

TENTATIVE PLAN FOR A MORE PERFECT UNITARY SCHOOL SYSTEM
FOR TOPEKA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 501
FOR IMPLEMENTATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1974-1975 SCHOOL YEAR

This preliminary proposal is in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Board of Education on February 8, 1974. In the Resolution, the Board outlined the steps which would be taken in the development of a proposal. These steps were:

1. Completing a block-by-block analysis of the enrollment of all students in the school district, by race;
2. Developing a plan which would work toward achieving a more perfect unitary school system in the school district by use of one or more of the following possible means:
 - a. Reassignment of students to schools
 - b. Redefining school attendance areas
 - c. Closing of certain schools and reassigning of students to other schools
 - d. Additions to, or enlargement or remodeling of some school buildings or facilities including new construction or use of mobile classrooms
 - e. Construction of new schools and facilities.

In addition, the administrative staff devised criteria to guide the development of the preliminary proposal. The criteria, in order of priority, are as follows:

1. Maintain and improve educational opportunities for students
2. Eliminate racial isolation and maintain racial balance with the HEW guidelines.
3. Maintain the neighborhood concept of schools as much as possible
4. Utilize efficiently the available facilities.

TENTATIVE PLAN
Presented by the Administrative Staff
at the April 30, 1974 Special Meeting
of the Board of Education
of Unified School District No. 501

1. Close five elementary schools (Belvoir, Clay, Monroe, Parkdale, and Rice) and reassign students--see Attachment No. 1.
2. Close two junior high schools (Crane and Highland Park) and reassign students--see Attachment No. 2.
3. Eliminate all optional attendance areas--see Attachments Nos. 1 and 2.
4. Redefine attendance area boundaries--see Attachments Nos. 3 and 4 (maps).
5. Summarize effect of minority composition and proposed enrollment in all schools--see Attachment No. 5.
6. Adopt policy to ensure that no school will be allowed to become racially isolated in excess of 50% minority composition.
7. Inform all parents by letter of the proposed plan--see Attachment No. 6.
8. Work with parent groups in the affected areas as well as other community groups, if an extension of time to June 1, 1974 is granted.
9. Assign special programs such as Head Start, Follow Through, Special Education, and other alternative programs in such a way as to not create racially isolated school centers.
10. Renovation of facilities at certain junior high schools--see Attachment No. 7.
11. Plan to be implemented, if approved by HEW and the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 501, at the beginning of the 1974-75 school year.

NOTE: Excerpts of minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education for Unified School District No. 501 held on April 30, 1974 relative to the tentative plan and request for extension of time are herein included as Attachment No. 8.

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

Monroe School, with 160 students residing in its present attendance area, is scheduled to be closed since HEW views this school to be the last "vestige" of the old dual school system that existed prior to the 1954 Brown vs Topeka Board of Education decision. The 44 students north of 14th Street and west of the Santa Fe tracks will go to Polk. The area south of the Shunganunga Creek which presently has no students would be transferred to Quinton Heights, and the balance of 116 students would be transferred to Central Park.

Clay School was constructed 48 years ago and has only 141 students residing within its present boundaries. It is proposed that this school be closed or converted to an alternative use, with 51 students assigned to Sumner, 33 to Polk, 40 to Lowman Hill, and 17 to Potwin.

The proposed closing of Rice School would cause 212 students living south of the Shunganunga Creek channel to be assigned to Lafayette, and the two students living north of this channel would be transferred to State Street. The small percentage of minority within the Rice student body will help to substantially reduce the concentration of minorities in Lafayette.

It is proposed that State Street School would receive a total of 86 students from the former Lafayette area north of the Shunganunga Creek (with the exception of the Ripley Plaza and Park area), two from the former Rice area, and 23 from Lundgren School to help balance its minority percentage and enrollment to 38.68% and 530 respectively. The common boundary line between State Street and Lundgren would be stabilized on Sardou Street from River Road to the Billard Airport.

