

## For Consolidated School

On Tuesday night, Oct. 27, a committee of five from Tryon met with a group of 17 interested citizens of Green Creek at the Green Creek school to discuss the proposed consolidated High School for Polk County. The committee was composed of the following from Tryon, Ralph Farthing, Shannon Meriwether, Manuel Holthouser, Dr. J. W. Welborn and Jack Craig of Columbus.

Discussions brought out many facts of interest.

It was stated that the funds available to the county schools under the recently voted bond issue were far less than adequate even for the grammar school's greatest needs for more classrooms. That the State Board of Education, not only approving a consolidated high school, but recommending it, would probably favor this county with an allocation of a far greater amount if the county were united in support of the central school. That a central school, preferably located on a plot of 50 to 70 acres could be anticipated to be a 24 teacher school, offering a full program (with each teacher specially trained for his subject) of instruction far superior to that now offered in the four schools in the county.

This could make possible to the student upon graduation, a better preparation for entry into business life or for entry into college, and on a par with students from the large city schools. Other anticipated gains to the school were a music department with piano, orchestra and band instrument training, voice and music appreciation, a full program of business and bookkeeping instruction, of agricultural and manual arts training, and an athletic program that could carry the name of Polk County far and wide. These and many other points of gain to the high school students were discussed.

It was stated further that, upon moving the four presently constituted high school groups into one new building, four grammar schools could expand into the vacated classroom facilities to relieve pressure there, and that a

subsequent reduction in needs for building these classrooms would automatically make available a far greater amount of our school tax funds for improving the remaining grammar schools in the county, as well as our colored school facilities. Thus every school in the county would be benefited.

A general discussion further seemed to show an overwhelming approval of the proposal of a central high school if location and transportation problems could be mutually agreed upon.

The group agreed to ask for a meeting with Mill Spring representatives and then to plan for a county-wide meeting at the court house to bring into focus what believes to be an overwhelmingly large county-wide support of the proposal.

It was agreed that such support should be determined as early as possible so that the official machinery could be set in motion to present our need to the State Board before allocations to the 172 other districts of the State have exhausted the funds.

Once before we were offered the money for a central school, but were passed up by the State Board when we failed to agree on a central school. It is certain that funds are now again available, but it is equally certain that we must first agree that this project is to be desired and then present our claim to the State while funds are still available from the bond issue just voted by the State. We may not have another opportunity to so greatly benefit our school program.—Contributed.

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