

All attempts have been made to reproduce the spelling, capitalization and layout of the original publication by David C. Grove as much as possible (with the exception of *italics* and **type color**). These articles are mainly about Welborn district, but schools from other districts are mentioned (affecting consolidation), and those other district schools have been highlighted in yellow in an attempt to aid those researching the other district schools when using this resource.

Please note also that this online transcription is taken from a typed transcription of the original newspaper articles. To verify authenticity of the articles, the appropriate newspapers may be contacted or the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library or the Kansas City, Missouri Public Library for copies of the articles. Archival facilities to consider for research is the Wyandotte County Historical Society, the Kansas State Historical Society, the Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence MO, the Missouri State Historical Society, and NARA (National Archives and Records Administration in Kansas City, MO).

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 10, 1929

TALK ON WELBORN SCHOOL FACILITIES

A delegation of patrons of the Welborn School is today conferring with Olive I. Thompson, County Superintendent, in regard to enlargement of school facilities there.

The school now has an enrollment of some 500 pupils in the Grades, Junior High, and High schools and the patrons feel that they need more room. The conference today is a preliminary to the annual school meeting tomorrow and is in regard to the proposed financing of the proposed enlargement, which is quite a problem.

The patrons wish to build a gymnasium and auditorium at the school but are unable to see how it can be financed.

It has been suggested that the district might organize as a rural high school district, but this would only be possible if an area sixteen square miles with a valuation of \$2,000,000 could be included in it.

The district can issue bonds to the extend of \$30,600 and this amount might be doubled by an appeal to the state department of education.

It has also been suggeste3d that the district might consolidate with another district or that the Kansas City Kansas school board might be asked to annex the Welborn district to the Kansas City, Kansas school district. If the latter measure were adopted, some method of allowing children living outside the Welborn district to attend the school without the payment of tuition would have to be worked out. At present such students attend the Welborn School under the Barnes Law.

(NOTE: Barnes law, Gen. Stat. 1909, § 7792 *et seq.*, county commissioners were authorized to submit to electors a proposition permitting the levying of a tax on the taxable property within the counties for the purpose of creating a general high school fund. Gen. Stat. 1909, secs. 7792, 7801. The Barnes law became operative in any county where "a majority of the voters voting in any county . . . at such election" were for such adoption. Gen. Stat. 1909, secs. 7795, 7801 --- "Barnes High School Law." Under this measure all high schools are supported by a general county levy and tuition therein is free to pupils of school age residing anywhere in the county)

Welborn School: <http://www.kckps.org/disthistory/openbuildings/welborn.html> James Shepherd Barnes: http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1912/b3/barnes_james_shepherd.html

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 13, 1929

WELBORN DISTRICT VOTES LARGE SUM

The largest appropriation ever made for the maintenance of the Welborn School District was voted last night at the annual school meeting at the Welborn High School Auditorium.

Twenty thousand dollars was allotted for the high school and grades, with an additional fund of \$300 for the library. This amount does not include the money received from the Barnes School fund to be applied to the salary of the teachers. Twelve hundred dollars per high school teacher is allowed the school.

Of the general fund, \$500 was set aside for the improvement of the playground of the school and \$800 for the new equipment. It is estimated that the levy for the school district will be eighteen mills.

Dr. R. B. Bishop was elected treasurer of the school board to succeed Dr. Guy Lewis. Dr. Bishop presented three methods of relieving the present financial situation facing the school district.

They are: first, the organizing the community into a third class city and thus form means of perpetuating the high school in the community; second, was to have the students of the high school transferred to the already overcrowded Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas; and third, was the possibility of organizing a rural high school district,

benefited by the State Barnes High school fund, but if that move were taken, the high school center would have to be moved to the center of the sixteen square mild district.

Mrs. Everett Dillon, president of the Parent-Teacher Association, addressed the mass meeting on the crowded school situation. The results of an investigation conducted by a committee of the PTA members were read bearing out the costs of an addition to the present school plant and the erection of a new high school building and a gymnasium.

The board last night made no decision as to what might be done to aid the condition of the school, but Doctor Bishop, the new member, is most interested in seeing that the school obtains the best for the school district as a whole.

The Welborn High School won first place in the Kaw Valley and Wyandotte County scholarship contests this winter, and the grade school won first place in the "Every Pupil Scholarship" contest given last week in the rural grade schools in the county.

The enrollment of the high school and grade school is 430.

Kansas City Star (no date given)

DISCUSS A SCHOOL MERGER

Welborn is considering the plan to join the city system.

Dr. R. B. Bishop has been elected treasurer of the Welborn School District. The matter asking that the Welborn High School be merged into the city school system of Kansas City was discussed. No action was taken.

Many rural high schools in Wyandotte County are being conducted with the idea that some day they will be taken into the Kansas City, Kansas school system.

These schools are now under Miss Olive I. Thompson, County Superintendent. There are thirty grade schools and five high and junior high schools. The other high schools are at Turner, Edwardsville, Piper and Bonner Springs.

Welborn is hampered in the plan by the fact that much of its district is far west of the city schools. The courses are parallel, but some of the students live far from the city high schools.

Professor H. F. Wilson, who has prepared charts showing the work of the Welborn high school, has received praise from the state school authorities for results indicated.

Under the school law, each of the rural high schools has a district, and some of these districts are quite extensive. Kansas does not have a "school bus law" but in many sections, buses are operated. The rural high schools provide both senior and junior high school courses.

Kansas City Kansan – June, 1929

WELBORN WOULD BE A THIRD CLASS CITY

A group of Welborn community citizens interested in making the community a third class city, thus retaining its identity, rather than be taken into a larger city, met last night at Mason Hall. This meeting was in charge of Dr. R. B. Bishop.

For several years, such an action has been contemplated, but now the supporters of this movement are substantiated by the crowded condition of the high school. By making this community into a third-class city the retention of the high school is insured. Otherwise the state board of education would move the building near White Church when another is constructed.

The delegates to the meeting declare the taxes will be increased only 20% of the present total, as compared to 80% if taken into Kansas City, Kansas and the added conveniences of the city will not be received.

The only definite cash of a third class city is the salary of a day and night marshal. The councilmen or commissioners, whichever form of government would be adopted, would hold office only as honorary members, receiving one dollar per year as wages.

It is the high school the patrons are fighting for. Action now will save time, trouble and expense later. The development of our community and the school go hand in hand, declares Dr. Bishop. One cannot grow without the other.

A general mass meeting is planned for the early part of October. A definite date will be announced in the near future.

Kansas City Star – Dec 9, 1929

INTO A SCHOOL EXPANSION

Preliminary steps for development of the Welborn, Kansas High School will be taken by the board of education of the Welborn School district next Thursday night. The board members said today that an enrollment of 500 students in a building meant to accommodate 250 would compel the expansion program.

To meet the over flow the board in recent years has utilized all possible space by dividing rooms and by placing

two rooms in the basement.

Dr. R. B. Bishop, treasurer of the board, said today that \$8,000 is available in the school funds for the expansion program. That is more than half of the amount needed to provide additional classrooms. The plan is to build an addition of brick to the West of the main building, a wing to the north and to improve the primary buildings.

Kansas City Star – Dec 10, 1929

URGES ADDITION FOR SCHOOL AT WELBORN

Dr. R. B. Bishop, Treasurer of District, Has a Plan which Avoids Bonds

Maintaining that the school district No. 10, Welborn, should be looking into the future with the anticipation of caring for the enrollment of the high school along with the grade school in a proper manner, Dr. R. B. Bishop, treasurer of the school district, suggests that the school board vote to apply the surplus fund of \$8,000 and issue whatever warrants may be needed to build an addition to the present school building.

Dr. Bishop has presented his proposition for the caring for the needs of the school district to the board – the chairman and the clerk – for consideration. The same will be duly presented at the next called or stated meeting for official school board action.

According to the communication of Doctor Bishop, district No. 10, a few years ago, at a called and stated meeting, voted to establish and maintain a high school in connection with the grade school.

Primarily the district is legally called upon to maintain a high school in connection with the grade school.

Primarily the district is legally called upon to maintain a fully equipped grade school which means from the Kindergarten to the eighth grade, i.e., primary grade and junior high school.

The high school at Welborn is maintained under the Barnes Fund Law from which teachers of the high school are practically paid. This, then, makes it necessary for the efficient teaching and preparing of the students for their success in life, the doctor stated.

“All this has been done and successfully carried on up to this time.” The report states, “We have a serious need of classrooms. Our present conditions are such that anyone by reason of law interpretation, either close out part of the school or force us to meet the stated requirements. Neither of these is welcomed, nor is there any need of delaying to meet the needs.

District No. 10 has now a surplus of \$8,000 on hand which is more than half of the amount needed to carry forward and build the needed classrooms and equipment. An imperative emergency is now facing the board and student bodies, one the law fully and rightfully invested the school board to set in motion any action or act that may relieve the said emergency.

District No. 10 school has advanced to the standard of grade A and will be expected and called upon to at all times, meet and maintain, the communication read.

The school needs a kindergarten, primary department, toilets, domestic science, different manual training instructions, general music vocation, and instruction in grade school gymnasium and athletics. According to the district treasurer, the grade school class that it will be necessary to have two teachers to each class to meet the imperative need and fully establish the said department to balance both classes and teachers, thus increasing the economical efficiency of the school with minimum expenses.

The present Welborn school buildings, with the auditorium and suitable class and study rooms has the proper capacity to accommodate between 250 and 300 students. The school at this time has an enrollment of more than 500 students. And Dr. Bishop points out the school is growing.

Every available square foot of both buildings, including the basement, has been taken over for class room space. Even space here-to-fore used for general supplies and storage in the cellar has been remodeled into class rooms.

One classroom at the school has an enrollment of sixty students and this room has been partitioned into two small class rooms with seats banked together and an additional teacher employed to meet, for the time being this emergency.

Dr. Bishop has made the motion that the school board vote to apply the surplus fund \$8000 and issue whatever warrants necessary to build an addition of brick to the west of the present large building – a full basement, two floors extending to the north (a wing of whatever size is needed) to join the primary building with the idea of later on brick veneering the primary building (white frame building immediately West of main building), and to equip and establish a full grade school and thereby meet the high school needs with no bonds being issued.

Kansas City Kansan – Dec 13, 1929

WELBORN ADDITION IS UP TO THE DISTRICT

Welborn district is going to have an addition to the present school building, if the plans that are now being

inaugurated by the board will be accepted by members of the school district.

At a meeting of the board of the district last night the preliminary sketches for the addition were submitted and the board began to lay plans looking forward to the building program.

J. K. Eberle, Chairman, and Dr. R. B. Bishop, treasurer, will take the matter of the building project up immediately with the county attorney and the state school department at Topeka, relative to all legal phases. The drawings for the proposed addition were made by the Peterson and Almon Architectural Firm. This firm has prepared plans for several of the school buildings in Kansas City, Kansas.

Several suggestions were considered last night and then Dr. H. J. Cairns, clerk of the board, was appointed to confer with D. B. Peterson and investigate further concerning the efficiency of the architects drawings for the addition of the building.

