

Fairlington Association

10-20-47

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF SCHOOL CENSUS

Results. The two most important tables resulting from the census of children of elementary school age in North and South Fairlington (exclusive of three blocks in North Fairlington which are located in Fairfax county) are:

Table 1 "Estimated Number of Children Actually to be Enrolled in Fairlington Elementary School, 1947-1953"

Table 2 "Estimated Number of Class Rooms Required to House the Number of Estimated Pupils (Table 1)"

These tables are presented herewith:

TABLE 1

Estimated Number of Children Actually to be Enrolled
in Fairlington Elementary School, 1947-1953

Year	North	South	Total
1947	300	319	619
1948	382	410	792
1949	455	487	942
1950	538	587	1125
1951	613	669	1282
1952	673	767	1440
1953	716	829	1545

Does not include any children from outside of Fairlington, nor any children from 3 blocks in Fairfax.

TABLE 2

Estimated Number of Class Rooms Required to House
the Estimated Number of Pupils (Table 1)

Year	Grade						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1947	3	2	3	3	3	3	17
1948	4	2	4	4	3	3	20
1949	4	4	4	4	3	3	22
1950	4	4	7	4	4	3	26
1951	4	4	7	7	4	4	30
1952	4	4	7	7	7	4	33
1953	4	4	7	7	7	7	36

Constructed from "Total" column of Table 5. Estimates based upon approximately 35 pupils per room for grades 3-6 and 70 per room for grades 1-2.

Interpretation. The Fairlington Elementary School has 16 class rooms. The proposed extension would give it 22 class rooms. In our opinion, the extension would be adequate only through the school year 1949-1950. For next school year, 1950-1951, it would be inadequate, inasmuch as 26 class rooms would be needed at an average of 35 pupils per class room. This could, of course, be taken care of to some extent by increasing the average number of pupils per room. By 1953-1954, however, the load would be so great that no amount of crowding would be sufficient to accommodate all pupils. Our conclusion, therefore, is that the extension alone is insufficient. In our opinion, a new and separate school will be needed not later than the school year 1950-1951. To have a school ready for occupancy by September 1950, construction should start within a short time.

North Fairlington alone is estimated to have 538 pupils enrolled in public schools in the school year 1950-1951. It will have 455 in the previous year - 1949-1950 -- enough to fill 11 class rooms. THIS ESTIMATE, MOREOVER, DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY PUPILS FROM CLAREMONT, THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT WHICH BORDERS NORTH FAIRLINGTON IN A HUGE CRESCENT. Because of the rapid development of this area, Claremont will add enough children to make a new school in North Fairlington absolutely essential by September 1949. To have a school ready for occupancy by September 1949, construction should start at the earliest possible date.

The opening of a school in North Fairlington in September, 1949, will reduce the pupil load for the present school -- serving South Fairlington alone -- to about 487 (See Table 1). An extension probably will be needed for that school for the school year beginning September 1951. But an extension takes a shorter time to construct than a separate school. The beginning of construction in September 1950 (not later than January 1951) will enable the extension to be ready for occupancy by September 1951. Thus extended, the school will meet all school needs of South Fairlington. The need for construction at any particular date will be indicated in ample time by taking periodic school censuses.

In summary, therefore, we conclude:

1. That the present school, as extended, would be inadequate by 1950.
2. That a new school in and for North Fairlington is absolutely essential, and should be constructed at the earliest possible date.
3. That the opening of a new school in North Fairlington in September 1949 will provide South Fairlington school with ample room for expansion for several years, and will enable the postponement of the beginning of construction of an extension to the South Fairlington School until the fall of 1950 at the very earliest.

We recommend therefore that bids for construction of an extension of the present school be cancelled, and that the construction of a new school in North Fairlington be prosecuted with the greatest possible vigor.

EXPLANATION OF TABLES

This is a discussion of the statistical methods by which Tables 1 and 2 and supporting tables were computed.

The raw data which emerged from the census had to be adjusted. The reason for this is that census information was not secured from every family in Fairlington. Information was secured from 83.7% of families in North Fairlington, 84.6% in South Fairlington, and 84.2% from Fairlington as a whole. The three blocks in North Fairlington located in Fairfax county are excluded from these and all other figures contained in this report.

