

History

The following information is based on a search of School Board records since 1915, and information available in the office of the St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds.

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| 1882 | The first district school board of Bonhomme Township (Valley Park School District) purchased property from George Lyman to establish the first elementary school in the community known as the Hill school. The school was located on the present property of the Masonic Lodge on Meramec Station Road. The building was 73 feet by 77 feet, and it |
| 1908 | An additional site was acquired on Benton Street to establish a second elementary school, known as the Benton School. The school was located on the present site of the City Hall. |
| 1931 | The district purchased lots 7, 8, 9, 10 on Third Street from the Becker-Demko-Hawn Land Company for \$1,000.00 to provide a playground space for the children. |
| 1931 | The district purchased 6.374 acres from William J. and Mary Vance for construction of the original high school building at a cost of 3,824.40 or 600.00 per acre. |
| 1931 | Voters approved a bond issue for \$60,000 for acquisition of site and construction of a high school building. |
| 1931 | The first high school opened in temporary quarters at the Knights of Pythias Hall at 3rd and St. Louis Ave. It only had grades 9 and 10. |
| 1931 | Hill School closed on recommendation of State Department. |
| 1932 | The high school building was completed and opened in September 1932. The building cost \$48,500. |
| 1938 | Voters approved a Bond Issue for \$18,500 for addition to the high school. |
| 1939 | The high school addition was completed at a cost of \$32,229. \$18,500 came from the bond issue and \$15,954 came from P.W.A. It opened in September 1939. |
| 1940 | The school district name is officially changed from Village School District No. 5 TWP. No. 44 Range No. 5 to The Valley Park Consolidated School District. |
| 1942 | Hill School was sold to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge 629, for a sum of \$1400.00. |
| 1947 | The district purchased lots 5, 6, and 11 on Third Street from Emma H. Hilliard, Walter Hahn, and Dorothy Hahn for \$100.00 to provide additional land for Benton School. |
| 1947 | The district purchased lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 from Everett A. and Ellen Jarrett for \$250.00 to provide additional land for Benton School. |
| 1950 | Voters approved a Bond Issue for \$78,000 for the acquisition of a site and construction of a new elementary school. |
| 1951 | The district purchased 4.796 acres from William J. and Mary Vance for construction of the original Meramec Building for \$12,000 or \$2,502.08 an acre. |

History Cont.

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| 1951 | The Meramec Building was completed at a cost of \$60,557.00. It opened in September of 1951. |
| 1952 | The Industrial Arts and Music complex was completed at a cost of \$10,000. The construction of the building was the result of donated labor and materials. It opened on May 25, 1952. |
| 1953 | Voters approved a Bond Issue for \$165,000 for the acquisition of the site and construction of a new elementary school. |
| 1954 | The district purchased approximately 2.2 acres from the Vance Estate for construction of the Vance Elementary School for \$10,305 or \$4,684.00 per acre. |
| 1954 | Vance Elementary School opened in September of 1954. The building cost was totaled at \$120,697.00. |
| 1954 | The Dental Clinic in the Meramec Building was constructed at a cost of \$933.00. |
| 1954 | An additional four classrooms were added to the Meramec Building at an approximate cost of \$25,000.00. They opened in September 1956. |
| 1954 | The Benton School and its property were sold to the City of Valley Park for \$14,000.00 cash and \$3,000.00 of water service. |
| 1956 | Voters approved a bond issue for \$130,000.00 for the construction of a new gym and cafeteria. |
| 1957 | The original gymnasium and kitchen were completed at a building cost of \$103,899.00. They opened on January 20, 1957. |
| 1967 | Voters approved a bond Issue for \$315,000 for the construction of a classrooms complex, a new cafeteria, and a multi-purpose room to be built. |
| 1968 | A multi-purpose room, gym, and classroom addition are completed at a building cost of \$295,848.00. |
| 1973 | The district purchased 2.133 acres on Vance and Main from Bland Stroker for \$20,000.00 or \$9,376.46 per acre. |
| 1980 | The windows and restroom renovation are completed in the high school. |
| 1980 | The restroom renovation is completed in the Meramec Building. |
| 1981 | The lockers are replaced in the high school. |
| 1982 | The floors and interior walls are renovated in all buildings after a flood. |

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| 2016 | In the summer and fall of 2016, the Board of Education reviewed the next phase of our long-range facilities plan. After hearing needs from staff and considering results from our community survey, the Board voted to place a no-tax-rate-increase bond issue on the April 4, 2017 ballot. Proposition R was designed to implement the next phase of safety & security updates, repair aging facilities, and replace building systems at the end of their life cycle. |
| 2016 | On April 4, with nearly 75% of the vote, Prop R passed. |
| 2017 | Roofing - This major project replacing approximately 70,000 square feet of roofing on the elementary, middle and high school buildings is now complete. Stone restoration, brickwork, roof drain replacements and other repairs to accommodate the new roofing |
| 2017 | 132 aging computers were replaced and 336 additional computer were placed across the district; aging projectors were replaced with wireless projectors district-wide; the phone server was upgraded; the security camera server was upgraded; the whiteboards were replaced in middle and high schools; additional printers were added throughout the district; a new firewall and content filter was added to increase safety and security; additional wireless access points were added for connectivity in the high school; digital signage were added in the elementary café, elementary lobby and middle school lobby; and the district released a new district app, streamlined with the mass communication and website platforms. |
| 2017 | Two new Bluebird buses were purchased to replace aging school buses. |
| 2017 | New scoreboards were installed in the Field House gymnasium and the basketball backboards were repaired. |
| 2017 | The serving line and kitchen in the elementary school cafeteria were renovated over the summer and were operational since the start of school. The renovation included new dishwashing equipment, two new combi-ovens, new refrigeration and new finishes. |
| 2017 | The property and service station at Plainview and Valley School Drive was acquired and demolition was scheduled. Utilities were removed early in the summer. Master planning studies were underway to determine the best use of the property. |
| 2017 | Access control was added to six entry doors Additional security cameras were installed. Construction was completed. |
| 2018 | The gas station was demolition, the elementary sound system was installed, the solar panels were reinstalled on the new roof and operational, the fencing replacement began with temporary fence enclosures for the early childhood and elementary playground areas, and the message boards at Vance Road & 141 and at Vance Road & Main Street are installed using Prop R funding. |
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