

Construction Of The New Manfred School

Need For A Larger School Building In Manfred

The Manfred School District, established in 1897, was at first composed of three one-room schools. By 1908, the population of School #1 located in Manfred had outgrown its building facility and the need evident for a new facility.

Wells County Free Press News Entries

May 29, 1908

Miss Helen Hope closed a very successful nine-month term of school last Tuesday with a literary program which had drawn a crowded house of patrons of the school and children. The student attendance has been the largest in the history of the school and it is too large for one teacher. What Manfred needs is an enlarged schoolhouse and two teachers.

June 11, 1909

Last Friday was the last day of a most successful school year. The attendance has outgrown the capacity of the schoolhouse and the work of one teacher. A good program was given and pupils and parents were treated to refreshments after the program was over.

Voting and Planning For A New School Building

Manfred School Board Minutes

School board members - Clarence Nelson, Nick Rogeness and Charles Fjerstad. Clerk - Ole Ranum.

October 12, 1909

2. Petition presented signed by 56 legal voters of the district asking to bond the said school district for \$7,000 for the purpose of building a new two-story brick schoolhouse at Manfred. After said petition was examined and board satisfied that at least 1/3 of the legal voters had signed said petition it was moved and seconded to call a special election on Saturday, November 20th at Manfred Schoolhouse #1 from 2 – 5 p.m. of that day to vote on said proposition. (See 11/29/09 News Entry) ↘

March 19, 1910

This meeting was called to decide on plans for the new Schoolhouse #1. It was moved and seconded that the clerk and Chas. Fjerstad should correspond with different architects and see what best offer could be obtained. Motion made and seconded that the schoolhouse be 30 x 60 and about 24 feet high. Basement to be full size under house and 8 foot deep, 5 feet underground and 3 feet over.

April 4, 1910

Different plans submitted and the following motion made by Nick Rogeness, seconded by Fjerstad to build schoolhouse 46 feet wide by 41 feet long outside measure. Motion carried. School rooms to be 21 x 27 feet, cloakrooms 4.6 x 14.6 feet – stairway to be one on each side of hall or entrance. In basement to be one partition through stone wall up to first floor all around. Basement to be complete except floor and no heating plant. There is not to be any finishing on second floor except shiplap floor on top of joists and partition necessary to make building strong. Motion to offer Hancock Brothers 2% submitting plans and specifications.

April 23, 1910

After due consideration, we the School Board of Manfred School District #20, select John Ellistad as architect to draw out plans and specifications for the new schoolhouse. It was moved and seconded that we advertise for bids in the following three papers: Wells Co Free Press, Fargo Forum and the Minot Optic. Bids to be sealed and to be accompanied with a certified check for \$300. Bids to be opened on June 1st at 2 p.m. Board reserved the right to reject any or all bids. Clerk was instructed to send in and advertise the bids at once in the above papers.

June 1, 1910

At 2 o'clock p.m. the board met to open the bids advertised for. Only two bids came in, one from Carl Bartelson, he would complete the schoolhouse according to plans and specifications for \$8,150. The second bid was from Harrison Bros to complete the schoolhouse according to plans and specifications for \$7640. This bid was accepted. Before contract was made out and signed, a few changes were made in the plans so the total amount of the contract was allowed at \$7,853 and the schoolhouse is to be completed by September 5, 1910.

Wells County Free Press News Entries

BEGIN WITH #s 1. 2. 3.

May 21, 1909

1. A petition has been circulated and freely signed asking the school board to submit to the voters the question of building a new schoolhouse. Manfred needs a new schoolhouse and is able to build a good one and we hope it will be done.

November 29, 1909

3. The school election last Saturday was the best attended in the history of Manfred. Every voter and voter's wife and son of voting age from center to circumference of the school district were there and cast a vote. The result was a large majority in favor of the issuance of \$7,000 in bonds to erect a schoolhouse to accommodate the present number of school children and also those of the future.