

OUR SCHOOLS

Eastchester

Districts #1 and #2

HUNTLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Prepared as a public service by
The League of Women Voters of Eastchester

Our Schools Eastchester Districts #1 and #2

This booklet has been prepared and published by the League of Women Voters of Eastchester as a service to the community.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization, dedicated to the principles of self-government. It seeks to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. It studies national, state and local issues.

In April, 1968, a local study item was adopted entitled, "Survey of Eastchester Union Free School Districts #1 and #2." The members of the workshop followed a standard fact-finding guide developed by the National League of Women Voters. Facts were gathered from sources which included personal interviews, research in the New York State Education Law and in other publications listed in the bibliography.

The decision to publish this information was based on the League's continuing interest in providing factual data to the citizens of the community.

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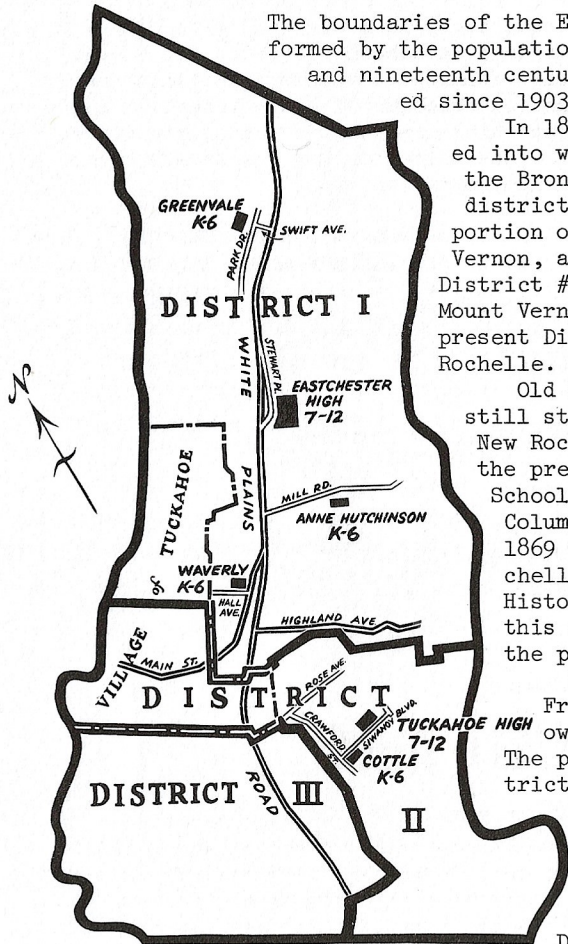
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History of Eastchester Districts

MAP OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS
IN EASTCHESTER



The boundaries of the Eastchester school districts, formed by the population trends of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, have remained unchanged since 1903.

In 1812, when Eastchester extended into what is now Mount Vernon and the Bronx, there were three school districts. One district included a portion of the Bronx and lower Mount Vernon, another included the present District #2 plus Bronxville and upper Mount Vernon, and the third was the present District #1 plus part of New Rochelle.

Old Eastchester schools are still standing in the Bronx and New Rochelle. All that remains in the present town is the Marble School built in 1835 on North Columbus Avenue and moved in 1869 to California and New Rochelle Roads. The Eastchester Historical Society is restoring this school and it is open to the public by appointment.

District #1 became a Union Free School District with its own superintendent in 1937.

The present boundaries of District #2 were established after Mount Vernon became a city in 1892 and Bronxville formed its own district in 1903. District #2 became a Union Free School District in 1934.

Except for density areas such as the Villages of Bronxville and Tuckahoe and other isolated spots, population was sparse in town in the early years of this century. Bronxville Manor was subdivided in 1927. The population jump in District #1 took place largely after World War II. Although the Interlaken apartments were started in 1939 and later expanded, those on Garth Road continued to be built in the 1950's and 1960's. Private areas were also subdivided during that period.

State and Local Relationship

The New York State Constitution places responsibility for "the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools" in the Legislature. It provides for a Department of Education headed by a Board of Regents that is empowered to appoint a Commissioner of Education to administer the department.