Plans are for Highland Park North to become a primary school for kindergarten through second or third grade and for Highland Park Central to serve as an intermediate school for the remaining upper grades through sixth. It is anticipated that Highland Park North would serve 450 students and Highland Park Central's enrollment might be 355, by including students from the remaining portion of their own attendance area combined with the additional students from the southern part of Parkdale and the northern section of Highland Park South. Quinton Heights would receive 18 students from the former Highland Park North attendance area.

Hudson School, constructed in 1963, potentially could enroll 313 students from its attendance area with 31.63% minority. With the shift of 198 students from Belvoir due to its proposed closing, it would seem necessary to reassign 138 students from the heavy concentration of minority located on the Deer Creek Village and the area south of East 25th Street to Highland Park South. In order to bring the minority to within acceptable limits, 77 students would be supplied from eastern portions of the Highland Park Central area and 23 students reassigned from the Highland Park North attendance areas.

Highland Park South would expect an increase of 138 students from the former Hudson area, but must release 74 students living between 29th and 31st Streets in the north part of their attendance area to help reduce the minority makeup of the Highland Park Primary and Intermediate School combination.

Avondale East would accept 51 students from the western portion of the Highland Park Central area which contains an above-average percentage of minority students, effectively increasing their student body to a total of 469 students and a minority percentage of 29.21.

The older section of Parkdale School was constructed in 1924, and an eight-room addition was completed in 1962. By closing this attendance center with the district's highest minority percentage of 91.81%, 12 students living on the west side of the Shunganunga Channel would go to Polk, 83 to Lafayette, and 125 would attend the Highland Park North Primary and Highland Park Central Intermediate under a paired-school concept.

Belvoir School is slated for closing due to racial isolation found in the present Belvoir School attendance area. The section north of East 10th Street containing 76 students would be transferred to Lafayette, and the 198 students living in the HUD project housing--Pine Ridge and Trailridge Apartments would be assigned to Hudson School.

Since Lowman Hill has a minority percentage of 49.08%, it seems necessary to expand its attendance area boundaries to include additional non-minority students to effectively reduce its minority percentage to an acceptable 32.97% and an enrollment of 452. Forty students should be received from Clay due to its closing, 22 from the Gage-Randolph optional area which would be eliminated, 33 from the Lowman Hill-Gage-Clay optional area, 50 from Randolph, 19 from Central Park, 18 from Gage, and three students to be reassigned to Polk.

Grant and Quincy Schools would be affected by a redrawing of their common boundaries to be along North Central Avenue, instead of the present configuration.

Grant School would gain 38 students from Quincy, and experience a slight reduction in minority to age.

Central Park was constructed in 1969, and replaced an older structure that was destroyed by the 1966 tornado. This fully air-conditioned building with its excellent facilities is projected to house 433 students for the 1974-75 school **00011**

year. The planned addition of 116 students from Monroe, 60 from Polk, 37 from Randolph, 7 from Quinton Heights, and the proposed transfer of 19 students to Lowman Hill and 34 to Stout, would result in a 37.41% minority composition.

Randolph would transfer 15 students to Sheldon from an area west of Washburn Park near 10th and Oakley. Sixteen students would be reassigned to Stout, 50 assigned to Lowman Hill, 37 to Central Park, and one would be received from Whitson by squaring the boundary at 17th and Oakley. Randolph would receive 29 students from the former optional area which was shared with Gage.

The former Gage-Sheldon optional area between Gage Boulevard and Fairlawn Road between 10th Street and the Kansas River was partitioned along 6th Street resulting in 39 students being assigned to Sheldon and 70 being assigned to Gage.

The Lowman Hill-Gage-Clay optional area would be redistributed with 33 students being assigned to Lowman Hill and 18 assigned to Potwin.

The Crestview-McClure optional area would be assigned to Crestview--a transfer of 69 students.

The Stout-Whitson optional area bordering on West 21st Street would be assigned to Stout--a transfer of eight students.

Sheldon School attendance area would be increased by the addition of 12 students from the former Whitson area, 15 from Gage area, and 39 from the distribution of the former Gage-Sheldon option.

