

Partial
Comprehensive Plan
for
Reorganization
of
Porter County Schools

September 1968

PORTER COUNTY SCHOOL
REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

G. Warren Phillips, Superintendent of Valparaiso Community Schools
Valparaiso, Indiana

SECRETARY:

Elizabeth Copp, School Board Member, Westchester Township
North River Drive, Porter, Indiana

TREASURER:

Charles McMurtry, Superintendent of Porter County Schools
Valparaiso, Indiana

OTHER MEMBERS:

Joseph S. Gowland, Representative U. S. Treasury Department
R. R. 3, Valparaiso, Indiana

George Kosier, Industrial Executive
Wheeler, Indiana

Harold Esserman, Trustee Liberty Township
R. R. 1, Chesterton, Indiana

Franklin Petry, Attorney at Law
Hebron, Indiana

Mrs. Elmer Werner, Housewife
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PREFACE

It is now more than nine years since the School Corporation Reorganization Act was passed by the Indiana Legislature. The General Assemblies have passed amendments tending to strengthen and broaden the original act of 1959. Although there has been much discussion and publicity on this law, there still seems to exist, much confusion in its interpretation. Following are some of the most frequently asked questions with the answers to them according to the study and understanding of the Committee.

I. WHAT IS THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE LAW? (As stated in the Law) — Section 1, Acts 1959, Chapter 202):

The establishment and maintenance of a general, uniform and efficient system of public schools is the traditional and current policy of the State of Indiana; improvement in the organization of school corporations of the state will provide a more equalized educational opportunity for public school pupils, will achieve greater equity in school tax rates among the inhabitants of the various now existing school corporations, and will provide a more effective use of the public funds expended for the support of the public school system.

II. WHO SUPPORTED THE SCHOOL CORPORATION LAW?

The Indiana Farm Bureau
The AFL-CIO
Indiana State Chamber of Commerce
Indiana School Board Association
League of Women Voters
Indiana State Teachers' Association
Indiana Congress of PTA
American Association of University Women
Indiana School Superintendents' Association
Indiana Classroom Teachers' Association
Both major political parties have endorsed the principle of the law in their platforms of recent years.

III. JUST WHAT IS THE COUNTY COMMITTEE REQUIRED TO DO?

The County Committee is required to study the present school set-up within the county, and is directed to then prepare a plan for the most efficient and economical administration of schools within the county based on the minimum standards established by the State Commission. The committee can recommend a single school corporation; or several new corporations, if these corporations, meet the minimum standards.

IV. WHO SETS THE MINIMUM STANDARDS?

This is a duty of the State Commission as prescribed by law.

V. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION?

The Policies set forth by the Commission are:

1. Any county reorganization plan must first have the approval of the county committee before it will be approved by the State Commission.
2. Each proposed reorganized school corporation must meet the following minimums for pupil population and wealth:
 - a. A total of 1,000 resident average daily attendance, grades 1-12, of all the schools of the corporation combined.
 - b. Not less than \$5,000 adjusted assessed valuation per resident pupil in average daily attendance. NOTE: The above minimum standards shall be in effect unless the county committee has received a written order from the State School Reorganization Commission stating that for a specified geographical area in the county meeting such standards are not FEASIBLE.
3. County plans must include all of the area within the county. Such plans may provide for one or more school corporations but, the entire county must be considered in the proposal.
4. Each proposed reorganized school corporation must provide an efficient and adequate educational program for all of the pupils in grades 1-12.

VI. WHAT MUST THE STATE COMMISSION DO BEFORE IT CAN APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE A COUNTY PLAN SUBMITTED TO IT?

The Commission must hold a public hearing in the county within 90 days after it receives the plan from the county committee. At the public hearing, residents of the county must be permitted to appear and express their opinions about the reorganization plan.

VII. DO LOCAL CITIZENS AND OFFICIALS NOT ON THE COUNTY COMMITTEE HAVE A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS BEFORE THEY ARE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE COMMISSION?