The Legislature fulfills its responsibility by electing the Board of Regents and by passing laws that control local districts. These may be amended, repealed, or new laws enacted at any legislative session. The Constitution, on the other hand, may be changed only by the voters.

The Education Department supervises, advises, and inspects schools, providing leadership when needed or requested. Mandated and minimum requirements for schools are outlined in the laws, and in the Rules of the Regents and the Regulations of the Commissioner implementing the laws. All public school districts in New York exceed the minimum requirements in varying degrees.

Numerous reports, including an annual census of all school age residents, are required by the State. State auditors review a district's financial records periodically.

The law provides for several types of school district organization. Districts #1 and #2 are Independent Union Free School Districts (UFSD) sometimes called Village Superintendencies. Such a district has a citizen population of at least 4,500, may give both elementary and secondary school instruction, and may employ its own superintendent.

Appeals from decisions of a local Board of Education may be taken either to the courts or the Commissioner. All decisions of the Commissioner are final unless appealed to the courts on the grounds that the decision is arbitrary or capricious.

Board of Education

The law requires a Union Free School District to have an elected board of from three to nine members for terms of three or five years. District #1 has nine members; District #2, five members. Both districts have three year terms. School board members, also called school trustees, are unsalaried and the number of terms a person may serve is unlimited.

Basic powers, duties and procedures of a board are established by law. These encompass establishing policies and rules of procedure for the board and the district, contracting for services, adopting curricula, employing and negotiating with staff, and preparing an annual budget. Within the law, a board may adopt any by-laws and rules it may consider necessary for the district.

To carry out its responsibility to both the State and the district, the Board meets as a corporate body at agreed times. Decisions are made by a majority vote at a meeting open to the public and recorded in minutes available to the public for inspection.

Community Relations

In District #1 the Board of Education publishes a Newletter several times a year, mailing it to all residents. In District #2 the Board publishes a Report to the Community three times a year which is mailed to all residents. District #2 also distributes a Newsletter bi-monthly via its school pupils.

Both districts use the daily and weekly Westchester newspapers and the local Eastchester Record for news coverage. The Eastchester Record, as the official newspaper for both districts, publishes all legal notices.

In both districts citizens volunteer for a wide range of activities in the schools. In District #1 PTA's function in each elementary school and a Home School Association is the Jr.-Sr. High School organization. In District #2 one PTA serves both schools. There is also a BOCES parent organization.

Both School Boards have sought the advice of Citizen Advisory Committees at various times.

Scheduled open board meetings in both districts provide time for citizens to address the Board.

School Elections

Legal notices of all elections must be published in an official newspaper designated by the Board. The Eastchester Record is the official paper for both districts.

Annual School District Elections: Procedures are specified by law. Candidates for the school board and the proposed budget for the coming year are on the ballot. Specific propositions may also be on the ballot. Voting in both districts is by machines.

Special School Elections: The law provides that special elections on one or more propositions may be called by a vote of the board or by petitions signed by qualified voters. A proposition may also be placed on the annual election ballot by the same method.

Qualifications of voters: A voter must be a citizen of the United States, 21 years of age (18 if the proposed constitutional amendment is approved, November, 1971), and a resident of the district for 30 days preceding the election.

Registration: Citizens in both districts must register to vote. A Board of Registry, appointed by the School Board, meets for this purpose prior to each election. It also registers citizens at the time of the annual election for the next year.

In District #1, a citizen remains registered providing he votes in each annual election. Failure to vote in any given year requires re-registration for the following year's election.

The School Board in District #2 has adopted a policy, permitted under law, whereby a citizen, once registered, remains registered providing he has voted during the preceding two years.

Nomination of Candidates: Any qualified voter of the district may be a candidate for school trustee. Presentation of a petition signed by 25 qualified voters and filed with the clerk of the board not later than 14 days before the annual school election places a name on the ballot. Such a petition must state the position on the board the candidate wishes to fill.