Dr. Cairns will report to the board at the next meeting Tuesday night.

The board realizes that only approximately ninety days remain to prepare and complete the plans before the annual school meeting in April, and furthermore that in order to erect and complete the improvements before the opening of the 1930-31 school year, some action must be taken at once. Dr. Bishop said today.

Dr. Bishop is most anxious that the proposed addition to the present building he made in order that the school district may keep its rating in the state school department and properly care for the enrollment of the grade school and the high school.

Kansas City Kansan – Dec 25, 1929

PREPARE PLANS FOR ANNEX AT WELBORN

Plans for the relief of the congestion in Welborn School are now being considered by the board of education in that consolidated district and Peterson and Almon, Architects are preparing tentative plans for additions to the building that will give additional classroom space and increase the school's facilities.

The Welborn School was originally the Six Mile School and the original building was designed by D. B. Peterson.

The original building only had four classrooms and when the district was consolidated this space was found to be inadequate, so a large room which could be used for auditorium purposes was added on the second floor and the basement of the building was remodeled for classrooms.

Now this is inadequate and the school board is considering plans for an enlargement of the building.

Peterson and Almon have prepared tentative plans which provide for the construction of two wings to the existing building and a complete re-arrangement of the present classrooms.

One wing would contain a gymnasium in the basement and first floor and the classrooms on the second floor. The other wing would contain a second floor auditorium which could be divided for use as classrooms and classroom space is provided on the first floor.

The tentative plans contemplate a complete re-arrangement of the basement of the present building, the installation of an adequate heating plant for the larger building, enlargement of the cafeteria space, and addition of a manual department, which the school lacks at present.

These tentative plans are to be submitted to the board in the near future and if approved, arrangements for a special election on a bond issue will be made. Peterson has so prepared his plans that the district can add either one or both of the proposed wings at the present time.

Kansas City Kansan -Jan 2, 1930

TO SHOW WELBORN ANNEX PLANS SOON

Two sketches of the proposed additions to the present Welborn School building are now being drawn by D. B. Peterson of the Peterson and Almon Architectural firm.

These sketches will be displayed at a called meeting of the school district, which will be some time the first of next week.

One of the proposed additions is a wing built only on the east end of the main building, while the other encloses an additional space on both the east and west sides. With the second comes the gymnasium that is needed at the school for the athletic activities and one of the things that is asked especially for by the patrons in the district.

The east addition alone as drawn by Peterson is 32 x 75 feet. On the basement floor is the cafeteria kitchen, manual training department and store room; on the first floor three class rooms and own the second the auditorium with a stage. This room can be divided into two classrooms. The auditorium would have a seating capacity of approximately 300 persons.

This sketch also includes some changes in the main building that would provide for a new principal and superintendent's office, supply rooms, rest room and locker space in the corridor of the second floor for the high school department.

In the second proposed drawing the east addition would be the same and on the west would be the gymnasium in the basement floor, and on the second floor would be three additional classrooms. This addition is 50 x 75 feet.

According to the drawings there are three entrance ways into the building and the first floor has three main stairways, with fire escapes at either end of the building.

As at the present time, the school has 3,300 foot radiation area while the heating plant has but 2,400 feet boiler capacity. Some changes in heating will also be needed.

The Welborn school is now running at a capacity limit and the board, feeling that something must be done immediately, employed Peterson to prepare the drawings for the additions that would accommodate the present student body and allow for the natural increases in enrollment.

When the school meeting is called the patrons in the district will be given an opportunity to study the plans, offer suggestions and discuss in detail the additions.

The legality of having a bond issue for the district is now being investigated.

Kansas City Kansan – Jan 27, 1930

WATER SUPPLY GIVES OUT AT RURAL SCHOOL

Welborn School was without drinking water this morning and the 500 or 600 pupils present would have gone without a drinking supply except for the efforts of Guy Gray, a deputy city clerk whose home is in Welborn, and Clay Robert, a local paving contractor.

Thru Gray's efforts, the water and light department agreed to supply water with which to meet the emergency and Roberts supplied a truck to convey the water in three large containers to the school.

The shortage was due to the simultaneous refusal of both the well and the cistern upon which the school depends for its water supply to function. Investigation revealed that both were dry, exhaustion probably being due to the lack of water in the ground after the long dry fall.

The event is of peculiar interest inasmuch as the school is to be the scene of a mass meeting Wednesday night of members of the Welborn community to form a holding company to provide for the construction of a water main which will connect with the Kansas City, Kansas supply at the city limits.

In case the community succeeds in forming the holding company, the school, which includes the grades, the junior high school and the high school, will be one of the heaviest users of the new water supply.

Kansas City Kansan – Jan 24, 1930

PLEA FOR WELBORN SCHOOL

Petitions are now in circulation in the Welborn school district in an effort to call a special election to vote \$71,000 in bonds for the construction of an addition to the existing school building in the district.

The school board has approved D. B. Peterson's plans for the addition and the people of the district hope that the election can be held soon and construction started so that there will be adequate space in the Welborn school building by the opening of the fall term.

The original Welborn school building was built in 1914 and a second floor was added in 1922. Peterson plans a virtual reconstruction of this building and the construction of two wings, one of which would contain a cafeteria room and eleven classrooms and the other a gymnasium.

There are 600 pupils at Welborn School, which is a consolidated school and houses a grade, junior high and senior high school.

Kansas City Star – Jan 24, 1930

INTO \$71,000 SCHOOL PROJECT

Two annexes are planned for the community school at Welborn, Kansas for construction this year. Petitions are being prepared today for immediate circulation in Wyandotte County school district No. 10, the district served by the school calling for a special election to vote the \$71,000 in bonds necessary for the project.

Plans drawn by David B. Peterson, an architect of Kansas City, Kansas, have been approved by the school board. They call for an annex on the east of the present building, to contain a cafeteria and eleven classrooms; and an annex on the west to contain a gymnasium. The gymnasium would have a floor of 50 x 90 feet and would seat 750 persons.

Construction of both annexes in time for the opening of the fall term is proposed. Both would be two stories high

with basements and would conform in style to the present building.

The building now in use was built in 1914, and a second story was added in 1922. It contains a grade school, junior high and senior high school; and is used by the 600 pupils in the district. The school will have a new water system as soon as arrangements have been completed for a holding company to distribute water of Kansas City, Kansas, purchased at the city gates from the municipal plant, and piped a mile and a half to Welborn.

The school is also a community center.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 6, 1930

MAY ALTER SCHOOL PLANS

Alternative plans for increasing the Welborn school facilities will be offered to residents in the district when they vote on the proposed issuance of \$71,000 in bonds to provide additional room for the 600 pupils who are housed in the present building.

Plans previously announced were for the building of two annexes, one on each side of the main building.

The alternative plans provide for the erection of a complete new building to be built adjacent to the present building and to be used for the high school.

Voters will be offered their choice of plans at the election if sufficient signatures favoring the second plan are not obtained. Approximately 80% of the voters have already signed the petition calling for the issuance of bonds.

Altho the date of the election has not been set, it will be in the near future in order that work may begin in time to have the additional unit or units ready for occupancy at the opening of the school year next September.

Kansas City Star – Feb 6, 1930

A NEW WELBORN SCHOOL PLAN

An alternative plan for enlarging the public school facilities of the Welborn Kansas school district is being urged in petition requesting a bond election. The plan calls for a separate building for the high school. The grade school would be kept in the present building. The original plan was to build two annexes to the present building.

The election will be called as soon as the petitions are filed. They now lack about 20 percent of the signatures required. The school now has 600 pupils.

Legal Notice

To the electors of School District No. 10, Wyandotte County, Kansas

You and each of you will please take notice that the Board of Directors of School District No. 10, Wyandotte County, Kansas, will on the 8th day of February, 1930, make and file its application with the Board of School Fund commissioners of the State of Kansas for permission to vote bonds in excess of 5% of property valuation of said above mentioned district for the purpose of erecting and equipping a school building in said district No. 10, Wyandotte County, Kansas. The amount of excess applied for is \$35,800. This application is made pursuant to a petition of at least 50 percent of the qualified voters of said above mentioned school district duly filed with the Board of Directors of said district on the 7th day of February, 1930, and is made pursuant to Chapter 48 of The Revised School Laws of the State of Kansas, 1927. The same being section 75-2317 of the Revised Statutes of 1923. Dated at Kansas City, Kansas R.R.#4

Signed,

Joseph K. Eberle, Director

H. J. Cairns, clerk

R. B. Bishop M.D., Treasurer First published Feb. 8,
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Kansas City Kansan – Feb 11, 1930

WELBORN BOND VOTE IS SET

The official notices of a special election February 21st to decide whether or not bonds shall be issued in the amount of \$61,000 for the construction and equipment of a school building in the Welborn district were posted today.

The present building occupied by the Welborn school is inadequate and the school board has under consideration plans for either constructing an addition or an additional building.

The question of the bond issue is to be submitted to the voters February 21st and the election will be held under the general election laws of the state, Miss Olive Thompson, county superintendent, said today.

The original school has been remodeled once for increased enrollment since original construction. The building houses a grade school, junior high school and high school.

Kansas City Star – Feb 11, 1930

ELECTION ON SCHOOL BONDS

An election to vote on a bond issue of \$61,000 for a new Welborn, Kansas high school will be held February 21st.

Notices to that effect were posted today. The polls at Welborn will be open from 8 to 6 o'clock. Residents in that community had planned to have the polls open longer. However, Miss Olive I. Thompson, county superintendent of schools, announced the election will be held under the general election laws.

The election will decide whether or not the high school is to be discontinued. "Unless bonds are voted for a new building, it will be necessary to give up the high school course." Miss Thompson said, "and use the building strictly for grade school classes. It was originally intended to be a grade school."

The building was designed to house 200 pupils. The enrollment now is 600. It is used as a grade school, a junior high school and a high school. Recently a small annex was constructed to house the first two primary grades.

Under present plans the new high school building would be constructed on land adjoining the present building which would be turned over to grade pupils.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 13, 1930

HIKE WELBORN SCHOOL PLAN

Official notices of a special election, February 21st to decide whether or not bonds shall be issued for the construction of a school building in the Welborn school district will read for the amount of \$71,000 in place of \$61,000, as stated Tuesday.

Dr. R. B. Bishop, a member of the school board, stated today that the \$10,000 difference had caused some concern among the persons living in the district who were interested in seeing that Welborn has a school building suitable for the district.

The question of the bond issue is to be submitted to the voters February 21, and the election will be held under the general election laws of the State of Kansas.

The present Welborn school building houses the grade school, the junior high school and senior high.

Kansas City Star – Feb 13, 1930

EYES ON SCHOOL BOND VOTE

Interest among residents of the Welborn school district, six miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, in the bond election February 21, has attained a high stage. The district, which now has its grade, junior and senior high school in one building, will decide on the issuance of bonds aggregating \$71,600 for the building expansion. Whether the money, if authorized, will be spent for a new building to be used exclusively for the high school or for an addition to the present building has not been determined.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 15, 1930

MEETING ON WELBORN BONDS

A special meeting of voters in the Welborn school district has been called for Monday night at the school, to stimulate interest in the bond election which is to be held next Friday.