Yes, The county committee is required to hold one or more public hearings in the county. Notice of the hearings must be published in advance and the hearings must be open to the public. The reorganization plan submitted herewith is a PRELIMINARY plan which will be discussed at these meetings. Local residents will be given the opportunity to make suggestions.

VIII. WHAT ACTION DOES THE COUNTY COMMITTEE TAKE AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARINGS?

The law requires the committee to consider suggestions made at the hearings and gives the committee the authority to make revisions or modifications in the plan which it deems necessary. After these changes, the committee must adopt a final reorganization plan.

IX. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PLAN AFTER IT IS ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COMMITTEE?

Within ten days after the plan is finally adopted by the county committee, it must send three copies to the State Commission for the Reorganization of School Corporations for review.

X. CAN A REORGANIZATION PLAN BE FORCED ON A COUNTY AGAINST THE DESIRES OF THE RESIDENTS?

A plan cannot go into effect until it is approved by the majority of the voters in the proposed district.

XI. WHO BECOMES THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE REORGANIZED SCHOOL CORPORATION?

The school board selected according to the provisions of the final plan.

XII. CAN THE COUNTY COMMITTEE INSTRUCT THE SCHOOL BOARDS ON HOW TO OPERATE THE SCHOOLS WHEN AND IF REORGANIZATION TAKES PLACE?

No. When the Reorganized Corporation comes into being, the County Committee's function is completed.

XIII. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE THE PROPOSED SCHOOL PLAN?

The County Committee has two choices:

1. It may ask the judge of the circuit court to resubmit the same plan at a special election within 6 months, or in conjunction with a primary or general election if within 6 months.
2. It may, within 6 months, submit a new plan for School Corporation Reorganization to the State Commission. (The new plan would have to go through the same preliminary steps as the original plan.)

**EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES OF THE
DUNELAND SCHOOL CORPORATION
REORGANIZATION PLAN**

The proposed Duneland School Corporation will have sufficient enrollment and adequate tax base to make possible a more comprehensive school program, designed to meet the educational needs of ALL the youth in the newly formed school district.

Definite educational advantages can be realized in the following areas:

Expanded curriculum in academic and fine arts subjects.

Improved vocational and job training programs.

Improved commercial programs.

Better utilization of teaching talents and increased attraction to future teaching personnel.

Better curriculum coordination.

Better opportunities for kindergartens.

Better opportunities for Special Services:

- (a) Special Programs for developing reading skills.
- (b) Special Education for mentally handicapped.
- (c) Speech and Hearing Therapy.
- (d) Psychological Services.

More extensive guidance program.

Development or expansion of summer school program.

Development or expansion of adult education program.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE DUNELAND SCHOOL CORPORATION

1. The name of this school district shall be the Duneland School Corporation.
2. The Duneland School Corporation shall be composed of the present Jackson School Township of Porter County, Indiana; the present Liberty School Township of Porter County, Indiana; and the present Westchester School Corporation of Porter County, Indiana as now constituted.
3. Adjustments of Properties:
 - A. All properties and assets of each of the present school units shall be transferred to and become the property and assets of the newly created Duneland School Corporation.
 - B. All indebtedness, liabilities and obligations of each present school unit within the district shall become the liabilities of the newly created Duneland School Corporation.
4. School Board
 - A. School Board shall consist of five members elected at the Primary Election at which county officials are nominated or elected.
 - B. Said Duneland School Corporation shall be divided into "School Board Member Districts" comprised as follows:
 - a. School Board Member District No. 1 shall consist of Westchester Township School Corporation as presently constituted.
 2. School Board Member District No. 2 shall consist of Jackson School Township.
 3. School Board Member District No. 3 shall consist of Liberty School Township.
 - C. There shall be one member from each School Board Member District on said School Board, and two members chosen at large from said district as a whole. All Board Members shall be elected by the legal voters of the district as a whole.
 - D. A candidate for School Board Membership shall be a registered voter in the Board Member District and shall have had residence in said School District for not less than two (2) years. Change of residence from one Board Member District to another within said district shall not bar an elected member from completing a current term to which he has been elected. The Members-at-large shall be registered voters in said school district as a whole and shall have resided therein for a period of not less than two (2) years.
- E. The candidates for Members-at-large receiving the highest number of votes in said school district shall be deemed elected to that office. The candidate in each Board Member District receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected to that office.
- F. Officers of said School Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary to be elected by said Board at their first meeting after election and annually thereafter at the first meeting in July.
- G. At the first School Board election following the creation of the Duneland School Corporation, the three (3) elected members receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of four (4) years. The two (2) other elected members shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. Thereafter all school board members shall be elected for four (4) year terms. All board members shall take office and assume their duties on the first day of July after their election. Board members shall receive Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per year for their services.
- H. The First or Interim Board shall be made up of the five trustees of the Westchester Township School Corporation, the Township Trustee of the Liberty Township Corporation, and the Township Trustee of the Jackson Township School Corporation each of whom shall serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Such interim board members shall serve without pay.
- I. Following the publication of each Federal Decennial Census, the School Board shall make a study of its structure and may recommend changes or modifications. Such recommended changes shall be submitted to a vote of the electorate at the next primary election and shall be adopted or rejected by the majority of the votes cast at the election.
- J. Said School Board shall have the powers and duties now conferred by law on School Boards of cities of the Fourth Class.