With the objective of seeking out, interviewing and endorsing good candidates, both districts have representative citizens' committees. Such committees have no legal status. They exist because of the desire and endorsement of the community. When choices are made, the candidates' names must be placed on the ballot by the required petition.

The committee in District #1 is called the United Civic Organization; the one in District #2, The Nominating Committee for District #2 School Board Candidates. Both solicit names from citizens and civic organizations. Each functions under its own adopted rules and by-laws.

School Staff

All personnel in administrative, supervisory or teaching positions must have a State certificate granted upon completion of the requirements for the respective positions. A provisional certificate may be given for a specified time.

A superintendent is chosen and appointed by the Board of Education. He does not have tenure (permanent appointment) but serves at the pleasure of the Board. Under law, he may be given a three-to-five year contract.

Principals, supervisory personnel and teachers are appointed on a probationary basis by the Board upon recommendation of the

Superintendent. Upon completion of three years of service, they must receive tenure or notice of dismissal. Once on tenure, they may not be dismissed without cause and a hearing as outlined in the law.

Boards of Education may eliminate positions or create new positions on their own initiative or as the result of negotiations required under the "Taylor Law".

The professional staff in District #1 totaled 222.5 and served 3299 pupils in 1970-71; in District #2 a total staff of 75 served 1099 pupils.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The 1970-71 central administration staff in District #1 included a Superintendent of Schools, an Assistant Superintendent, a Business Manager, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and a Director of Elementary Education. The latter two positions have recently been eliminated. The Central Administration in District #2 consists of a Superintendent of Schools. In addition, District #2 employs a Director of Instruction for grades K-12 whose salary is listed in the budget under Instruction.

INSTRUCTION

Supervisory staff: The 1970-71 staff in District #1 included a principal and assistant principal for the senior high, a principal and assistant principal for the junior high, and one principal for each of the three elementary schools. In District #2, the supervisory staff consisted of a principal and assistant principal for the Junior-Senior High School and one elementary school principal.

Specialized staff: In District #1, the 1970-71 budget included 7 guidance counselors, 1 full time plus 2 half-time psychologists, 2 speech therapists, 4 nurse-teachers, 4 librarians, 12 art teachers, 9 music teachers, 12 physical education instructors, 5.5 reading teachers and 1 special teacher for the Learning Disabilities Center.

The 1970-71 budget for District #2 included 2 guidance counselors, 1 social worker, 1 nurse-teacher, 1 part-time nurse, 2 librarians, 2 art teachers, 2 full-time and 2 half-time music teachers, 4 physical education instructors and 2 reading teachers.

Each district is required by law to provide health services for parochial schools within its boundaries. District #1 does so for the Immaculate Conception School and District #2, for the Assumption School.

Classroom teachers: District #1 employed 62 classroom teachers on the elementary level and 91 on the secondary. In District #2, there were 22 classroom teachers in the elementary school and 30 in the High School.

The Taylor Law

The Public Employees Fair Employment Law is commonly known as the Taylor Law. It provides for the organization of employees and for collective bargaining. Negotiations must be carried on between representatives of the Board of Education and each bargaining unit chosen by the employees. The units in District #1 are the Eastchester Teachers Association, Principals Association, Coordinators Association and the Civil Service Employees Association; in District #2, the Tuckahoe Teachers Association and the Civil Service Employees Association.

The goal of collective bargaining is joint determination of salaries, hours, conditions of employment, and benefits other than those mandated by law. If an agreement cannot be reached, a mediator or a factfinder may be requested by either party from the State Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), to assist in the negotiating process.

An impasse may be declared when an agreement is not signed 60 days before the annual school district election. PERB at this time may appoint a factfinder to receive reports from both parties and make recommendations. Such recommendations are not binding unless accepted by both parties.

If the impasse continues, the law states that PERB need not appoint another factfinder but may assist in providing for voluntary arbitration upon request of both parties.