The voters in that election will ballot on the question of a \$71,000 bond issue for improvement of the Welborn school system, which has about 600 pupils. Two plans have been proposed for improving the grade, junior high and senior high schools. One is to erect two additions to the present building and the other is to build a separate unit to be used for the high school.

Kansas City Star – Feb 19, 1930

A RALLY FOR SCHOOL BONDS

The Booster Club of the Welborn community, six miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, organized to work for a

bond issue of \$71,600 to be voted on Friday, will hold a mass meeting tonight at the Welborn school. J. H. Luscombe is chairman of the club. The bonds, if voted, will be used to build an addition to the high school.

The polls will open at eight o'clock Friday morning and will close at 6 o'clock at night. The voting booths will be at the school and the votes will be cast by ballot as required by the Kansas law. There are approximately 800 voters in the school district.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 19, 1930

WELBORN MEETING TONIGHT

A meeting to stimulate interest in the school bond election Friday will be held beginning at 8:30 o'clock tonight by the Welborn Booster Club at Welborn School. J. A. Luscombe is chairman of the Booster Club.

The Welborn district will decide Friday whether to issue \$71,600 bonds for the erection of an annex or a new building to relieve the over-crowded condition for the present plan. The primary school building will be the polling place, and will be open from 8 until 6 o'clock.

There are about 800 voters in the Welborn district.

Kansas City Star – Feb 20, 1930

A RURAL SCHOOL CRISIS

An election of vital interest to approximately 2,000 families in the Welborn School district, six miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, will be held tomorrow at the primary building of the school. The district will vote on an issue of \$71,600 in bonds to increase the school facilities of the Welborn high school, which provides more space for the primary school pupils as well.

Officials of the district were notified by the Kansas City, Kansas school authorities that the city no longer accept students from the country districts, even if they had the \$90 required as a tuition fee. That restriction is a result of the overcrowded condition of the city schools. Facing that situation, residents of the Welborn district, with their own school crowded beyond capacity, would have to send their children to high schools at Bonner Springs, Kansas or to Piper, Kansas, both of which are too far away to permit daily trips by students.

The bonds will be of 20 year duration if voted. They will involve a levy of 50 cents on the \$100 dollar valuation, taking the present valuation of \$1,300,000 on all property in the district as a basis. Over the long period allowing for an expected increase in valuation – the ratio of cash would steadily decrease. Officials of the school district have explained that the necessity for increased school facilities is critical. Next year approximately 60 pupils will be registered in the junior and senior high schools in excess of the number to be graduated. The junior and senior high schools now have an enrollment of 250 students, and the grade school has a like number.

Voting will begin at 8 o'clock and will continue until 6 o'clock at night. Workers for the bonds have sent out an appeal to bond supporters to go to the polls early. A majority vote will carry the election.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 21, 1930

WELBORN VOTE ON BONDS FOR SCHOOL HEAVY

Welborn is in the midst of a hot election today, voting on the question of a bond issue to improve its schools. The question involves an issue of \$71,600 for putting up new buildings, the present facilities having become inadequate. The buildings now used were designed for a normal capacity of 300 students, but enrollment this year in the junior and senior high schools and the grade school is about 500.

Faced with this situation, which promises to become more acute with the normal increase in population in the district, taxpayers circulated a petition for the bond election, which is being held today. That interest in the subject is high was proved by the fact that almost a fourth of all the eligible voters had cast ballots during the first two and one-half hours that the polls were open.

Kansas City Times – Feb 22, 1930

WELBORN BONDS CARRY

The voters of the Welborn school district, northwest of Kansas City, Kansas, decided yesterday to issue \$71,600 in bonds to better the school facilities.

The vote stood 366 for 324 against. After the count was announced, Joseph Ricker and Otto Brenner made a protest charging that persons not living in the district were permitted to vote.

The money will be used either to enlarge the present school building, which is by both grade and high school

pupils, or to erect a separate grade school.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 22, 1930

SLIM CHANCE SEEN FOR WELBORN ANNEX

With \$71,600 in bonds having been voted yesterday at a special election in the Welborn school district, the district is another step closer to a new building or additions to the present building.

After the vote was counted last night two opponents of the bonds, Joseph Ricker and Otto Brenner said a protest probably would be filed and an attempt made to invalidate the election on the grounds that persons living outside the district had been allowed to vote.

Those in favor of the improvement were optimistic over the outcome of the election, however, and believed the vote moved stand in spite of the protest, if one is made. Protest Plans Out

It was understood that the protest would be based on the votes of two persons living on the edge of the district. Whether they live inside the boundary or outside is the question. As the rural districts do not have registration before election, the election board rules on each person's eligibility as the person comes in to vote. No protests were made against the two votes at the time the ballots were cast.

If these two individuals were found to live outside the district it was believed that fact would not invalidate the election because of the clear majority which the bonds had; the vote being 366 to 324 in favor of the issue. While the final outcome of the balloting gave the bonds a clear majority, those watching the count last night had plenty of thrills. Win by a Margin of 42 The first few hundred votes out of the box showed the count about tied, with the bonds lagging a good deal of the time. The last ballots, however, gave the issue a majority of 42 votes.

It was said by observers of the election that the friends of the bonds pushed their campaign to success in the late hours of the balloting. Learning that the campaign was close, they marshaled their forces yesterday after noon and canvassed the district for a strong vote late in the afternoon.

The election was a warm one with about four fifths of the eligible voters casting ballots. Automobiles running about the district carried placards on the election, and feeling was high and words were sharp. To Decide on Design How the money voted yesterday will be spent will be decided at a meeting of persons living in the district. This meeting will be called by the school board on ten day's posted notices. Before the meeting is called plans will be drawn up for a new building and for additions to the present building, so the alternative plans can be presented to the district. A combination gymnasium and auditorium will be contained in both plans, it was said by H. F. Wilson, principal of the school. At present the school has no place for assemblies, plays, basketball games or other events of the sort. Basketball games are played on a church court in Kansas City, Kansas. Make-Shift Auditorium

When an assembly is necessary it is held in a makeshift auditorium consisting of two class rooms used together. Commencement exercises and other gatherings of that kind are held in the Welborn church, which is too small for all community meetings.

It is figured that the proposed new building and incidental expenses will boost the tax rate about 50 cents on the \$100 valuation. At present the school tax rate is \$1.49 or 11 cents under that of Kansas City, Kansas.

The bond issue is calculated to raise the levy 34 cents a year for the 20 year period, not allowing for an increased valuation in the district. If the increase continues on the scale of the past few years the rate will be materially lower. The rest of the 50 increase which is counted on will be applied to the hiring of new (additional) teachers as inevitable with the growth of the school.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 25, 1930

TO ASK WELBORN BOND BAN

Preparations are under way by the Welborn school board for selling the \$71,600 worth of bonds which were voted by the district last Friday for a new building.

In accordance with a state law, the bonds will be offered first to the state school fund commission. If the commission does not buy them, they will be put on the market.

Plans for the new building or additions to the present one will not be drawn up until the bonds are sold. The plans

then will be submitted to the residents of the district at a district meeting.

Kansas City Times – Feb 26, 1930

INJUNCTION PROCEEDING AGAINST WELBORN BONDS

Injunction proceedings to stop the issuance of the \$71,600 in school bonds voted by the Welborn school district Friday will be brought in the Wyandotte County district court today.

The proceedings will ask that the court declare the election illegal and that the three school directors of the district be required to pay the election costs, about \$200 out of their own pockets.

C. W. Trickett, lawyer, will bring the proceedings in behalf of thirty residents of the district. The petition will charge that the school board did not comply with the law in calling the election.

It will be alleged that a school board district cannot vote bonds in excess of 5 percent of its valuation, except under a special law which provides that the state school authorities upon a petition signed by half of the property owners in the district may call a hearing and authorize twice that amount.

The law requires that a notice of the meeting with the state school authorities must be published in the official county paper. The petition charges that the notice was published not in the official county paper, but in the official city paper and was published the day the meeting was held. As that is an afternoon newspaper, persons who objected to the bond had no opportunity to state objections and the election is alleged to be illegal.

Part of the proposed school, it will be charged, is to be used for a high school but the bonds were voted for a district school and it was not specified in the Call whether the school was to be an addition to the present school or another (new) building on another site.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 26, 1930

ON WELBORN BONDS

An application for an injunction against the issuance of \$71,000 in Welborn school district bonds was filed against the school district today in district court by twenty-five taxpayers.

The suit was filed by C. W. Trickett, attorney, and will be heard in its regular order on the district court docket.

The principal allegation of the twenty-five plaintiffs is that the district was without authority to consider a bond issue of \$71,600. According to law, the district could issue bonds to the extent of \$65,315, it is said, that being 5 percent of the assessed valuation of the district. Outstanding bonds to the amount of \$29,000, it is alleged would reduce the legal bond issue possible at this time to \$35,815.

Altho the law permits a school district to exceed its legal bond limit when the state school commission authorizes it, the plaintiffs in this action allege that the school board failed to conform to the requirements of the state commission in securing permission for a bond issue in excess of the legal limits.

(The names of the plaintiffs in this action are named in the source material from which this transcription is made.)

Kansas City Star – Feb 26, 1930

SCHOOL BOND VOTE INVALID

The Welborn school district, four miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, which voted \$71,600 in school bonds last Friday, will probably have to try it all over again. An error in compiling the petitions will invalidate the school bonds voted according to Judge Lee Judy, attorney for the school board. Judge Judy today advised the school board members to call another election if they expected to carry out the building program.

Members of the school board assured Judge Judy that they would at once call a meeting to advise residents of the district that such a move would be necessary.

The district leaders, when they began agitation for the bonds which would be used to build a larger high school building, followed the law requiring a petition signed by more than 50 percent of the voters for a vote on bonds in excess of 5 percent of the property valuation. The petition was properly signed and approved by the commission, but Judge Judy said today that a second petition was necessary.

The district leaders, when they began agitation for the bonds which would be used to build a larger high school building, followed the law requiring a petition signed by more than 50 percent of the voters for a vote on bonds in excess of 5 percent of the property valuation. The petition was properly signed and approved by the commission, but Judge Judy said today that a second petition was necessary. In that petition 50 percent of the voters had to authorize the election. There was no second petition for the election Friday.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 27, 1930

THERE WAS NO ELECTION

Welborn's school situation is back where it was months ago and the election which the district thought it held last week was never held at all.

That, at least, is the opinion of Lee Judy, attorney appointed by the school board to prepare the bond abstract preparatory to selling the \$71,600 in bonds which the people voted last Friday; and W. C. Ralston, assistant attorney general.

Judy and Ralston arrived at this conclusion when they made a study of the history of the bond campaign and found that insufficient and improper petition had been made in calling the election. Blame for the situation now existing apparently falls on the state school fund commission, which directed the actions of the Welborn school board and drew up the petition calling for the election. Heading O.K.