**TABLE 1-COMPARATIVE DATA FOR THE
PROPOSED DUNELAND COMMUNITY
SCHOOL CORPORATION**

Name of Existing Corporations Included in the Proposed Corporation	Assessed Valuation 1967 for Taxes Payable in 1968	Number of Resident Pupils -- Grades 1 through 12, October 31, 1967 A.D.A.	Assessed Valuation Per Resident Pupil in Average Daily Attendance
Jackson Township	2,970,400	339	8,762
Liberty Township	4,511,050	781	5,776
Westchester Township	83,107,630	3297	25,207
Total or Average	90,589,080	4417	20,509

**TABLE 2-CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR
PORTER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATIONS
1967 - 1968**

School Corporation	Current Expenditures Per Pupil A.D.A. Grades 1-12
Jackson Township	600.59
Liberty Township	566.14
Westchester Township	753.70

TABLE 3-SCHOOL TAX RATES FOR PORTER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION 1968

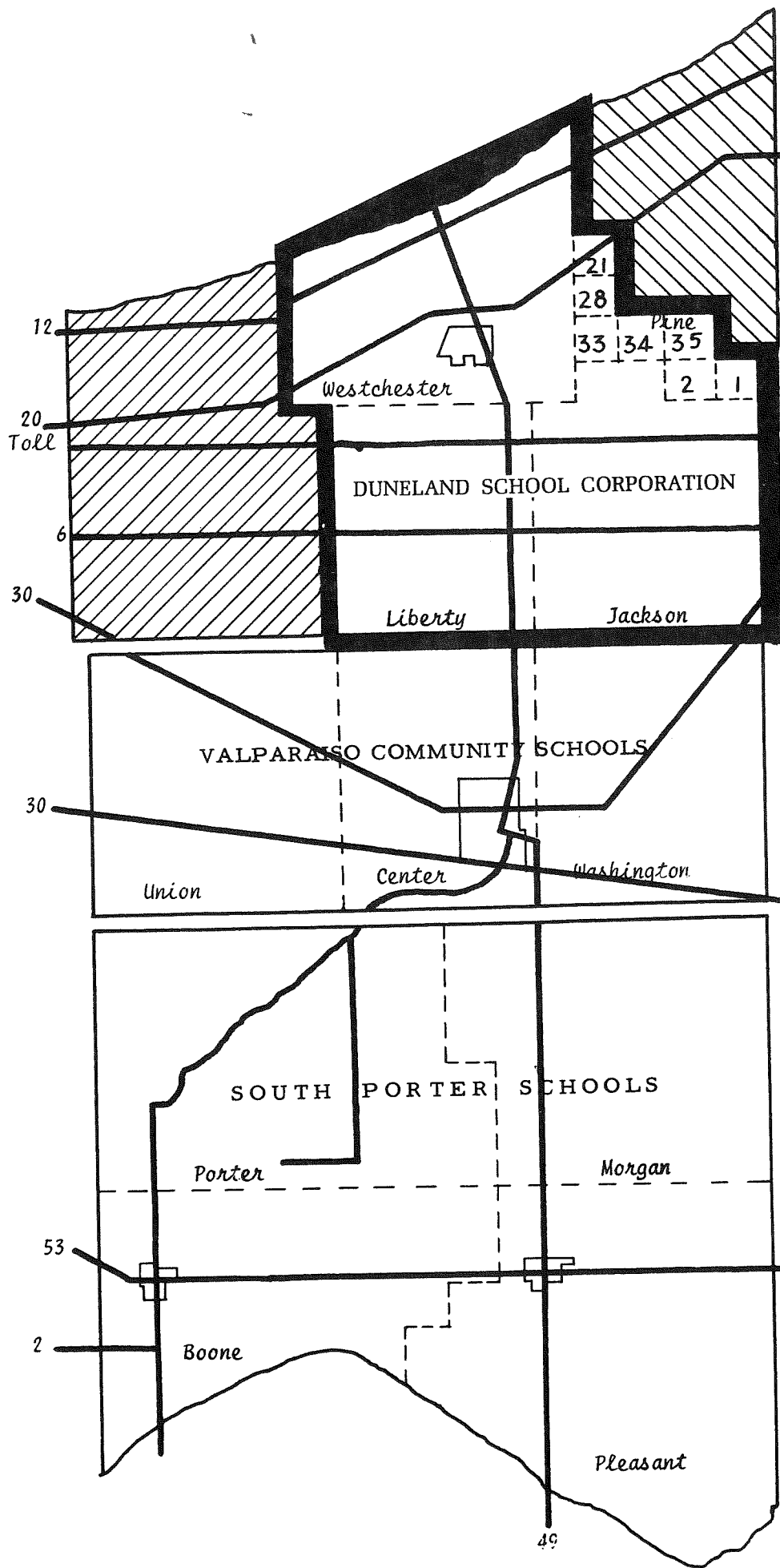
School Corporation	General	Debt Service	Cumulative	Civil Township Bond	Total
Jackson Township	4.46	-- --	1.25	.04	5.75
Liberty Township	5.90	1.00	.25	.14	7.29
Westchester Township	3.05	.06	1.25	-- --	4.36

TABLE 4-INDEBTEDNESS OF PORTER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATIONS 1968

