



Jack Titus and Sal Salafia of the athletic association check out the football field with Paul J. Manikowski, athletic director.



Principal Warren Tessier strikes pensive pose in his office.

School Gets Outside People In, Troubles Out

Community involvement and interaction.

That phrase sums up the road Notre Dame High School of Elmira took in the situation facing many schools burdened by increasing expenses combined with trailing-off attendance.

Although the esprit de corps was there the administration had to come up with innovative and imaginative methods to meet the problem. Community interaction was decided upon as a necessity and it has worked.

To reach the community better the school set up a Board of Governors and Principal Warren Tessier credits it with the lion's share of the credit for the school's success.

"I think personally, without a doubt, that if the board hadn't come into being, and if the community didn't get involved, the school would be closed today. No question about it."

Subcommittees of the board meet with the various departments of the school to learn their needs, then find ways to fill them. Thus such a needed item as a cash register is acquired at no expense to the school.

An athletic association, made up of volunteers from the community, is responsible for building the field house, stadium and stands and continues to help the school by financing all athletic programs.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) took on the responsibility for funding the language laboratory and came through.

The Theology Resources Center was donated by an interested friend, with labor contributed by George Harris and Kelly Electric.

Volunteers help by taking on school jobs. Such are Mrs. Doreen Ungate who helps with a book program; Jack Flynn who coaches golf; Mrs. Lois Evans, who helps with the office work and Mrs. Frances Prunier, class moderator.

When the flagpole needed painting, members of the Southport Fire Department obliged.

Students took a role, forming a student recruitment team with members visiting area schools and parishes to explain why pupils should go on to Notre Dame High. Prospective students visit ND to see first-hand what they can expect of the school.

It's all working. Tessier points out that frosh enrollment is up this year from 170 to 215, an increase of 45, while the student body has gone from 595 to 655 overall.

All in all, it's been and will be a lot of work but it's paying off all around. The school's thriving and pupils show their appreciation through involvement in community projects, such as Red Cross, March of Dimes, Candy-stripers, social agencies, voter registration, etc. What is most important — the school is able to turn out top-flight citizens who will make the community and society in general an even better place in which to live.



Richard McGill, standing, member of the Board of Governors, goes over plans with members of the student recruitment team, from left, Tom Tranter, Mary Pat Frailey, Bernadette Palmer, and Joe Votava.