This petition, however, did not call for an election. Its heading said it was a petition for a bond election, but the body of the petition asked the school to require the commission to allow bonds exceeding the statutory limit to be voted on. Hence, saying one thing in its heading and another in its substance, the petition did not comply with the law. Then, the petitions not being right, the election held last Friday was illegal, the bonds which never authorized cannot be issued.

The only way out of the difficulty, in Judy's opinion, is to start all over again. Another petition must be circulated, asking the school board to seek from the commission approved for the amount of the bonds.

Then a second petition must be circulated requesting the election. After that another election must be held. If all these steps are followed the school board will be where it thought it was last Saturday morning, if the people vote the same way.

Notice of the application for an injunction which was filed yesterday to prohibit the school board's selling the bond was served on members today. This application filed by C. W. Trickett on behalf of opponents of the bonds, attacked the legality of the election on the grounds that the school fund commission had authorized the issue without sufficient notice of a hearing on the matter.

Kansas City Kansan – Feb 26, 1930

EDITORIAL

Having become involved in an injunction, Welborn signifies that it is ready to be annexed to Kansas City, Kansas.

Kansas City Kansan – Mar 2, 1930

EDITORIAL

Welborn wants a Larger School

Welborn community sustained a severe jolt when lawyers revealed that owing to faulty petitions calling for the elections to vote school improvement bonds the election would have to be re-enacted. The citizens of that attractive suburban district are very much in earnest about their schools and they have a right to be. There is no question but what there is a pressing need for more room if the present high standard of school work is to be maintained. The "pro" element is anxious that this work go on.

Welborn community is increasing in popularity with citizens of Kansas City, Kansas who desire to reside in "the county" and yet enjoy the privileges accorded urban residents. A good school plant is one of them. Hence, the continued expansion of the school system enhances the value of the district as a suburban development.

It is unfortunate that the community should incur such a set-back. It will have to grin and bear it and go out and get the votes again.

Press (the official county newspaper) – Mar 7, 1930

NOTICE

To the electors of School District No. 10, Wyandotte County, Kansas. You, and each of you, will please take notice that the Board of Directors of School District No. 10, Wyandotte County, Kansas, will on the 14th day of March, 1930 make and file its application with the Board of School Fund Commissioners of the State of Kansas for permission to vote bonds in excess of 5 percent of the property valuation of said above mentioned district for the purpose of erecting and equipping a school building in said district No. 10, Wyandotte County, Kansas. The amount of excess applied for is \$35,800. The total amount of bonds proposed to be issued is \$71,600, which includes the amount of excess. This

application is made pursuant to a petition of at least 50 percent of the qualified electors of said above mentioned school district duly filed with the Board of Directors of said district on the 7th day of February 1930 and is made pursuant to Chapter 48 of the Revised School Laws of Kansas, 1927, and the same being section 75-2317 of the Revised statutes of 1923.

Dated March 3, 1930
Board of Directors of School District No. 10, Wyandotte County, Kansas
(Joseph K. Eberle, Director)
(H. J. Cairns, Clerk)
(R. B. Bishop, M. D., Treasurer) (Published March 7, 1930)

Kansas City Star – March 7, 1930

NEW VOTE ON SCHOOL BONDS

Another election will be held on the proposition of \$71,600 in bonds to pay the cost of a new Welborn high school, or of an addition to the present, building. It was admitted today in an answer filed to the suit of Joseph Ricker, and others seeking to set aside the election held February 21st when the bonds were voted, that the district had not met all the legal requirements in arranging the first election.

The directors met Monday and adopted a resolution authorizing a new election. The Directors also voted to appear March 14, before the board of school fund commissioners and ask for permission to issue bonds in excess of 5 percent of the district's total valuation.

If the application is granted, petitions will be placed in circulation asking a special election on the bonds.

Kansas City Kansan – Mar 7, 1930

WELBORN ELECTION INVALID

Admitting that the bond election held February 21 in the Welborn school district was invalid, the dependent board of education today asked the dismissal, at plaintiffs' cost, of a suit filed by Joseph Ricker and other residents of the district, to enjoin the board from issuing bonds authorized by the election.

The voters of the district authorized a bond issue of \$71,600 at the election to finance extensions of school facilities at Welborn. Twenty five taxpayers, alleging that the election was invalid, brought suit to enjoin the school board from issuing the bonds.

Before the school board could answer this suit, the attorney for the school district, and W. C. Ralston, assistant attorney general, discovered that certain technicalities made the election invalid so the answer of the defendants today admits the invalidity of the election, and asks dismissal of the litigation.

Efforts are now being made in the Welborn district to secure a new election to vote bonds for the enlargement of Welborn school which is badly crowded.

Kansas City Kansan – Mar 8, 1930

BAR WELBORN BOND ACTION

Judge C. A. Miller, fourth division district court, today granted an injunction preventing the Welborn school board from issuing bonds which were voted by the district February 21.

The injunction, which was asked by C. W. Trickett, attorney for Joseph Ricker and other residents of the district, was not contested by Lee Judy, attorney for the school board, who had advised his clients that the election was illegal anyway, because of irregular procedure beforehand.

In his order today, Judge Miller ruled that since no evidence was presented that the school had acted in bad faith in this matter all costs of the election should be born by the district, with the exception of the cost of the legal notices which had been run in the Kansas instead of the official county paper.

Kansas City Star – Mar 8, 1930

A RULING ON ELECTION COSTS

The cost of the bond election for additional school facilities at Welborn, held invalid, must be paid by the district, Judge C. A. Miller of the fourth division of the Wyandotte County district court ruled today. Residents of the district who filed a suit to enjoin issuance of the bonds, contended the school directors should pay the costs.

Kansas City Kansan – Mar 21, 1930

NEW WELBORN SCHOOL PLAN

Advocates of a new school at Welborn are preparing petitions calling for another bond election.

Permission has been granted by the state school fund commission for the district to issue the excess bonds which will be necessary for a new building so another election will be possible as soon as the petition now being circulated get the required number of signers.

An election was held February 21, but after bonds had been approved by the district, attorneys for the school board found that the proper procedure had not been followed in preparing for the election so a new election was necessary.

Kansas City Star – Mar 22, 1930

A NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM

“Welborn Community Plans to Consolidate Districts”

A solution for the school problem in the Welborn District, six miles west of Kansas City, Kansas was proposed today by 514 taxpayers who have signed petitions for the creation of a new high school district. The plan is to combine the various grade school districts into a high school district and elect a general school board for the high school. Under the plan the high school would be maintained by all of the district, while each separate district would maintain its own grade school.

Leaders in the movement said today the state department of public instruction had advised the course and had given the residents of the district the necessary documents for the program.

To Write Others Districts

By joining five or six districts into a larger school district, a much larger and more efficient school could be built, it was pointed out, and the increase in the tax rate would be divided so it would be oppressive to none of the districts.

The Welborn school district now maintains its own high school and grade school but students from all other nearby districts may come to the school without cost.

Those who favored the union of the school districts for a high school said the growth of the communities would prohibit the Welborn district from maintaining a school that would accommodate all of the districts.

Recently an election was held at which \$71,600 in bonds were voted to expand the Welborn school. The election was held invalid because of a flaw in the advance arrangements.

Last night a group of leaders in the Welborn community organized a committee to be known as the Welborn progressive committee to make a drive among all the districts for a united effort to build a larger high school.

The first move in the program will be to call a general mass meeting of the residents of all the district. The leaders plan to follow the program adopted by the fourteen schools in the Shawnee-Mission Rural High School District in which the grade school districts pay taxes jointly for maintenance of the high school.

Kansas City Kansan – Mar 23, 1930

CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL AREAS UP

Sentiment for a general consolidation of districts in the vicinity of Welborn, which, it is contended, would make possible the erection of an educational plant providing better educational opportunities than would be available with a school in each opportunities than would be available with a school in each separate district, is being stirred. Recently an election by which the voters of the Welborn district voted bonds for an extension of the school there was found invalid.

Definite action toward the consolidation was taken Friday night when a group of voters met at Welborn and made plans for a mass meeting in the near future for a discussion of the school question. Petitions are ready to be circulated asking for a vote on the consolidation in the districts involved and the circulation of these petitions is expected to begin shortly.

One petition, carrying more than 500 names has already been filed with George A. Allen, Superintendent of public instruction, and after receipt of this petition he recommended a consolidation.

It is pointed out that the taxpayers of several districts could build a single school building that would accommodate all the pupils available that would be a better building than could any individual district construct.

For the consolidated district, since the central school would serve more pupils, offers better educational opportunities than could be provided in any individual district. Educational Plant:

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/edfacil/surveys.htm>

Kansas City Kansan – Mar 24, 1930

At the Welborn high school tomorrow night there will be a mass meeting for the discussion of the proposed organization of a consolidated school district including the Welborn districts and others adjacent to it. This meeting is to be held under the auspices of the Welborn Progressive Committee, which was organized last week to promote the organization of the consolidated district. The proposal that school districts west and northwest of Kansas City, Kansas unite in a consolidated district and erect an adequate educational plant to serve the entire district followed the invalidity of an election last month in which the Welborn district had by a bare majority, valid bonds for the expansion of the school there.

Kansas City Star – Mar 24, 1930

MASS MEETING FOR A SCHOOL

A general mass meeting of all taxpayers interested in building a new high and grade school for the Wyandotte County school district west of Kansas City, Kansas, has been called for tomorrow night in the Welborn school building. The meeting is sponsored by the Welborn progressive committee, composed of taxpayers interested in expanding the scope of the bonds to include other districts than No. 10, to which the project was originally confined.

A bond election held February 21, for a \$71,000 addition to the school at Welborn was declared invalid. Members of the committee asserted today that no attempt would be made to locate the building at Welborn if a more central location could be found. It is thought that by extending the district a better building can be obtained at less cost to the individual taxpayers.

Kansas City Kansan – Mar 25, 1930

WELBORN MEETING TONIGHT

The school board of the Welborn district is calling the mass meeting that is scheduled for 7:30 o'clock tonight at the school. At this meeting the coming bond election will be discussed and a thorough discussion of the present school conditions will be held.

Kansas City Star – Mar 25, 1960

APART ON SCHOOL PLAN

Residents of the Welborn community, six miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, will attempt to solve a difficult school problem at a general mass meeting tonight at the Welborn high school auditorium. One group of citizens favor the establishment of a consolidated high school district to take in seven grade school districts and to assess equally the cost of the school on all of the districts.

The other group believes the Welborn community should proceed with the plan to build its own high school and participate in the funds allowed under the present Barnes law for maintaining rural schools in Kansas.

Board Favors One District

Members of the school board of the district are in favor of the plan to proceed with the program approved by voters in the recent bond election which later was declared invalid. They believe such a program would be less expensive to the taxpayers than the larger district plan suggested by the Welborn progressive committee.

Now both sides have petitions in circulation to support their respective views. Under the plan urged by the school board, the cost of the addition to the school will not exceed 50 cents on each \$100 valuation in taxes at no time, and for the first year only 35 cents would be added. The board members assert, but should the larger program be adopted, the rate will be more than 60 cents, because the other districts have low property valuations and would not contribute large amounts in taxes.

