Report by the Divisional Officer to the Governing Body of Wandsworth School

Report by H.M. Inspectors

The Governors' resolutions and comments on the Report of H.M. Inspectors have been reported to the Primary and Secondary Schools Sub-Committee, together with the observations of the Education Officer.

The Sub-Committee accepted the Education Officer's observations which were as follows :-

> The improvements suggested by the Inspectors cannot be carried out as part of the development of the existing buildings and site. The Ministry of Education has ruled that financial provision can be made only to meet the needs of the additional pupils to be accommodated in the new building and improvements to the existing buildings can be permitted only as a part of a co-ordinated scheme to provide additional places therein.
> The improvements desired in the science laboratories and the request for provision of shower baths near the present gymnasium will be considered in relation to the needs of other schools when the programme for improvements to secondary schools generally is under consideration.
> A scheme for the enlargement of the existing handicraft room and providing a new work room store has been prepared and is awaiting implementation when finances permit.
> The financial stringency has precluded the granting of library allowances during 1953/54. The case for a grant will be considered at the beginning of the next financial year. The need for substantial expenditure on books for the libraries of comprehensive schools well in advance of their opening will be given special attention when preparing future estimates.

In regard to the Governors' desire to discuss with the Council's Inspectors the criticisms in the Report on the Technical Branch, the Governors are asked if they will kindly fix a date for a special meeting for this purpose. It would be helpful to the Inspectors concerned if they could be advised in advance of the particular points in the Report which the Governors desire to discuss.

Divisional Officer
27th January, 1954.

WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

Report of H.M. Inspectors

The Governors at a special meeting on 17th September, 1953, considered the Report by H.M. Inspectors on Wandsworth School. They requested that their comments and resolutions as set out below should be conveyed to the Education Committee.

Grammar School

The Governors are very pleased to record that the number of boys proceeding to the Universities had risen to 13 in 1953.

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RESOLVED (a) That the Governors are of opinion that improvements in the science laboratories at Sutherland Grove are vitally necessary to facilitate the teaching of science and they strongly urge that this work be carried out during the year 1954/55, particularly as the advanced chemistry and advanced physics laboratories will still be required in the future comprehensive school and the elementary science laboratories will also be an essential part of the provision.

(b) That, in the opinion of the Governors, shower baths near the present gymnasium at Sutherland Grove are essential and will continue to be so after the new buildings are completed.

(c) That having noted with satisfaction that a scheme has been prepared for improving the working conditions in the woodwork room at Sutherland Grove, the Governors request that this be implemented as soon as possible.

(d) That the Governors urge that any improvements found to be necessary by the Council's Architect in the means of escape from Room N at Sutherland Grove be effected at once.
(Some shelving has been provided under the £25 Rule. The minor repairs referred to have been dealt with and the Governors were informed accordingly.
The Governors are satisfied that nothing practical can be done to improve the sound resisting qualities of the partition between Rooms I, J & K and this opinion is endorsed by the Architect's Area Officer).

Library

RESOLVED - That the Governors desire to record that, bearing in mind the build-up of the Wandsworth School in immediate post-war years from 200 to 550 pupils, the capitation allowances for books and apparatus has had to be used to purchase text books etc., with the result that there has been little or no surplus to spend on the library. They therefore urge that a special allowance be made as soon as possible so that a comprehensive library be built up against the time when the enlarged school is ready for occupation as they are firmly of opinion that a first class library is essential to a good school.

P.T.O.

Technical Branch

The Governors consider that the Technical Branch has been judged too harshly and insufficient allowance made for the difference in the quality of the pupils as compared with the Grammar school.

They RESOLVED - That, in view of the terms of the Report of H.M. Inspectors on the Technical Branch of Wandsworth School which, in the opinion of the Governors, raises questions of policy affecting the present organisation as well as the future development of the school, the Governors would welcome an opportunity of discussing the criticisms contained in the Report with the Council's Inspectors concerned at a special meeting of the Governing Body.

Whilst no resolution was adopted by the Governors a discussion took place on that part of the Report which criticised the teaching technique of the teachers of the craft subjects. The general opinion seemed to be that since craft teachers are expected, before appointment, to have had a good practical experience in industry of their craft, they cannot therefore be expected to have the experience of teaching techniques which their colleagues in the academic subjects will have acquired at the university or training colleges. It was, however, pointed out that one or two of the teachers are taking advantage of teaching courses in order to remedy any deficiency they may have.