classes and asked what price she should quote if he should be interested. Changes must be made at the present in the material on probate judges and further changes will be necessary in the future when the judicial amendment takes effect. Mrs. Doubleday made a motion that we accept 20¢, or above, as a new price for the booklet when sold to schools. Mrs. Carr seconded the motion and it PASSED. Mrs. Redford said she will contact the parochial schools and quote the same price received from the public schools. She asked if there should be a lower price for members now and Mrs. Doubleday moved that the price be 25¢. Mrs. Carr seconded the motion and it PASSED. Mrs. Smith suggested that if any copies be given away, they go to the Welcome Wagon hostesses for new residents of the city.

Speaker for January Meeting: After a number of suggestions were made, it was agreed that Mr. Black~~ie~~^{ie} of the Caterpillar Tractor Company be asked to speak. Mr. Black~~ie~~^{ie} had taken part in the International Trade Conference at Millikin University in June, 1962. If he is not available

at this time, the University of Illinois' speaker's bureau will be contacted.

Mrs. Dahlmann reported on her survey of possible meeting places for the meeting, and, after discussion, Mrs. Doubleday moved that we reserve the Student Union at Millikin University for the meeting. Mrs. Carr seconded the motion and it PASSED.

Membership: Mrs. Hurst reported a new member, Mrs. George F. Limerick, and a reinstated member, Anne Hildebrand.

City Council Election: Mrs. Bachrach said Mr. J. D. Coleman of Station WDZ was pleased with the League's interviews with the candidates in the November election, and had asked that we help with similar interviews in future elections.

Letters-to-the-Editor: Mrs. Hurst made a motion that our League talk with the Herald and Review to suggest that they correct misstatements of fact in letters appearing in their "Letters to the Editor" section, in the form of appended "Editor's Notes." Mrs. Dahlmann seconded the motion and it PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Meyerson