Pleasant Hill, Hazel Grove, White Church, Pomeroy, Wolcott, Nearman, and Welborn are the districts proposed for the consolidated high school plan.

Doubt on Barnes Law Aid

Under the Barnes school law, all rural residents of the county pay taxes to create the Barnes law fund. The fund is distributed to all rural schools operating under its provisions. Dr. R. B. Bishop, treasurer of the school board, said if the Welborn high school is made up of a group of districts, it is doubtful if taxes under the Barnes law could be allotted to it and the entire burden thus would fall on the taxpayers.

Those in favor of the consolidated high school district object principally to the Welborn district furnishing high school advantages for the children of other districts without cost to the taxpayers of other districts.

Kansas City, Kansas – Mar 26, 1930

BUILDING TO BE RESUMED MONDAY
DISCUSSIONS OF BONDS AND NEW

Patrons of the Welborn school district met last night to discuss a new building and they discussed it. They also discussed everything else that might be in any way connected with a new school building. Tax figures were quoted, supreme court decisions were read and bonds were discussed.

The meeting called by members of the school board to discuss the muddle which has resulted from an illegal election, started out quietly with leaders of the various factions listening attentively to leaders of the other groups. But somewhere in the course of the meeting a speaker or two injected personalities into the talks.

Joseph Eberle, a member of the school board, opened the meeting with the plans presented to relieve the crowded condition of Welborn School and telling of all that had been done up to the time the election of February 21, was declared void.

Then H. J. Perry, a leader of the new Progressive club and of the moment for a consolidated school serving seven districts and supported by tax levies in these districts spoke in favor of that plan. "I am in favor of good schools and I will support any plan which the district decides on," he said, "but I don't believe Welborn can build an adequate school by itself. For \$71,000, the amount voted on the last election, we can't put up a building that will serve us very many years, the way Welborn is building up. If we are going to put up a building, we should put up one that will be enough for our needs and will be a credit to Wyandotte County."

Dr. A. J. Cairns, another member of the school board, discussed this plan from the other side, presenting some of the objectives to it.

Then several others took the floor, including Ben Woestemeyer of Bethel, who told what he believed the sentiment of his district for a consolidated school would be; William T. Taylor of Pomeroy; Guy Gray an advocate of the rural school plan; Dr. R. B. Bishop, the third member of the school board; Lee Nelson of Brenner Heights; Joseph Ricker, leader of the opponents of the school plan presented by the board; and B. J. Guinan, an advocate of the rural school.

Before these and other speakers had finished, all the history of the Welborn community and its school experiences were discussed. Figures were cited, only to be questioned. Statements were made only to be denied.

Finally, at about 10:30 o'clock, the 150 persons present, about half of whom were women, decided to continue the debate next Monday night.

Kansas City Star – Mar 26, 1930

COMMUNITY DIVIDED ON BOND PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

Welborn, Kansas, six miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, talked itself in circles last night in an effort to settle the question of school taxes. Some 250 citizens, all deeply interested in school matters, gathered at the Welborn High School and talked for nearly three hours on all sides of the issue. The meeting adjourned for another mass meeting next Monday night.

Citizens of the district appeared to be divided about evenly on two propositions. One was to build up the present high school by a tax against the residents of the Welborn district and the other was to extend the school district to take in other grade school districts and extend the taxes for the maintenance of the school over the larger area.

Those who favored the Welborn district proceeding with the up building of its own high school, insisted that their own program was the only feasible program. Those for the broader plan insisted that the other district received benefits from the Welborn school by sending their children there and consequently should bear a part of the burden.

Dr. R. B. Bishop a member of the school board, presented figures to show that the tax rate would be just as great if the broader plan were adopted and that several years would be lost in obtaining a high school. He said, however, that it would be possible to include the other districts to join in a plan to build an addition to the present building, which is situated in the Welborn District, and it would be doubtful if the other districts would unite on any kind of a plan.

The leaders favoring the larger district program replied that districts close to Welborn never would agree to pay taxes for the Welborn so long as they could send their children to the Welborn school for nothing.

Further replying to that statement, the advocates for the improvements of the Welborn schools asserted the children from the other district attend the Welborn school by virtue of the Barnes Rural School Law in Kansas under which taxes are paid by all the rural districts. They insisted that the residents of other districts paid taxes into the Barnes funds and by reason of the large attendance at school, the allotments from that fund were greater to the Welborn School. None of the contending factions last night was opposed to some kind of a school.

The problem now facing the community is insufficient room to accommodate the pupils next year. The school now is a grade A standard high school in Kansas, a rating that all citizens mention with pride. Leaders said last night they would draw up some definite program at the next meeting.

Kansas City Star – Mar 31, 1930

2ND ELECTION AT WELBORN WILL BE HELD APRIL 9

A second bond election to vote on an issue of \$71,600 in bonds for the improvement of the Welborn, Kansas grade and high school has been called for April 9. Members of the board of education filed the notices of the election Saturday after petitions containing a sufficient number of names had been presented to the board, Dr.

H. J. Cairns secretary said. Dr. Cairns said today the petitions had more than the required 50 percent of the qualified

electors. Announcement of the second election, Dr. Cairns said would be made tonight at a general mass meeting scheduled at the school. A month ago Welborn voted the bonds, but an error in the election proceedings invalidated the issue, so petitions were circulated for a second election. Under the plan the money, if voted, will be used to improve the school, either by making additions to the present building or adding school facilities.

The election call announced the polls would be open at the school from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night. Since the first election a group of Welborn citizens have started a movement to make a general high school district out of seven school districts, with a joint tax levy on all property for the maintenance and upkeep of

the school. That proposal was met with discouragement; school board members said, because residents of other districts who now send their children to the Welborn School under the Barnes Law will not consent to the greater school project. If any of the district did join in the program, board members said, the school would be moved out of the Welborn district.

The community is facing a precarious situation in its school problem, Dr. Cairns said. The present buildings now are crowded beyond capacity and additional students will be enrolled next fall. Residents of the community who could send their children to the Kansas City, Kansas high schools by paying \$90 a year tuition, now are deprived of that opportunity. The Kansas City, Kansas school board has served notice on the rural residents that it no longer could accept tuition students because of the overcrowded conditions in the city schools. Thus the residents of Welborn are left with no alternative except to send their children to some distant rural school as is permitted under the Barnes Law.

Another discussion (general) of the situation will be held among the residents at a mass meeting at the school tonight.

Kansas City Kansan - Mar 31, 1930

WELBORN WILL VOTE AGAIN

Nothing daunted by having once cast votes for school bonds which proved to be votes in name only, according to law, residents of the Welborn school district will again go to the polls April 9 and express their opinion on a proposed issue of \$71,600 for building purposes, according to notices posted Saturday, H. J. Cairns of the school board said today.

Residents of the district will have another mass meeting tonight at the school to discuss further the question of the proposed bonds.

Since the bond discussion several factions have developed in the district. One group favors the issuance of some \$71,000 in bonds to put up a new high school building or erect additions to the present building. While another group favors the consolidation of Welborn district with other districts and the building of a new school to serve the entire territory.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 5, 1930

FOES OF DISTRICT NO. 10 URGE BUILDING FOR CONSOLIDATE AREA

A definite move toward a rural high school to serve districts in Wyandotte County has been started by opponents of the bond issue on which the Welborn is to vote next Wednesday. The step taken is a petition put in circulation late yesterday, in which the signers agree to work for a consolidated school in case the bond issue fails to be voted. Guy Gray drafted the petition and is directing its circulation. The petition reads:

We the undersigned, residing in the vicinity of Welborn District do hereby agree and promise on our honor that if the present bond proposition before the Welborn is defeated in April 9th, 1930, that we will take and circulate petitions for a rural high school and work to our utmost to secure a rural high school for our district.

We feel that we have been for and have helped a great deal to get the improvements that we now have such as electric lights, paved road, and are now working with an honest endeavor to secure city water.

We realize that some talk is out that we are trying to defeat the proposed proposition and have

no high school at all, but this is absolutely untrue. We have never been for anything of this kind. But we do want a better school than District No. 10 can ever hope to build, and we feel that our proposition is by far the broader view.

We repeat and wish to emphasize that if this bond issue now before us is defeated, that we will do everything within our power to obtain a rural high school of these combined districts.

The election to be held Wednesday is the second one the Welborn District has had on bonds. The first one held last month was favorable to issuing \$71,600 in bonds, but after the balloting it was found the election was void because of the improper procedure in calling it.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 1930

EDITORIAL WELBORN'S PROBLRM

Wednesday, April 9, has been set as the day for the second Welborn school bond election, the first having been declared null and void thru technicalities. The district is to vote on the proposition whether \$71,600 shall be expended for the enlargement of the school plant.

There appears to be a wide diversity of opinion in the community as to what course should be followed in providing the needed added floor space. The movement for consolidation has made considerable headway. The theory being that the combined resources of the seven school districts in the proposed merger could afford the expenditures of enough money to provide an adequate plant, that Welborn cannot alone.

On the other hand, the proposed consolidated school could not be located in Welborn and in the middle of the consolidated district too.

Kansas City Star – Apr 6, 1930

CROWD RURAL SCHOOLS

Improvements to schools in Wyandotte County that would cost approximately \$50,000 will be recommended by Miss Olive I. Thompson, county superintendent of public instruction, in her annual report to be made April 11.

Miss Thompson yesterday completed inspection of the thirty grade and five high schools in Wyandotte County. She found that many of the schools in the county are crowded and others are inadequate to accommodate all of the potential pupils in the district.

In her annual report, Miss Thompson said, she will recommend enlargements to Hazel Grove, Lindbergh, Piper and Oak Grove Grade Schools and Welborn High School.

In these schools, Miss Thompson said, it is manifest that they are inadequate to accommodate all of the pupils. In seats built for one pupil, two are sitting, she said. Desks have been installed in the exit aisles to provide room for the increasing number of children.

Miss Thompson's report will be in the form of recommendation to the school boards in the various districts. Whether they are acted upon is optional with the board, Miss Thompson said.

One district the Welborn high school has planned an election to vote on bonds for a new high school. Considerable rivalry has developed around the bond issue. One faction favors an addition to the present building, which is used for a combination grade/high school. Another desires a separate unit for the high school.

Beautification of the school grounds, in every location where it is possible, also will be recommended by Miss Thompson said an offer to provide flower seeds had been made by a local florist.

The increasing popularity of suburban homes is given by Miss Thompson as the cause of the over-crowded schools.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 6, 1980

POLITICS BOILS IN WELBORN ON SCHOOL ISSUES

With a bond election and the annual meeting scheduled for this week, the political pot in the Welborn school district is doing some agitated boiling these days.

The whole controversy, which has led to an invalid election, heated arguments at mass meetings, the appearance of various petitions, and the splitting of the school district into two pronounced factions, is over the question of whether Welborn should improve its school facilities through a \$71,600 bond issue or whether an attempt should be made to unite several districts into one rural district which would erect a new high school for the entire area.

Outwardly, at least, everyone in the Welborn district is in favor of a new school building to relieve the present overcrowding and eliminate the fire hazard existing in the present buildings, but upon how and where this new building

should be erected there is sharp disagreement.

