

(copy)

1220 Westport Rd.
Ann Arbor, Mich.

July 11, 1964

Board of Education
Ann Arbor Public Schools
c/o Secretary
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Sirs,

We feel that the recent Citizens' Committee report regarding the problem of the school populations at Jones and Mack Schools is well done and encourage you to give its provisions for improvement your support.

We would like to take issue with one part, however. We do not feel that Mack School should be watched while the disproportion climbs. At what point do you decide to take action?

It seems to us that NOW is the time to consider and work out a solution for those children and it seems relatively easy at this time. We would like to suggest something that seems logical to us, parents of Wines School children. Why not make a Wines-Mack Elementary School?--combine the two schools, staffs and children into one?

The smaller children, say through second grade, could attend the School nearest to them. The 3rd and 4th grades could attend Mack and the 5th and 6th attend Wines. All these children go on to Foraythe as 7th graders. They would simply be integrated earlier. All should be able to walk. Newport Rd. is the busiest crossing and you now provide a guard at that point. Miller Road would be no problem.

If a third school building were needed to make this work because of the population growth and the new home building out Newport, there are pieces of land such as the Graves Estate and Ganzhorn property that could be considered. The "neighborhood" concept would still be in effect. The ratio of the races would be restored to a better balance. I do not think the distance from any part of the present attendance area to either schools is too great for middle and upper elementary children to walk, thus eliminating the problem of bussing children. Parents, teachers and principals could assist in taking over and working out the details and acceptance of the changes each family would have to make.

With a view toward the immediate improvement in the situation for all the children, I feel this idea (roughly presented here) could work and would be much more sensible than "watching" the situation.

Sincerely,

(signed) Mrs. Myron Wilder
Mr. and Mrs. Myron Wilder