Stout School would receive 34 students from the former Central Park area between 19th and 21st Streets from Washburn Avenue to Clay Street. Sixteen students would be reassigned from Randolph, and 8 students would attend from the former Whitson-Stout optional area which would be eliminated.

ATTACHMENT NO. 2

Crane Junior High is scheduled for closing due to its declining small enrollment and its 51.86% minority composition. The proposal indicates that 16 students would be transferred to East Topeka, 12 to Roosevelt, and 267 to Boswell.

Highland Park Junior High was built in 1935, and had an addition constructed in 1959. It is planned that all of the present student body numbering 396 students would be transferred to the newly defined East Topeka Junior High campus to substantially reduce the racial isolation found in the present East Topeka area. A small area southwest of 23rd and Adams would be assigned to Eisenhower Junior High. The proposed new enrollment of 770 at the East Topeka campus would result in a minority composition reduction from 61.10% to 42.21%.

Holliday Junior High has a present enrollment of 360 students with a minority composition of 18.89%. It is suggested that 58 East Topeka students who live north of the Shunganunga Creek channel should be assigned to Holliday to relieve the racial isolation of the East Topeka attendance area, resulting in a 27.75% minority enrollment ratio.

The west boundaries of Boswell and Roosevelt would be stabilized at Oakley Avenue, resulting in the transfer of 23 and 13 students from the respective areas being made to Landon Junior High. This transfer would enable Boswell and Roosevelt to better accommodation of the redistribution of the present Crane students. Boswell would tentatively receive 267 Crane students, while transferring 117 Boswell students to Roosevelt. Roosevelt would be receiving 12 Crane students. In summary, Boswell and Roosevelt would have enrollments of 634 and 519 with corresponding new minority compositions of 25.27% and 19.07%.

Jardine Junior High would receive one student due to the elimination of the Highland Park-Eisenhower optional area while Eisenhower would receive 10 students from that area. Capper Junior High would be receiving 41 students from the former French-Capper optional area near Fairlawn Road between 21st Street and the Shunganunga Creek.

TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Building Capacity and Student Enrollment

(Enrollment projections based on residency of 9-17-73)

	PRESENT		Effective Building Capacity	PROPOSED	
	Minority % of Orig. Attendance Area	Total Enrollment in Orig. Att. Area		Proposed Enrollment for New Att. Area	Minority % of Prop. New Att. Area
Avondale East	27.27	418	659	469	29.21
Avondale Southwest	2.82	390	366	390	2.82
Avondale West	3.05	459	444	459	3.05
Belvoir	71.90	274	517	Closed	
Bishop	3.58	475	576	475	3.58
Central Park	18.42	266	450	433	37.41
Clay	22.70	141	245	Closed	
Crestview	.63	319	585	388	.52
Gage	1.29	232	315	269	1.86
Grant	31.28	195	332	233	28.75
H. P. Central	19.67	422	682	(4-6) 355	34.93
H. P. North	41.36	353	443	(K-3) 450	41.12
H. P. South	17.04	487	588	551	25.23
Hudson	31.63	313	319	473	39.54
Lafayette	61.22	361	603	646	49.69
Linn	13.24	287	472	287	13.24
Lowman Hill	49.08	273	472	452	32.97
Lundgren	3.02	265	417	242	2.90
McCarter	1.32	454	537	454	1.32
McClure	.53	375	461	375	.53
McEachron	.19	475	473	475	.19
Monroe	79.38	160	230	Closed	
Parkdale	91.81	220	453	Closed	
Polk	28.65	178	261	210	38.58
Potwin	2.58	271	309	306	4.25

Elementary Schools (Continued)