One group of residents, which includes all three members of the school board, is backing the \$71,600 bond issue upon which the district will vote Wednesday.

If this bond issue carries, the district will then decide how the money will be spent. Two plans have been brought forward so far. One is to put two additions on the present brick building and an addition on the smaller building which houses the primary department. The other is to start a separate unit to house part of the high school.

The group opposing this bond issue is trying to put through a plan to consolidate Welborn with six or seven other districts, which would be taxed proportionately for a school to serve them all.

Barnes Law Complaints

The present plan, under which the Welborn School benefits from the Barnes Fund but which permit students from any place in the county attend school free of charge, is unfair to Welborn and at the same time forces students from other districts to make too long a trip to the school building, friends of the consolidation declare.

But Welborn, because of its population, should have a school of its own, and other districts would never consent to the consolidation unless the school is moved to some more central location, the other faction argues.

The opposing forces, which started their arguments on a friendly basis, a few months ago, have been getting more and more pointed in their discussion and more and more personal in their remarks.

Dr. R. B. Bishop, treasurer of the school board and indefatigable leader of the bond advocates, has issued a 4-page folder setting forth arguments why the bond should carry, and setting out in graphic language a description of what he believes will happen if the Welborn building every has a fire.

While the other side has no such literary efforts backing up its arguments, it has made some oral statements equally as exciting.

But while some persons on both sides have been indulging in personalities and more or less wild statements, others have collected and disseminated page after page of figures and legal documents as to why one plan is better than another.

Both Claim Victory

The net result of the various tactics is to get the district in such condition that both sides are claiming a victory at the election Wednesday, but neither is claiming it by a big margin. The bonds just barely passed at the first election, which was later declared void, and the fight next Wednesday is going to be just a close, both sides admit.

In case the bond issue fails, the battle will go into a wider field, as all the districts which might be involved in a consolidation will have something to say about it.

Attempts have been made to have the county superintendent and county commissioners set boundaries for a rural district, but the officials prefer to let Welborn settle its problems one way or the other before interfering. Because of legal requirements for a rural district, making it necessary for the district to cover at least sixteen square miles and have a property valuation of \$2,000,000, the formation of such a district will be difficult.

Then whether the various communities involved would vote for such a plan is problematical. Vance, White Church, Pomeroy and one or two other districts are up to their necks in bond indebtedness now and it is doubtful if they would want to help build a new school as long as they can send their high school students to Welborn free of charge.

Attempts have been made in years past to form rural districts centering around Edwardsville and Bonner Springs, and they have failed, so there is considerable doubt as to whether the consolidation could be effected.

Friends of the plan, on the other hand, declare the various districts would be glad of a chance to put up an adequate school building and would be willing to pay for the benefits it would bring.

The first battle will be fought Wednesday.

Then on Friday night, Welborn will have its annual meeting to elect a new member to the school board. Dr. H. J. Cairns, whose term expires this year, will run for re-election, he has announced.

Kansas City Star – Apr 6, 1930

LAUNCH NEW SCHOOL MOVE

Petitions urging an immediate effort to organize a rural high school district to be composed of several school districts near Welborn, Kansas, were placed in circulation last night. Persons sponsoring the move are opposing the \$71,600 bond issue to be voted on Wednesday for building up the Welborn high school now maintained by the Welborn country school district.

Those who advocate this program said last night the school, if organized under the joint district plan, would be moved to a point most convenient to the center of the population of the districts which join for the high school. Such a point for the proposed combined district high school they said would be the junction of Nearman (now 55th) and

Leavenworth Roads. They are advocating the plan because Welborn has only 3.8 square miles of territory. Such a small district, they declared, could not hope to continue to keep up school facilities and permit students from adjoining districts to attend, because the tax levies would mount beyond the limits fixed by law.

Advocates of the bond issue have contended that outside districts will not enter into a general rural high school plan and in that event Welborn School will have to maintain its own high school.

Kansas City Star – Apr 7, 1930

CITE SCHOOL TAX VALUES

Members of the school board in the Welborn, Kansas district offered additional arguments today against the proposed consolidated rural high school district. A \$71,600 bond issue for a new Welborn High School will be voted on Wednesday. The plan of opponents of the bond issue is to combine six or seven districts into one rural district and distribute school taxes over the entire territory so one community will not have to pay all the taxes. The Welborn district now maintains the school by taxes, while the children from the other districts attend without charge.

Members of the board said today a tax valuation survey shows that the six districts included in the rural high school plan now aggregate only \$4,000,000. The law provides that not in excess of 6 mills on the dollar can be levied for school purposes.

Opponents of the consolidated school plan assert that to have a grade A high school, such as Welborn now has, the law specifies that at least ten teachers must compose the faculty, and with the tax levy fixed at the maximum rate of 6 mills and a valuation of only \$4,000,000 from which to draw taxes, it would be an impossibility to maintain a rural high school with a grade A standard.

They also assert that if the rural plan were voted it would be one year before the school could apply the Barnes Law funds now provided by Kansas school laws and another year would be lost before any money would be received from the Barnes taxation provision.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 8, 1930

TIGHT ELECTION TOMORROW AT WELBORN SEEN

Welborn will go to the polls tomorrow to decide whether it will issue \$71,600 in bonds to improve its schools.

And from all indications the election will be a hot one and a close one, for both those in favor of the bonds and those against them have been working overtime to work up interest in the issue.

In the last few days a number of circulars have been issued by both sides. Interspersed with these out-in-the-open moves have been whispered attacks on various individuals interested in the fight.

One of the latest open letters on the bond issue has been sent out by the opponents of it and signed by Dr. A. S. Parlish, Harry G. Randall, and E. J. Stitt.

This letter declares that if the bonds are issued the tax rate in the district will jump up to \$4.50 on the \$100 valuation.

Because of this tax the sale value of Welborn property will go down, while the value of property just outside the district, where families may send their children to Welborn High School without paying the levy to maintain the school will go up, it is declared.

The solution to this allegedly unfair situation is to create one big district out of Welborn and five small districts surrounding it, the cost of the high school then to be borne by the entire consolidated district, the letter states.

In an answer to this letter, signed by James Luscombe and the members of the school board, it is denied that the tax levy will be \$4.50. Instead, a figure of \$2.65 is given.

Then, instead of staying out of Welborn because of the taxes, people will want to move there because of the schools, and property values will go up, it is argued.

It will also be impossible to get other districts into a consolidation, it is said.

Likewise, Welborn cannot get along without additional school facilities, it is said. The board of education of Kansas City, Kansas has said that students from outside the city cannot be handled in city schools next year, and it is estimated that thirty more students will be sent to Welborn as a result.

While residents of the Welborn district are arguing about their bonds, residents of other districts, finding themselves involved through the consolidation proposal, have called a meeting for 8 o'clock tomorrow night at Lee Nelson's courtroom in Brenner Heights. Residents of Vance, Hazel Grove, White Church, Pomeroy and Wolcott districts are invited.

A letter calling the meeting says it is planned to form an organization the idea of which, "is not to fight a rural high school, composed of the above named districts, but to fight any effort of No. 10 district (Welborn) to locate the rural high school in the eastern part of the rural district, or Welborn district, and insist on the rural high school being located in

the geographical center of the rural high school district, which would place the building in the neighborhood between Bethel and Vance.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 8, 1930

PROPOSE NEW PRIMARY DEPT. AT WELBORN

The question of a new primary department for children in the east part of the Welborn School District will be put before the taxpayers of the district at the annual meeting Friday night, it was said today by Joseph K. Eberle, a member of the school board.

The patrons of the eastern part of the district have asked for a school with the first four grades there. The request has been endorsed by the board.

Kansas City Star – Apr 8, 1930

A NEW SCHOOL MASS MEETING

A new angle appeared today in the school controversy in the Welborn, Kansas district, six miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, when residents of five adjoining districts announced a mass meeting for Wednesday night to be held in the courtroom of Lee Nelson, Justice of the Peace, at Brenner Heights. Those sponsoring the meeting want a rural high school in the geographical center of all the proposed districts that will make up the high school district.

The outlying districts are Vance, Hazel Grove, White Church, Pomeroy and Wolcott.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 9, 1930

WELBORN BOND VOTING STARTS OFF WITH A RUSH

The time for arguments over, Welborn went to the polls today to register its decision on the \$71,600 school bond proposal now before the district.

Balloting will be heavy, judging from the votes cast during the morning hours, and those in touch with the situation were predicting that 800 persons would go to the polls before 6 o'clock tonight. The district has approximately 900 qualified voters.

When the polls opened at 8 o'clock this morning a big crowd was on hand. In city elections a vote is just as good one time as another, but in rural districts the election board must be chosen by those at the polls at the time the election is to start, so the vote that came out early was heavy.

Those chosen for the election board were U. S. Brenner, Edward Studt, William J. Erb, Mrs. F. W. Wilson and Mrs. Roy Phillips.

Before the polls had been open two hours 200 persons had voted.

In spite of the heavy vote, everything was peaceful around the primary building where the balloting was being done. To guard against possible physical combats, Sheriff Harry Powers assigned two of his deputies to duty at Welborn, but all they found to do was to keep cars from parking too near the door.

Those opposing the bonds asserted that the tax rate would be \$4.00 on the \$100 valuation, more than many of the owners of small tracts could pay. They believed it would be better to wait another year and then more would be known as to where the center of population would be in the Welborn district.

The defeat of the bonds yesterday, it was said, would not stop but only delay the erection of the school, as those who have favored it plan to circulate other petitions, that will remove at least part of the objections by being more specific on location.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 10, 1930

WELBORN SCHOOL IS STILL A PROBLEM

With the \$71,600 bond issue defeated yesterday by a vote of 444 to 350, citizens of the Welborn school district now are faced with the problem of taking proper care of the students in their grade and high schools next year.

The opponents of the bond issue have already begun plans to put across a rural high school serving Welborn and five or six other districts. This plan had been proposed before and was one of the factors that caused the defeat of the bonds, but no definite proposal had been made.

Now, however, since the bonds have failed and something must be done to relieve conditions at the school, the advocates of a rural school are getting their plans formulated. A definite suggestion will be made within the next week or so, it was said today.

Working independently of the Welborn group which led the fight against the bonds, but containing a number of

residents of the Welborn district, is another group which favors a rural district with the school nearer the geographical center of the district instead of Welborn.

This group held a meeting last Saturday night at Brenner Height, with about 175 persons present, and discussed plans for the consolidation.

How these two groups will cooperate is a question, as one is in favor of having the new school at Welborn, in which district about half the high school pupils live, and the other wants the school at some place nearer the center of the district.

The group which met at Brenner Height selected a general committee headed by Lee Nelson and containing one member from each of the seven districts. These members are: James Luscombe, Welborn; R. M. Rickey, Vance; William Brune, Hazel Grove; R. Shuler, White Church; Harry Campbell, Pomeroy; Sor Sortor, Nearman; and William Brunk, Pleasant Ridge.