The purpose of a school census is to project the future need for class rooms and other school facilities. This cannot be done on a partial basis. Raw figures have to be built up to an estimated 100%. We make no apology for doing this. Most statistical computations are projected from samples very much smaller than 84.2%.

However, we preferred not to use the percentages given above for reasons we are about to explain. Another figure secured in the tabulation of the raw data was that 542 of those children tabulated were enrolled in the Fairlington Elementary School at the present time. Information available elsewhere shows that 670 children are actually enrolled in the school. Of these, about 51 come from places other than North and South Fairlington. Therefore, about 619 children now in the school are from Fairlington. Now, 542 (the number tabulated) is 87.56% of the number — 619 — actually enrolled in the school.

If the percentage of 84.2 is used to project the 100% figure, the result will be a larger figure than if the percentage of 87.56 is used. For example, the raw data showed 387 children between 2 and 3 years of age. If 387 children are considered to be 84.2%, then 100% are 460. However, if 387 children are considered to be 87.56%, then 100% are 442. Since we desired to be conservative in our estimates, we decided, therefore, to project the 100% figure from 87.56%.

The raw data — the actual count as tabulated — are shown in Table 3. The projected full number of 100% are shown in Table 4. However, it should be noted that not all of Fairlington children now of elementary school age are actually enrolled in the public school. Of the 826 children of this age (6 through 11) shown in the raw data, only 542, or 65.6% were enrolled in the public school. The remainder were in private or other schools, such as the District of Columbia or Fairfax county schools. Table 4, therefore, does not show the number of children which may be expected to be enrolled. Using the same percentage — 65.6% — the number shown in Table 4 were reduced to a number which is the estimated enrollment now and in the future in Fairlington school. Table 5, containing the result of this computation, contains, therefore, the final adjusted figures; Table 5 was the base table from which both Tables 1 and 2 were constructed.

TABLE 3

Actual Count of Children 11 & Under			
Age	North	South	Total
11	38	48	86
10	52	56	108
9	60	54	114
8	69	77	146
7	93	83	176
6	88	108	196
5	147	170	317
4	150	159	309
3	171	186	357
2	170	186	356
1	173	214	387
Under	146	191	337
1			

TABLE 4

Estimated Total Number of Children 11 & Under			
Age	North	South	Total
11	43	55	98
10	59	64	123
9	69	61	130
8	79	88	167
7	106	95	201
6	101	123	224
5	168	194	362
4	171	182	353
3	195	213	408
2	194	213	407
1	198	244	442
Under	167	218	385
1			

TABLE 5

Estimated Enrollment in Fairlington School			
Age	North	South	Total
11	28	36	64
10	39	42	81
9	45	40	85
8	52	58	110
7	70	62	132
6	66	81	147
5	110	127	237
4	112	119	231
3	128	140	268
2	127	140	267
1	130	160	290
Under	109	143	252
1			

Table 5 is, if anything, extremely conservative. It does not include any children from the three blocks in Fairfax county, which contribute some children to the school, and might contribute a larger number to a new school in North Fairlington. Also it does not include any of the children of Claremont. Furthermore it is based upon the assumption that the public schools take care of only 65.6% of all children of school age in North and South Fairlington (exclusive of Fairfax and Claremont). There are two factors combining to determine the non-public school percentage: (1) the number of children of Catholic families in parochial school, and (2) the number of children of other families in private schools or other public schools. In places with a large Catholic population, and with all children of Catholic parents being sent to parochial schools, such a percentage would not be out of line. Fairlington, however, is not believed to contain such a proportion of Catholic families. If this assumption is correct, it would appear that the very high percentage of non-public school children is based largely upon the number of children in private or other public schools. During the poll, numerous residents stated that their children were being sent to private schools because Arlington does not provide full day instruction for first and second grades, or that they do not believe that adequate instruction can be secured in the public schools.

We do not argue the latter point. We wish merely to observe that when full day sessions are available for first and second grades, the number of children sent to the public school for these grades will probably show a considerable increase. This is graphically indicated by the fact that the percentage of 1st and second grades now in private schools is much larger than the number of 3rd to 6th grades now in private schools. The number in public schools may also increase if and when other residents become convinced that a sound education can be secured at the public schools. The accuracy of their opinion is immaterial. The important fact is that a change in this opinion will result in children who are now sent to private schools, being sent to public schools.