	PRESENT		Effective Building Capacity	PROPOSED	
	Minority % of Orig. Attendance Area	Total Enrollment in Orig. Att. Area		Proposed Enrollment for New Att. Area	Minority % of Prop. New Att. Area
Quincy	16.80	250	443	212	16.98
Quinton Hgts.	31.84	201	330	212	34.91
Randolph	2.79	358	388	285	3.16
Rice	15.89	214	331	Closed	
Sheldon	4.97	161	340	227	4.41
State Street	32.22	419	368	530	38.68
Stout	.78	258	399	316	3.48
Sumner	19.60	250	280	301	20.93
Whitson	1.27	316	429	303	1.32
Lowman Hill - Gage - Clay Optional	23.53	51			
Randolph - Gage Optional	1.96	51			
Gage - Sheldon Optional	2.75	109			
Stout - Whitson Optional	0	8			
Crestview - McClure Optional	0	69			
Total Regular Students or Minority %	19.21	10,778		10,778	19.21
Special Ed. (not assigned to att. areas)		264		264	
GRAND TOTAL		11,042	14,517	11,042	

April 29, 1974

TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Building Capacity and Student Enrollment

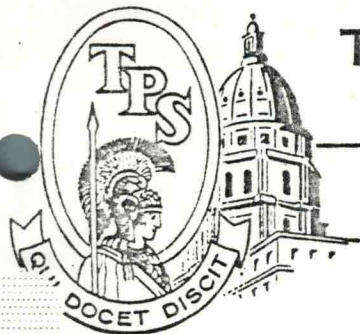
Enrollment projections based on residency of 9-17-73)

	PRESENT		Effective Building Capacity	PROPOSED	
	Minority % of Orig. Attendance Area	Total Enrollment in Orig. Att. Area		Proposed Enrollment for New Att. Area	Minority % of Prop. New Att. Area
Boswell	16.50	497	650	634	25.27
Capper	.56	360	545	401	.50
Crane	51.86	295	420	Closed	
Curtis	30.73	205	450	205	30.73
East Topeka	61.10	437	800	770	42.21
Eisenhower	17.25	690	780	721	19.14
French	3.06	392	570	392	3.06
Highland Park	27.53	396	520	Closed	
Holliday	18.89	360	480	418	27.75
Jardine	1.84	653	780	654	1.99
Landon	1.44	416	450	452	1.55
Roosevelt	9.93	413	560	519	19.07
Plus These Optional Attendance Areas					
Eisenhower - H. P.					
Capper - French					
TOTAL REGULAR STUDENTS OR MINORITY %	18.10	5,166		5,166	18.10
SPECIAL ED. (not assigned to an attendance area)		152		152	
GRAND TOTAL		5,318		5,318	

6001

THE TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Unified School District No. 501 — Shawnee County, State of Kansas



Office of Superintendent

• 415 WEST EIGHTH STREET • PHONE 357-0351
• TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603

April 30, 1974

Dear Parent:

On Tuesday, April 30, 1974, the Board of Education for Unified School District No. 501 accepted for study a preliminary proposal which appears to meet the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) guidelines concerning student racial compositions. You may recall that on January 11, 1974, the Board for Unified School District No. 501 received notification from the Civil Rights Section of HEW as to findings that certain schools in the district were not in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The preliminary proposal presented to the Board would close five elementary schools--Belvoir, Clay, Monroe, Parkdale, and Rice; as well as two junior high schools--Crane and Highland Park.

In addition, other school attendance areas would be adjusted in ways which appear to meet HEW guidelines. In total, 22 school attendance areas may be affected. If you have an elementary or junior high school child, there will be a map attached to this letter defining those attendance areas. High school attendance boundaries are unaffected except for optional areas. The preliminary plan proposes the elimination of all optional attendance areas at the elementary, junior, and senior high school levels. Attendance area maps of the entire district will be available in each school.

The schools specifically mentioned in the January HEW report as not being in compliance were Monroe, Parkdale, Lafayette, Belvoir, and Lowman Hill. In addition, HEW questioned the adequacy of facilities at certain junior highs with higher minority enrollments. The Board was requested to submit an enumeration of steps which would lead to a proposal designed to meet HEW guidelines. The preliminary proposal, if adopted by the Board and approved by HEW, would be implemented by the beginning of the 1974-75 school year.