These men will be at the annual meetings to be held in each of the districts tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow night, to explain the general plans. A mass meeting to discuss consolidation also will be held Monday night at the Vance school house.

Kansas City Star – Apr 10, 1930

ON WITH SCHOOL PLANS

The winning faction in yesterday's election at Welborn, having defeated the proposed bond issue, today turned to plans for a bond issue for a consolidated rural high school district.

The proposal defeated yesterday was whether the people should spend \$71,600 for a new Welborn high school or an addition to the present school building.

Those who opposed the bond issue say they desire additional school facilities, but do not want to carry the burden on the present assessed valuation of \$1,306,000.

"We need adequate buildings, but we need a greater valuation," was the battle cry of opponents of the bonds defeated yesterday.

Today they laid the plans for a larger valuation to be obtained by enlarging the present district of four square miles by taking in adjacent districts covering a total of sixteen square miles. Thus the valuation would be increased to \$4,000,000, Guy Gray, one of the advocates of the new plan, said.

Mr. Gray said petitions would be circulated next week calling another election to vote on a bond issue for a new consolidated rural high school. The county commissioners and the county superintendent of public instruction will be asked to declare the territory a rural high school district.

These steps taken, the election would be held to determine whether the enlarged district desired to vote for bonds for a school building. The present building at Welborn, which now serves both the grades and the high school, would be used only as a grade school.

J. I. Reeder, Welborn druggist, one of the leaders in the movement for the bond issue yesterday, said today the losing faction had not discussed the new proposal.

Property owners in seven rural districts, which are now served by the Welborn high school, have organized under the leadership of Lee Nelson, Justice of the Peace at Brenner Heights, to determine where a rural high school to serve them should be located. (Brenner Heights: <http://www.kckps.org/disthistory/dist-history/bios/jahoel.htm>)

A mass meeting of persons interested in the school problem will be held Monday night at the Vance school. Districts that the proposed new rural high school would serve are Welborn, Vance, Hazel Grove, Pomeroy, Nearman and Pleasant Grove. Justice Nelson said his committee believed the school should be located in the geographical center of the district, which he said would be approximately 1 ½ miles west of Welborn. Another organized group favors placing the high at Welborn, the most thickly populated section of the combined districts.

Kansas City Star – Apr 10, 1930

OUT OF CITY SCHOOLS

Nearly 50 pupils in the Welborn High School District have been attending Kansas City, Kansas schools without being required to pay the customary tuition fee provided for those outside the city school district. The Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education had presumed these pupils were residents of the city school district.

The error, which has been costly to the Kansas City, Kansas school system was discovered this week when the Wyandotte County surveyor made a detailed survey of the Welborn High School district and platted all of the property

within its boundary lines.

Members of the school board have indicated that pupils from the Welborn District who have been attending the city schools without payment of tuition may not be admitted next year even though willing to pay.

The reason for this ruling, it was explained, is that the schools are crowded at present and all available space is needed for pupils in the city district. At the Wyandotte high school and the Kansas City, Kansas Junior College, which is housed in the high school building, all tuition pupils may be barred next year, it was said. There are approximately forty of these in the high and college.

Kansas City Times – Apr 11, 1930

A HOLIDAY IN DROUGHT

It was a holiday at the Welborn grade and high school yesterday, the cistern went dry.

The 450 pupils were sent home shortly after the hour for assembling by H. F. Wilson, principal. The long dry spell had exhausted the water supply.

The school board ordered water hauled from Kansas City, Kansas and all night wagons were filling the cistern. By this morning there will be sufficient supply to re-open the school. Of the pupils, 250 are in high school.

Several other rural schools in Wyandotte County are running low on water and farmers and dairies are becoming anxious.

The small creeks that flow through the county and as a rule furnish water sufficient for cattle in many cases are dry.

Kansas City Star – Apr 11, 1930

APART ON THE NEW SCHOOL SITE

It appeared today that two petitions, both calling for the establishment of a rural high school district in the territory between Welborn, Kansas and Wolcott, Kansas, will be circulated. One petition will be for locating the proposed school in the geographical center of the districts which will be asked to unite and the other will be to locate the school near the center of population.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 11, 1930

CONSOLIDATED H.S. MOVE IS INITIATED WELBORN GROUP OPPOSED TO RECENT BOND ISSUE, FILES SCHOOL PROPOSAL

Residents of Welborn who are leading the campaign for a rural high school district today made to Miss Olive Thompson, county superintendent, the first definite proposal for creating the district and locating the school.

This proposal is for a rural district composed of Welborn, White Church, Hazel Grove, Nearman, Vance and Pomeroy.

The groups making this suggestion favors a high school near the population center of the district, at some place where it could be connected with the city water system, on a paved road, and near the inter-urban line. (Inter-urban line: <http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us/kscoll/lochist/thenow/TN26.htm>)

The group will called on Miss Thompson included Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Pavlisk, B. J. Guinan, William Tanner, L. G. Brenner and E. J. Stitt.

Under the law, a rural district can be created by the county superintendent and the county commissioners. The territory must be of not less than sixteen square miles and of not less than \$2,000,000. After the boundaries of a proposed rural district are set by the county officials, the residents of the territory vote on the proposition. The question of the location of the school also must be voted upon. This conflict is in conflict with that which is expected to be made by the other group working on a consolidation plan. This group, which organized Wednesday night at a mass meeting at Brenner Heights, favors a school near the geographical center of the district, rather than near the population center. One plan will put the school close to Welborn, where about half the high school students live, while the other would put the school farther west.

The second plan would also include the Pleasant Ridge and Wolcott districts, which were left out of the plan submitted to Miss Thompson today.

Miss Thompson expects to confer with different groups within the next few days, going over the various plans proposed. Then before any boundaries are set, hearings will be held in the different districts involved.

“I am in favor of locating the proposed new high school as near the geographical center of the district as possible,” she said. “All parts of the district must be equally served. But it must be on a good road and easily accessible.”

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 12, 1930

PEACE ON SCHOOLS

After voting down the proposed \$71,600 bond issue for a new school building Wednesday, residents of the Welborn district did an about turn last night and re-elected to the school board one of the leaders in the fight for the defeated bonds.

Dr. H. J. Cairns, who as one of the three board members was active in working for the bond issue, was named to the board for another term on a meeting that about almost to a “love feast” after the hectic campaign over the bond question.

More than 300 persons attended the meeting last night. Both those who favored the bonds and those who had opposed them had candidates for the vacancy on the board, Dr. Cairns representing one group and Mrs. Guy Gray the other. The vote was close, Dr. Cairns winning by only fourteen ballots.

The budget proposed by the board was adopted in its entirety.

The meeting apparently cleared the way for concerted action in meeting the problem of what do do next in maintaining an adequate school.

Opponents of the bond issue based their campaign on the argument that a rural school serving several districts was more advisable than a school in Welborn, maintained solely by Welborn. The other side believed it more practical to build the school at Welborn and pay for it there.

But since the bond issue failed, and the district voted not to carry alone the burden of building a new school, many of the leaders of the defeated side have signified their willingness to cooperate to get a new school for a consolidated district.

Dr. Cairns, who favored a strictly Welborn school because he believed it more practical under present conditions, has been regarded for some time as a friend of a rural school, if it could be put over. Dr. R. B. Bishop, the most active single leader in the fight for the bonds, today said he would work just as hard now for a rural school. “Since Welborn voted not to put up a school by itself, I’m in favor of a rural school near the geographical center of the district,” he said today.

So now the controversy has shifted from the question of a Welborn school vs. a rural school to the question of a rural school at the population center of the district vs. a rural school at the geographical center of the district, and Welborn, having settled its own problem, is now faced with the necessity of working with other districts in settling the problem now common to them all.

Kansas City Star – Apr 13, 1930

INTO SCHOOL PROBLEMS AGAIN

A mass meeting to discuss the proposed rural high school among the rural school districts in the northeastern section of Wyandotte County will be held tomorrow night at the Vance Schoolhouse. Lee Nelson, Justice of the Peace, is chairman of the consolidated rural high school committee.

Other members of the committee are: James Luscombe, Welborn District; R. M. Rickey, Vance District; J. L. Brune, Hazel Grove District; R. Schyler, White Church District; Harry Campbell, Pomeroy District; Vories Sortor, Nearman District; and William Brunner, Pleasant Ridge District. The committee is in favor of a joint rural high school to be situated at the geographical center of the district. All residents of the districts have been asked to attend.

The Welborn High School situation tells the story of the rapid growth of a rural community close to a city. The high school at Welborn is in the grade school building. There are 520 children, of whom 250 are in the high school. The building was not designed for that many pupils and never designed for high school work.

There are four other rural high schools in the county and while each has a district, the law provides a child may attend any one.

But here another trouble is met. The nearest school is at Piper. It must be reached by bus; but to reach the bus, many must walk a long distance. The other three schools are south of US Highway 40. The nearest at Edwardsville is very small. To reach Turner one would have to cross half the county and the Kaw River. The Bonner Springs high school serves that city and the southwestern part of the county.

When the commissioners meet tomorrow there will be several outlines for a new district presented. Roughly, the district asked will be north of the Reidy Road and West to White Church with Kansas City, Kansas on the East and the Missouri on the North. The county board will be asked to fix an exact boundary for a high school district and there is a question as to the details of the boundary.

When the county board has ironed that out and fixed a district, which will include several rural school districts

besides Welborn, another election must be called in all of these to vote on issuing bonds to erect a new high school for the combined district.

Should the bonds carry, a site for the school must then be selected near the population of the district.

Kansas City Times – Apr 18, 1930

PLAN \$200,000 SCHOOL

A plea by 200 residents of communities adjacent to Kansas City, Kansas on the west, that the county commissioners create a rural high school district was taken under advisement yesterday by the board.

Members of the board said action was delayed to allow all members and Miss Olive Thompson, county superintendent, time to study maps of the district.

No objection was entered at the meeting to the creation of the district. It would supply the need for a new high school arising from the inadequacy of the Welborn High School, now housing most of the students from the districts. Recently, residents of Welborn voted down bonds for a new high school after a campaign had been waged on the issue that the district should be larger.

The district proposed in the map given to the board yesterday by Lee Nelson, chairman of the citizens committee, includes Welborn, Vance, Hazel Grove, White Church, Pomeroy, Nearman, Pleasant Ridge and Wolcott.

The district would have a valuation of \$4,000,000. It would include 2400 taxpayers and the school would be planned to accommodate 500 students.

If the new rural high school was created and bonds were voted for a building, it would be situated in the geographical center of the district, Mr. Nelson said. That has been found to be a short distance from the Vance community church, adjacent to the inter-urban line, between Vance and Bethel.

Mr. Nelson said the district planned to erect a \$200,000 school.

The room in which the commissioners met was crowded to overflowing when the session was called yesterday afternoon. After Mr. Nelson had made a short address, he asked all in favor of the new district to rise. Only three remained seated.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 18, 1930

URGE LEAVENWORTH ROAD AS HIGH SITE

Construction of a \$200,000 rural high school, located on a slightly piece of ground on Leavenworth Road between Bethel and Vance, is being suggested by many patrons residing within the proposed new rural high school district in the northeastern section of Wyandotte County.

