

## Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Regionalization of our school district was approved in December of 1961. This change in our school district was, in reality, only a technical or legal one since Scotch Plains and Fanwood have had, in all practical respects, a regional school district since 1870. Regionalization did have the effect of changing the name of the school district from the "Scotch Plains Township Public Schools" to the "Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools." The change also resulted in *additional* state aid in the amount of two and one-half to three million dollars in the next decade, starting in 1963. This will reduce taxes necessary to support our school system.

The Board of Education has nine members; six from Scotch Plains and three from Fanwood who, after 1963, will be elected for three-year terms. In February of 1963 the terms will be staggered one, two and three years. In subsequent elections, Scotch Plains will elect two members and Fanwood one member each year for three-year terms.

The Board of Education is responsible for policies governing the construction and maintenance of buildings, personnel appointments, purchase of equipment and supplies, transportation and budget recommendations. The ultimate responsibility for the complex present-day school system rests with the Board of Education whose members are elected by the voters of the district. The voters of the district also approve or disapprove the total budget presented by the Board of Education each year.

The school system is financed by the assessed value of real property in the two municipalities making up the school district. Scotch Plains pays about two-thirds of the cost and Fanwood the remainder; Scotch Plains children make up two-thirds of the enrollment in the district. The school district now has an annual budget of about \$3,150,000. State aid in 1963, due to regionalization, will increase from approximately \$350,000 to \$700,000 and thus reduce the load on the property owner.

There are eight schools in our district including six elementary schools, a junior high school and a senior high school. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and is on the approved list of the New Jersey State Department of Education.

Three courses of study are offered in the high school. They are the college preparatory course, the commercial course, and the general course. Each year over 50 per cent of our high school graduates enter colleges and universities. The large variety of courses in the junior and senior high schools allow a student to explore fields in which he may have a particular interest.