In a resolution dated February 8, 1974, the Board of Education outlined the steps which would be taken in the development of a proposal. These steps were:

1. Completing a block-by-block analysis of the enrollment of all students in the school district, by race;
2. Developing a plan which would work toward achieving a more perfect unitary school system in the school district by use of one or more of the following possible means:
 - a. Reassignment of students to schools
 - b. Redefining school attendance areas
 - c. Closing of certain schools and reassigning of students to other schools

6002

- d. Additions to, or enlargement or remodeling of some school buildings or facilities including new construction or use of mobile classrooms
- e. Construction of new schools and facilities.

Unified School District No. 501 staff as well as the president of the Board of Education, Dr. Mark L. Morris, Jr., have been in periodic contact with the regional HEW office in Kansas City, Missouri, for the purpose of exchanging suggestions and ideas concerning those actions necessary to bring the district into compliance.

During this time, the administrative staff devised criteria to guide the development of the preliminary proposal. The criteria, in order of priority, are as follows:

1. Maintain and improve educational opportunities for students
2. Eliminate racial isolation and maintain racial balance within the HEW guidelines
3. Maintain the neighborhood concept of schools as much as possible
4. Utilize efficiently the available facilities.

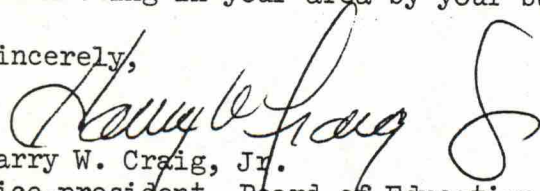
The preliminary draft will provide for long-term compliance insofar as now foreseeable and for revisions from time to time in order to assure that compliance will be maintained, providing, however, that such revisions will not substantially hinder the educational process or impair the health and safety of the students involved.

The effects of the preliminary proposal upon building use of schools closed as primary attendance centers will be determined in consultation with the communities involved. Alternative educational needs of the district will also be taken into consideration. The staff plans to explore the transportation needs of the areas affected.

The teaching and administrative staff will be assigned according to the educational needs of the total district. It is expected that those who are currently under contract for 1974-75 will not be affected.

In order to further explain the details of this proposal, meetings will be scheduled in those communities involved. The staff and a Board of Education member will be present to give explanations, answer questions, and receive patron input. Your attendance would be appreciated. You will be notified of the meeting in your area by your building principal.

Sincerely,


Harry W. Craig, Jr.
Vice-president, Board of Education
Unified School District No. 501

Attachment

The Topeka Public Schools
Unified School District No. 501
Topeka, Kansas

May 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Merle R. Bolton
Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Roy W. Browning, Jr.
Deputy Superintendent of Instruction *RWB*

Ted Clark, Director
Operation and Maintenance *TC*

SUBJECT: Renovation of Facilities at Certain Junior High Schools

In response to the HEW citing of the inadequacy of facilities at four junior high schools (Crane, Curtis, East Topeka and Highland Park), the following action has been taken in recent years, and continuing plans are underway for improving facilities in the foreseeable future.

The preliminary proposal by the Board of Education to HEW on May 1, 1974 recommends the closing of Crane and Highland Park Junior High Schools. Therefore, the issue of facility conditions for these two schools becomes moot.

CURTIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1. In 1973, the music facilities were moved from the second floor to the ground floor with accompanying improvements including special storage facilities for musical instruments and equipment, increased instructional space per pupil, new tile floor, and redecoration of the area.
2. In 1973, the art room was moved from the ground floor to the first floor. This change in location provided better lighting for art instruction.
3. In 1973, the ventilation system in the gymnasium and locker rooms was renovated.
4. In 1973, a major roof replacement was accomplished.
5. Over the past several years, other areas have been renovated and remodelled including: the teachers' lounge and work room, the guidance office area including an area for the school nurse, a specially equipped special education room, new drapes and stage curtains for the auditorium.