That location offers advantage of a paved road, and is within 200 feet of inter-urban service, it was pointed out.

Also it was cited, there is an excellent water supply available as well as natural gas.

The matter of selection of a site was discussed informally yesterday when a delegation of approximately 200 persons visited the courthouse in the interest of presenting to the board of county commissioners a request to establish boundary lines for the proposed school district. The boundary question was taken under advisement, a decision to be made within a week.

Although the board has nothing to do with the selection of a site, that responsibility being placed with the voters of the district, several persons at the meeting referred to the possible location of the school, all agreeing it should be constructed in the geographic center in fairness to all.

There were representatives present from the eight districts included in the proposed new high school district – Welborn, Vance, Hazel Grove, White Church, Pomeroy, Nearman, Pleasant Ridge and Wolcott. Those districts have an estimated value of \$4,000,000.

Should the board approve boundary lines, the next step will be the enumeration of electors in the district.

Petitions will then be circulated fixing the amount of the proposed bond issue and naming of the site. When two fifths of the electors have signed the petitions, they will be presented to the board of county commissioners, who, in turn, will call the election. Election boards will be appointed by the county commissioners.

If bonds carry, the county superintendent, Miss Olive I. Thompson, will set a date for election of members of the school board.

Two maps with proposed boundary lines were filed yesterday with the board. One was introduced by Lee Nelson, Brenner Heights, the other by Guy Gray, Welborn. The maps are said to be similar.

Members of the board will check them for differences. The Nelson map does not include a small portion of territory in the eastern corner, where it is said reside a number of property owners not in accord with the rural high school movement.

Kansas City Kansan – Apr 21, 1930

TO APPROVE RURAL SCHOOL MAP

The County commissioners and Miss Olive Thompson, county superintendent, will late today approve a map prepared by Lee Nelson of Brenner Heights, which designates the boundaries of the proposed consolidated school district west and northwest of Kansas City, Kansas.

Two maps were presented to the board of county commissioners last week at a meeting of persons interested in the proposed consolidation and the Nelson drafting seems, the commissions say, to delineate a satisfactory consolidated district.

The next step will be the circulation of petitions in the area which when signed by two-fifths of the voters will call for an election for the purchase of a site and the voting of bonds for the erection of a building.

The boundaries of the proposed district are: South to Reidy Road; North to the Missouri River; West to the limits of the Piper School District; east to the school limits of Kansas City, Kansas.

Kansas City, Kansas – Apr 22, 1930

RURAL HIGH UP TO THE VOTERS

The question of a new rural high school in Wyandotte county has been thrown directly at the taxpayers now, with approval by the county superintendent and the county commissioners of the boundaries for a proposed new district.

Since the Welborn fight for a new high school was started, there has been considerable talk of a rural school serving several districts in the Northeastern part of the county. And after Welborn voted NO on its proposition, the campaign became more definite.

Yesterday afternoon the county commissioners approved boundaries submitted by Lee Nelson head of a committee of residents of the various districts involved.

With this action the questions now are directly to the voters of the proposed district.

Petitions asking for an election on the formation of the district, location of the school, and a bond issue to pay for the building will be circulated immediately, it was said.

Kansas City Kansan – Jun 11, 1930

NEW RURAL HIGH SCHOOL IS EASY BALLOT VICTORY

By a vote of 3 to 1, the voters of the northeastern part of Wyandotte County declared in favor of a new high school yesterday.

The new district as suggested by the county commissioners and county superintendent was approved by a vote of 741 to 224.

The \$175,000 bond issue necessary to put up a building was approved by 672 persons, with only 224 against it.

The location of the new school at a site between Vance and Bethel was selected on a vote of 733 to 226.

A school board will be elected by the new district, which will be known as Rural High School District No. 2.

Miss Olive Thompson, county superintendent, will set the time for electing the board.

It is expected the new school will be ready for occupancy by September, 1931.

Kansas City Kansan – Jun, 1930

ELECT BOARD FOR RURAL H.S. IN CLOSE VOTE

A tabulation of the balloting at the meeting yesterday follows:

For Director

H. J. Perry, Nearman District – 212 Eugene Stotler, Bethel District – 209

C. J. Shuyler, Bethel District – 177

Total votes cast – 598

For Treasurer

Earl B. Newby, Brenner Heights – 377 James Luscombe, Welborn – 358 Total votes cast – 635

For Clerk

M. J. Bigham, White Church – 445 Lee Nelson, Brenner Heights – 414 Total votes cast – 859

It took more than five hours yesterday for the voters of the county's new rural high school district to choose its

first officers, but today no one seemed to feel any dissatisfaction with the election although the meeting yesterday was not without incident.

Voters of the district seem to feel today that the three men elected yesterday to administer the affairs of the district will give good service and there are no rumors of an effort to contest the election.

H. J. Perry of Nearman Road, Earl B. Newby of Brenner Heights, and M. J. Bigham of White Church were chosen by the voters yesterday as director, treasurer and clerk of the newly created district.

They were elected by loose majorities at a meeting held in a tent erected on the lawn of the Grandview Methodist Episcopal Church near Vance which half an hour before the meeting started was crowded with people while the adjacent roads were lined with motor cars.

At two o'clock, Miss Olive Thompson, county superintendent, took the platform and rapped for order.

Almost at once Joseph Ricker of Welborn objected to the county superintendent's presence on the platform and questioned her authority to preside at the meeting. Miss Thompson went on talking and J. G. Braecklein of Welborn stepped forward to argue with Ricker. The crowd was in a good humor and shouted advice to Miss Thompson and to Braecklein.

"If you intend to preside at this meeting," said Ricker, "there are a few of us who wish to leave and to hold a legal school meeting of our own."

"Go ahead," shouted the crowd, and Miss Thompson explained that she was acting as presiding officer on the advice of the county attorney and attorney general.

Someone called the Sheriff and the arrival of Fred R. White, county attorney, seemed to end the difficulties, and Miss Thompson called for nominations for the office of clerk.

"The law states," Ricker shouted, "that the office of director shall be voted on first."

Miss Thompson ignored and he walked out of the meeting to return a few minutes later with a request that an objection to the manner in which the election was being conducted be entered on the records of the meeting.

Bigham and Lee Nelson of Brenner Heights were nominated for clerk of the district, and Miss Thompson appointed Miss Josephine Daniels and Miss Laura Stockhoff as tellers, and John Brune, Henry Taylor and John Hovey as judges of the election.

She then appointed a group of challengers and explained that each voter would come forward, receive a ballot and write his choice on it before depositing it in the ballot box.

Then the voters formed in lines and the voting proceeded. It took more than an hour for the voters to finish casting their ballots and then another hour was required for the counting of the ballots which showed that Bigham had defeated Nelson for the clerkship by the small majority of 31 votes.

Early Newby and James Luscombe were nominated for treasurer, and the same procedure was followed in the balloting. The count showed that Newby was elected by a majority of 19 votes.

It was getting late and many of the voters left before they voted for the last office of the board, the director. H. J. Perry, Eugene Stotler and C. J. Schuyler were candidates for this office and Perry was elected by a majority of 3 votes.

These officers will administer the affairs of the new district, will arrange for the construction of the building, will issue bonds authorized at the election last month, and will supervise the operation of the new school. Bigham will hold office for three years, Newby for two years, and Perry for one year. One officer will be elected at each annual school meeting in the future.

Kansas City Star – Aug 9, 1931

PLAN SCHOOL CEREMONY

Cornerstone ceremonies for the new Wyandotte County Rural High School under construction ½ mile east of Bethel, Kansas, on the Leavenworth Road, will be held with an elaborate program at 8 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The new building, when completed, will cost \$142,690 and will be situated on an 8 acre tract on a high knoll.

J. Forest Ayers, grandmaster of the Masonic lodge of Kansas, will officiate at the cornerstone ceremonies. He will use the trowel that was used by George Washington in the laying of the cornerstone of the national capitol at Washington. The trowel is the property of Alexandria Masonic Lodge at Alexandria, Virginia. It will be the first the famous trowel has been used in Kansas.

Under the provisions of the Lodge in Alexandria, a committee of three members of that lodge must accompany the trowel. Those desiring to use it must pay all the expenses of the three Alexandria lodge members.

Funds for the cornerstone and for the expenses of the Alexandria committee were raised by subscription of not to exceed 10 cents each among the school children in the various districts to be served by the high school. Mrs. J. I. Reeder, headed the committee in charge of the collection. She worked with officers and members of the Delaware Masonic Lodge at White Church, which will be the host to the visiting officers. Henry Danielson, master of the White Church

lodge, carried on the negotiations with the Alexandria lodge for use of the famous trowel.

U. S. Guyer, representative in congress from the second district of Kansas, will deliver the oration. Music will be furnished by the Koontz girls' band.

H. J. Perry, director; M. J. Bigham, clerk, and E. B. Newby, treasurer, who compose the rural high school board of education, expect th new building to be completed by Oct 15, (1931). It will be one of the most complete rural high schools in the state. It was designed by Peterson and Almon, Kansas City, Kansas architects. The new building will be built of brick with terra cotta trimming. The floors will be of concrete with special surface treatment. It will have an auditorium with a capacity for seating 1,000, five classrooms, a library, a gymnasium 60x90, a cafeteria, a stage 20x54, a kitchen, committee room, two drawing and art rooms, locker rooms, offices for the principal, band room, two commercial study rooms and an agricultural department. There will be space also for heating units, water supply and general utility features.

The building will front south on the road with 240 feet outside frontage. The west wing will be 35 feet deep and the east wing 113 feet deep. E. D. Chuck, general contractor, will push the construction rapidly from now on. The foundation and skeleton of steel work is complete.

Provisions for the new rural high school were made a year ago when persons living in eight school districts organized the rural high school district under the Kansas laws and voted \$175,000 in bonds to acquire the site and build the building.

The plans for the rural high school district which includes the White Church, Pomeroy, Hazel Grove, Nearman, Welborn Districts and parts of Pleasant Ridge, and Horaniff districts were made following a general program to increase the facilities of the Welborn High School by the residents of the Welborn District.

Kansas City Kansan – Sept 1931

RURAL HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS UP

Rural high schools in the county as well as the rural grade school are showing an increase in enrollment this year. An additional teacher has been added to the faculty at Turner High School.

Classes of the rural high school district No. 2 are being held in the Welborn Congregational Church. There are 217 enrolled in the four classes: seventy-five in the freshman class; sixty in the sophomore cloass; forty-seven in the junior class and thirty-five in the senior class.

With ten teachers the school is holding its sessions under rather crowded conditions. Schedules have been worked out whereby the pupils will have one study period at home, Owen H. Cubberly, Principal, said yesterday. It is hoped to be able to move into the new high school building in the course of the next two months.

Several new courses have been added which includes home-making and manual training. Miss Ellen Eagle, formerly head of the music department at the Piper School, is head of that department at the new high school. In addition to an orchestra, a new band will be organized this winter.

Online History of Washington High School:

<http://www.kckps.org/disthistory/openbuildings/washington.html>