

I. FORWARD

On February 19, 1974, the firm of Drummeey Rosane Anderson, Inc., Architects/Engineers entered into a contract with the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts acting by and through the Lexington School Committee. We were required to survey the existing public schools to determine what degree of equality of educational opportunity was afforded each child as this may relate to the existing physical plant. We were then to make recommendations, where necessary, as to how this equality could be economically achieved.

It is to be stressed that this report of that survey does not constitute a final solution. It does describe guidelines for an ongoing process of programming/planning/implementing/evaluating.

Lexington, like other communities throughout the United States, is bound by today's economic realities. Education vies with many community programs for its

share of the present tax dollar. Taxes have risen to meet these needs. If educational opportunities in Lexington are to continue to grow, the value of every educational dollar spent must increase.

The school physical plant is a small percentage of the total cost of education in any community. The continued operation of that plant far exceeds its initial cost. Our study was directed toward minimizing these costs while equalizing educational opportunity.

Our work benefited from a continuous input from the staff and administration of the Lexington School System. At the outset, we received the "Report of the Enrollment Projection Subcommittee of the School Building Survey Project" as a data base on which our projections were made. We received comments and evaluations from the staff of every school in Lexington. These were compared for equality of facilities. We visited all of the schools in Lexington. We benefited from the evaluations of the Subcommittee with whom we worked, repre-

sented the School Committee through Jane Berchtold, the Permanent Building Committee through Otis Brown and the School Administration through Rudolph Fobert. Our suggestions and recommendations were subject to their valued criticism.

As a result of that study, this report outlines a recommended course of alterations, minimum additions, consolidations and re-assignment of a minimum of 5 buildings. This is directed toward equalizing the educational facilities throughout the Lexington School System for every child by 1980.

It is intended that through the continued process of programming/planning/implementing/evaluating, described in this report, the Town of Lexington will be able to follow a flexible course that will provide the physical facilities to permit equalized educational opportunity for each and every child while maximizing the value received from the annual educational budget.