School Corporation	School Bonds	Civil Township Bonds	Lease Rental	Vet. Memorial	Total Indebtedness	Resident Pupils ADA 1967-68	Indebtedness Per Pupil
Jackson Township	9,000	1,000	-- --	-- --	10,000	339	29
Liberty Township	4,000	4,000	765,000	-- --	773,000	781	990
Westchester Township	-- --	-- --	3,420,000	55,685	3,475,685	3,297	1,054
	13,000	5,000	4,185,000	55,685	4,258,685	4,417	964

TABLE 5-COMPARATIVE DATA FOR THE PROPOSED
PORTER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Name of Existing Corporations Included in Proposed Corporation	Tax Rate Current Operation 1967 Payable 1968	Amount to be Collected for Operation 1968	Tax Rate for Debt Service	Amount to be Collected 1968	Tax Rate for Civil Township Bonds	Amount to be Collected 1968	Total Tax Rate Excluding Cumulative Bldg. Fund	Total to be Collected for Schools in 1968
Jackson Township	4.46	132,480	— —	— —	.04	1,188	4.50	133,668
Liberty Township	5.90	266,152	1.00	45,110	.14	6,315	7.04	317,577
Westchester Township	3.05	2,534,782	.06	49,865	— —	— —	3.11	2,584,647
Total	3.24	2,933,414	.11	94,975	— —	— —	3.35	3,035,892



Duneland School Corporation
 Jackson Twp.
 Liberty Twp.
 Westchester Twp.

Valparaiso Community Schools
 Union Twp.
 Center Twp.
 Washington Twp.

South Porter Schools
 Porter Twp.
 Morgan Twp.
 Boone Twp.
 Pleasant Twp.