Transportation

Transportation is not required for children in grades K-8 residing two miles or less, or for those in grades 9-12 residing three miles or less from the school attended, nor for children residing more than ten miles from the school attended. The minimum distances do not apply for the handicapped, and the maximum distance is extended to twenty miles.

In the case of a child attending a parochial school, transportation is required only to the nearest school of his denomination. The law requires that applications for transportation to a non-public school must be made annually by April 1st. New residents must apply within thirty days of residency.

A Board of Education may vote to exceed the minimum requirements, provided the additional transportation is granted to all children. In District #1, children living one-half mile from their elementary school and one mile from their high school are transported. In District #2, children in grades K-2 living three-tenths of a mile from their elementary school and children in grades 3-12 living one-half mile from school are transported.

According to the present state formula, the state reimburses Districts #1 and #2 for 90% of their costs for transporting children living one and one-half miles from the school attended.

School Facilities in Districts #1 and #2

The law and the Regulations of the Commissioner give specific minimum standards in space, construction, safety and health for all public school buildings. Plans must be approved by the Education Department, and the buildings must conform to the State Building Code. Local building codes do not cover school buildings.

Some buildings in both districts were constructed prior

to the present minimum standards and do not meet them. The Education Department has also approved sites with less than the recommended acreage because of lack of available land.

Needed space within buildings varies from year to year, depending on the school population and other factors. Rooms often have a dual purpose. Some rooms may be used during the day for purposes other than their primary designation.

EASTCHESTER DISTRICT #1		Grades	Enrollment 1970-71	Acreage *	Auditorium	Gymnasium Two Station	Cafeteria	Library	Laboratory	Home Economics	Art	Music	Instru- mental	Playfield	Business Education	Language Lab.	Health Office	Teachers' Room
ANNE HUTCHINSON	Built - 1952 Addition - 1958	K-6	660	10.1 (9)	X	X	X	X	Sci- ence		X	X		X			X	X
GREENVALE (Two buildings) Built - 1935 Addition - 1952,1958		K-3	624	8.89 (9)	All purpose									X			X	X
		3-6			Dual purpose	X	X	Sci- ence		X	X		X			X		X
WAVERLY	Built - 1935** Renovation - 1953 Addition - 1958	K-6	322	3.25 (6.5)	Dual Purpose		X	X			X	X		X			X	X
EASTCHESTER JUNIOR HIGH	Built - 1955	7-9	821	10.43 (18)	Shared	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Shared	X			X	X
EASTCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL	Built - 1927 Alteration - 1955 Additions - 1936, 1952, 1958	10-12	872	9.79 (18)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
EASTCHESTER DISTRICT #2																		
WILLIAM E. COTTLE	Built - 1956 Addition - 1958	K-6	543	4.5 (8.5)	X	X	X	X	Sci. Equip. Avail.		X	X	X	X			X	X
TUCKAHOE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	Built - 1930 Renovation - 1966	7-12	556	5 (15)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Note: Dates given are those on Building Permits as recorded by the Town of Eastchester

* Number in () is the State recommended minimum acreage according to a formula

** Original Waverly building, dated 1897, was demolished. Present building located at original site.

District #2

Fall Enrollment and School Census

	1960-61	1965-66	1970-71
Public schools			
Wm. E. Cottle	513	544	543
Tuckahoe High	446	455	556
BOCES (full time)	<u>5</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>
Total public schools	964	1031	1132
Non-public schools	<u>779</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>894</u>
Total school age population	1743	1880	2026
% in public schools	55%	55%	56%

Total Property Tax Rate

Property in Unincorporated Area

	Total rate per thousand	School rate & % of total	Town rate & % of total
1967	\$ 90.15	\$48.18 (53%)	\$41.97 (47%)
1968	\$ 96.23	\$49.16 (51%)	\$47.07 (49%)
1969	\$106.98	\$53.65 (50%)	\$53.33 (50%)
1970	\$117.52	\$56.74 (48%)	\$60.78 (52%)

Property in Village of Tuckahoe

	Total rate per thousand	School rate & % of total	Town & Village rate & % of total
1967	\$ 94.25	\$48.18 (51%)	\$22.00 + \$24.07 (49%)
1968	\$101.45	\$49.16 (48%)	\$25.40 + \$26.89 (52%)
1969	\$112.71	\$53.65 (48%)	\$29.82 + \$30.23 (52%)
1970	\$125.45	\$56.74 (45%)	\$34.62 + \$34.08 (55%)

Note: Town rate includes Town government, County government, Town and County Sewer Districts, Health District and State Judicial Tax District.

Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)

The law provides for the establishment of such boards under the supervision of the Commissioner, so that several districts may share needed educational services. BOCES #2, formed in 1948, serves Southern and Central Westchester and has 28 component or participating local districts including Districts #1 and #2. Once a component district, a district must remain a member and is responsible for its share of certain expenses.

BOCES #2 has its own five member Board of Education, elected for five year terms by the Board members of participating districts. It appoints a district superintendent and assistant administrators in special areas.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Special classes for the handicapped: The law requires that a district supply transportation for all resident handicapped to the school they attend, up to twenty miles.

A district is required to establish classes for the handicapped as prescribed in the law and the Regulations of the Commissioner, or to contract for such instruction. Districts #1 and #2 contract with BOCES for such instruction and for the transportation to such classes. In 1970-71, 46 children from District #1 and 33 from District #2 attended BOCES Special Education classes.

Classes in Occupational Education: BOCES #2 operates an Occupational Center and both districts contract for instruction there. Districts are required to give this training if requested and it is not available at either high school. They also contract for transportation to these classes.

Students spend half-time attending academic classes in their own high schools and half-time at the Occupational Center. In 1970-71, 17 students from District #1 and 33 from District #2 attended these classes.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Services offered by BOCES vary from year to year depending upon the requests from the member districts.

Professional Staff: Shared and itinerant teachers are available when the services of a full time local teacher are not needed. Both districts have used such teachers in remedial reading, speech, art, music, English for the foreign born, instruction to a blind or deaf child, or one confined to his home because of a long illness, and for the consultation services of a psychologist or psychiatrist.

Data Processing: BOCES #2 Data Processing Division may handle payroll, attendance, census, financial records, school programming, and high school report cards. Both districts contract for this service. A computer terminal, connected with the Division, has been utilized in District #2 for student instruction.

BOCES #2 COSTS TO PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS

BOCES prepares an annual budget which is reviewed at a public hearing, but it cannot levy a school tax. Administrative and building costs are shared by participating districts based on a formula using full valuation. In 1968, the voters in these districts approved a \$4.9 million bond issue for a building program and each district shares in the resulting debt service.

Districts pay on a per pupil basis for those enrolled in BOCES classes and for their transportation. Specialized services have a unit price and all BOCES charges vary from year to year.

BOCES receives State and Federal aid. It shares the State aid with the participating districts, thereby reducing their costs. The net cost to Districts #1 and #2 has been approximately 60% of the total costs for the services received from BOCES.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR INSTRUCTION OF THE HANDICAPPED

In both districts, during 1970-71, a few children determined to be minimally handicapped were placed in regular classes. In District #1, a Learning Disabilities Center was established at the Greenvale School and a specially trained teacher was employed for the program. Under her supervision the children attended regular classes at Greenvale School and received special instruction as needed. In District #2, classroom teachers were assisted by teaching aides who gave individual instruction under supervision.

Other children attended non-public schools for the handicapped. When the local superintendent determines that no adequate public school program is available, he reports this to the State Education Department. The Department is authorized to make an annual grant up to \$2,000 per child to the school attended. The local district pays part of this as a deduction in State Aid (approximately \$500 in both districts).

Sources of Information

Eastchester Historical Society	School Board Minutes
Education Laws	1970-71 School District budgets
Regulations of the State Commissioner of Education	Town, Village and School tax Bills
Interviews with Administrators of both districts	1971 Westchester County Council of Chief School Administrators Report
Publications of New York State Public Employment Relations Board	School Census reports
	Fall enrollment reports