

CHAPTER V

THE PRESENT SCHOOL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The school buildings are located in the north central part of town. They are just about four blocks from the business district.

The location is particularly good in that the buildings occupy a commanding site. Also, they are within easy walking distance of all parts of town and yet are not so close to the business district that there is trouble with the children leaving the school grounds or being endangered by traffic.

The grounds are not ample for the playing activities of elementary and high school students. During the noon hour the play area is much too crowded for most games to take place. A few years ago several loads of rough gravel were placed on the playground which has made it undesirable in many respects.

For the most part the edges of the playground are not cleared of weeds during the summer and this permits the weeds to get large, which, when cut in the fall, leave sharp stubs which could be injurious to a child falling on them.

It is recommended that the board of education buy the lot south of the school grounds to provide more play area for the children. The board also should direct the custodians

to take care of the school grounds during the summer months. The poor appearance of the grounds detracts from the beauty of the school buildings.

The grade school building was built in 1912 at a cost of \$22,000 by a Dodge City contractor. It is constructed of brick with hardwood floors on both the downstairs and upstairs floors. The building is 60 feet wide and 90 feet long. There is a full basement where the gas furnace, hot water tank, supply room, and a storage room are located.

The main drawback to the building is the fire hazard which is always present. The floors and building trims are of old, heavily-oiled wood. It is, however, fairly well equipped for fire control. Each floor has large soda-water and sulphuric acid extinguishers. A new fire alarm system has been recently installed for further protection. In recent fire drills the children have completely cleared the building in less than one minute. The lower floor pupils use both of the main doors and the upstairs pupils use a large fire escape located on the south side of the building.

The building is heated by a new \$2000 gas furnace which was installed in December, 1952. There is a thermostat located in the main hall of the building for the convenience of the principal and the custodian in regulating the heat. Modern low heat radiators were installed in each

room recently and present a much more attractive appearance than the large iron radiators which were formerly used. The building is well ventilated by means of numerous windows, and by ventilating shafts running from the rooms up to the roof of the building.

The building contains seven classrooms (3 upstairs and 4 downstairs), a large activity room, a principal's office, an outer office which also doubles as a duplicating room, five large cloak rooms, two large rest rooms, a first aid room, and a full basement.

The average-sized classroom is 30 feet by 22 feet, inside dimensions, and can accommodate from twenty-five to thirty-five pupils at a time. The activity room is smaller than the classrooms being some twenty-five square feet less in area.

At the present time there are six grade school teachers employed with an enrollment of 130 in the six rooms. A vocal music and an instrumental music teacher teaches one-half of the school day in the grade school department.

The drinking and washing facilities of the building are quite adequate for the enrollment. A drinking fountain is located on the top floor and four fountains are located on the lower floor. More are located on the lower floor because of the time consumed by the smaller children in getting their drinks.

The toilet facilities are also adequate. They are located on the lower floors in rooms 20 feet by 10 feet which are well lighted and well ventilated. The number of stools is ample. They are located in separate booths which are separated by steel partitions. The stools are of the automatic-flushing type and chemicals and disinfectants are used at all times, thus eliminating almost entirely unpleasant and unhealthy odors.

The high school building was built in 1922 at a cost of \$45,000. It is constructed of brick and has cement floors in the halls and the different rooms. The main building has two stories and is 130 feet long and 80 feet wide. The attached gymnasium is 120 feet long and 80 feet wide. There is a one-third basement which contains a large gas furnace, a small dressing room, and quarters for the custodian.

The building is, for the most part, fire-proof. For fire protection there are various types of extinguishers present in the classrooms and the halls. Fire escapes are located on each side of the gymnasium and a third one is found on the east side of the main building.

Large steel radiators are located in each room and are fed steam from a large gas furnace located in the basement. Ventilation of the building is by the use of the many

windows and the air shafts that are built from the roof to the various rooms.

This building has ten classrooms, two rest rooms, a large study hall, a small library, coaches room, duplicating room, superintendent's office, and an outer office. Joining on the north side of the main section is the combination gymnasium-auditorium with two dressing rooms and a store room. Since the school is of the consolidated type the grade school pupils use the gymnasium on rainy days as a playroom.

At the present time there are ten teachers in the building (counting the superintendent) and a vocal music and an instrumental music teacher who teaches half-time in the building. The building has an enrollment of 125 in grades seven to twelve.

The rest rooms are practically identical to the ones described in the grade school building. Just recently the school purchased a new General Electric refrigerated water fountain for the main lobby. This has proven to be a popular item with the conventional-type fountain being practically deserted.

In 1951 the Eby Construction Company of Wichita constructed a cement building on the west side of the high school grounds for the purpose of providing room for the vocational agriculture department, the lunch room, and the

