

**A SURVEY OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
IN THE CITY OF EAST KILDONAN**

**A Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of Education
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of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Education**

**by
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to survey the adequacy of the elementary schools and the services provided by the teachers and the administrators who are charged with the responsibility of educating the children of East Kildonan from Grades I to VI. It is the writer's assumption that there is a need for some new services and for certain changes in the present form of organization and administration of these grades. There will be special emphasis upon, and recommendations relating to, classroom organization, exceptional students, classroom teachers and school administrators.

The data for the study were drawn from a variety of sources. The most important sources were the replies given by teachers and administrators to the questionnaires, prepared and submitted to them by the writer. Further valuable sources of information were the records accumulated in the local school board office. The writer is indebted to the School Board Office personnel who provided most of the statistical information on the past size of the district, in terms of student enrolment, and teachers engaged in teaching. The local school inspector has provided records pertaining to teacher certification.

Other sources of information were the many books, pamphlets and educational magazines which contain material on the elementary school.

As the study develops it appears that certain policy changes are required in the schools of East Kildonan. The major recommendation of the thesis is a suggestion that the present grade system should be abandoned and the programme of studies organized into units of work. The most administratively practicable solution to the problem of providing more adequately for the individual differences of students is the implementation of a programme designed to promote the greatest measure of growth in each student. Such a plan would require that the subject content of each grade be organized into units of work, which each child would be given and in which each would progress at his own rate of learning. A plan such as that proposed for the Province of Saskatchewan or the Hamilton Plan would seem to be most suitable. The essential feature of such a plan is that all children are taught the same material, and at a pace consistent with their mental ability.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to survey the elementary schools and the services provided by the teachers and administrators who are charged with the responsibility of educating the children of East Kildonan from Grades I to VI. Substantial provisions are being made within the above-named city and school district for the children who are attending the elementary schools. It is the writer's assumption however, that there is a need for some new services and certain changes in the present form of organization and administration of these grades. The writer will place special emphasis upon, and deal with recommendations relating to, classroom organization, exceptional students, classroom teachers, and school administrators, in an attempt to provide sufficient data and information to substantiate the assumption expressed above.

SOURCES AND TREATMENT OF DATA

The data for this thesis are drawn from a variety of sources. Perhaps the most important source was the

replies of seventy teachers who answered the questionnaire given to them in June of 1963. The purpose and the intention of this questionnaire were explained in a Divisional meeting of all teachers in the area. A further covering letter was distributed with the questionnaire. The replies were gathered just prior to school closing and have since been tabulated and summarized. The information gathered will be used in subsequent chapters. A description of this questionnaire will be found in Chapter II.

A valuable source of information was the records accumulated in the local school board office. The writer received the utmost in cooperation from the Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Office personnel who provided most of the statistical information on the past size of the district in terms of student enrolment and teachers engaged in teaching.

The local school inspector, Mr. D. H. Stewart, provided records covering teacher certification and other books and pamphlets covering specific aspects of the study.

The writer made considerable use of the personal interview in gaining information. This approach was found to be particularly satisfactory in acquiring the necessary information for Chapter VI on "Administration of the School".

The school administrators interviewed were all well known to the writer, and the personal approach seemed more appropriate in the light of this acquaintanceship. In each case the interviews followed an established pattern after suitable rapport had been established.

The last sources of information were the many books, pamphlets, and educational magazines which contained material on the elementary school. A list of these publications is provided in the bibliography.

In conclusion, the writer wishes to acknowledge the cooperation tendered by the teachers, principals, supervisors, and other individuals associated with education in East Kildonan. Without their help this study could never have been attempted.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Teachers' questionnaire - refers to the questionnaire sent out to all elementary teachers in the district. It consisted of a Section A and a Section B. In the former there were eighteen questions, mainly of the objective variety, requesting factual information about the teacher's placement, experience, educational background, qualifications, professional activities, and classroom problems.

There were seven questions in Section B requesting opinions from the teachers on pre-school preparation, exceptional children, enrichment, curriculum, homogeneous or heterogeneous groupings, experimental work, and teacher status. The replies to Section A are used mainly in Chapter V, "The Classroom Teacher". The replies to Section B are used in the chapter which seemed most appropriate.

Classroom Organization - refers to the allocation of a group of children in the same grade to a single teacher who instructs them in the same thing at the same time. This is a graded class in the sense that each grade consists of a normal year's work for the average child. This is sometimes referred to as the grade-per-year organization.

Exceptional children - refers to those who deviate from what is supposed to be average in physical, mental, emotional, or social characteristics to such an extent they require special educational services.

Classroom teacher - refers to the teacher who has been assigned to an elementary classroom in East Kildonan and, as a result, has assumed the duties and responsibilities of that position.

Administration of Schools - refers to the duties and responsibilities of supervisors and principals. These duties and responsibilities are broadly interpreted to mean all those matters relating to the efficient and effective management of a school with the primary objective being to provide maximum learning for the children of the school. The term "school administrators" likewise refers to supervisors and principals.

New trends - refers to recent changes in thought, educational materials or methods, and physical surroundings as they apply to the school situation in East Kildonan.

PLAN OF THE STUDY

This study is restricted to a consideration of elementary education in the public schools of East Kildonan. The emphasis will be upon the professional aspects of education, i.e. those problems and matters which are closely associated with the day to day routine of educating children in Grades I to VI inclusive. Five topics of broad and of special interest, to those connected with elementary education have been selected for further scrutiny and discussion. These five closely related subjects are, (1) classroom organization, (2) exceptional children,