

II. BACKGROUND

Since World War II, the Town of Lexington has grown from a population of 14,452 in 1945 to 33,412 in 1971. In that time period, nine of the presently operated fifteen schools were constructed. Route #128 was established as a major circumferential highway and Route #2 has been enlarged as a principal feeder highway, all as part of the Metropolitan Boston Master Plan. This construction while bringing growth to the town has created divisions within the Town's neighborhoods, as shown on the preceeding town map.

During this same period of time, building regulations and codes have been expanded at both the local and state levels. Attention has been focused upon the public safety, the handicapped, the disadvantaged, the public health and an increased awareness of the protection of our environment. These are continuing processes. As each new school has been added to the Lexington system, it has complied with this growing list

of regulations. There have equally been changes in teaching philosophies, techniques and requirements. As a result, there is a wide variance in the physical design of the oldest school, the Hancock, built in 1891 and the newest, the Jonas Clarke built in 1972.

The Town has not neglected its physical plant. It has maintained and to a degree, updated these buildings to insure a continued return from its earlier investments. We have not found in our survey, conditions which we feel jeopardize the safety of the inhabitants. We have found conditions which we feel limit the educational opportunities of the pupils.

We now look to the future. Regulations, restrictions, codes, philosophies and techniques will continue to change. On January 1, 1975, a new State Building Code will go into effect. We do not pretend that the updatings of today will satisfy the recommendations of tomorrow. Continuous updating is a requirement if equality is to be offered

the students of Lexington.

As the regulatory requirements have changed over the past years, so have the population demands. Not only has the number of inhabitants in Lexington increased, but the distribution of each grouping within this population has changed. We all realize we are growing older but also, the average inhabitant in Lexington is growing older. This is the result of fewer young people moving into town than in the past 20-year period. The report of Enrollment Projection Subcommittee of the School Building Survey Projection completed in March 1974, showed the results of this change in the population. That report was based on records from October 1, 1960 through October 1, 1973. Portions of that report are appended hereto. As part of the continuing process of this survey, we are also appending hereto enrollment data as of October 1, 1974. Our survey has reflected this updating of data.