00006

CURTIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (continued)

6. Planning is underway and will be accomplished as capital funds become available for the following:
 - a. Renovation and modernization of the home economics and art areas, as well as renovation of the administration and guidance areas
 - b. Tuck pointing and moisture proofing the building

EAST TOPEKA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1. In 1974, bids are now being let for tuck pointing, moisture proofing, and cleaning the exterior of the building.
2. In 1974, specifications are now being compiled for replacement of boiler, burner, and appurtenances for the central heating plant. New stage curtains have been ordered, and new curtains for the administration/guidance suite have been ordered.
3. In 1973, the entire interior and exterior of the building was painted.
4. In 1973, a connecting door between two science rooms was installed to permit easier access between the instructional areas.
5. In 1973, the learning resources room was redecorated and carpeted through the generosity of an interested citizen and staff.
6. In 1973, building alterations were completed in order to install a new washer and dryer for use in home economics instruction.
7. In 1971, a complete electrical rewiring, relighting and sound system installation was completed.
8. Over the past several years, the library was remodelled, carpeted, redecorated and some furnishings were modernized. A glassed-in workroom/office area was added.
9. The office area has undergone several remodellings to facilitate an administrative/guidance suite in order to provide more adequate services to the students and staff.
10. A few years ago the teachers lounge area was remodelled, and this past year a refrigerator was installed for the convenience and use of the teaching staff.

EAST TOPEKA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (continued)

11. Planning is underway and will be accomplished as capital funds become available for the following:

- a. Renovation of the physical education areas including dressing rooms
- b. Renovation of the plumbing system of the entire building including improved water facilities in the science, art, and industrial arts rooms
- c. Installation of a special ventilation fan in the industrial arts finishing room
- d. Installation of a sawdust collecting system in the wood-working area
- e. Installation of a dark room in the science area
- f. Possible removal of certain permanent walls and the installation of moveable partitions in order to facilitate large group/small group instructional areas
- g. Installation of new work benches in the industrial arts area

Excerpt of minutes of Board of Education of USD No. 501 Special Meeting held April 30, 1974:

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 501 met in Special Session on Tuesday, April 30, 1974 at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building with the following present:

Board Members:	Mr. Harry W. Craig, Jr., Vice-President
	Mr. T. C. Anderson
	Mr. Fred W. Rausch, Jr.
	Mr. Robert R. Schendel
	Mr. Wayne T. Stratton
	Dr. Gordon A. Summers

Officers of the Board:	Mr. W. W. Warner, Clerk
	Mr. John H. Kelly, Treasurer

.....

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FROM NEW

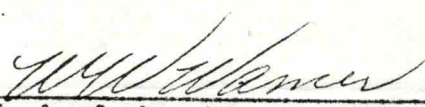
After the foregoing presentation of a tentative Plan for Expanding Educational Opportunity for Unified School District No. 501, as developed by the administrative staff, Mr. Anderson moved that before considering any formal action in respect thereto, the tentative Plan be taken under advisement by the Board and be presented to the community at various meetings of parents and other interested parties and organizations and also through the news media, in order that the community be informed about the tentative Plan; that by reason thereof, an extension of time from May 1, 1974, be requested of H.E.W.; and that the Board authorize and direct Dr. Bolton, Superintendent of Schools, on behalf of the Board, to submit to Mr. Taylor D. August, Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Region VII, a written request for an additional extension of time from May 1, 1974, to June 1, 1974, in order to enable the Board to present the tentative Plan to the community as outlined above. The motion was seconded by Dr. Summers.

After discussion thereof, the motion was put to a vote; the following members voted "Aye": Mr. Craig, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Rausch, Mr. Schendel, Mr. Stratton and Dr. Summers; and the following members voted "Nay": None.

Thereupon the motion was declared carried by the Vice-President of the Board.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the above was duly adopted by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 501, Shawnee County, State of Kansas, on the 30th day of April, 1974.


Clerk of the above Board of Education

00053

QUESTION #31 -- Post 1951 Data

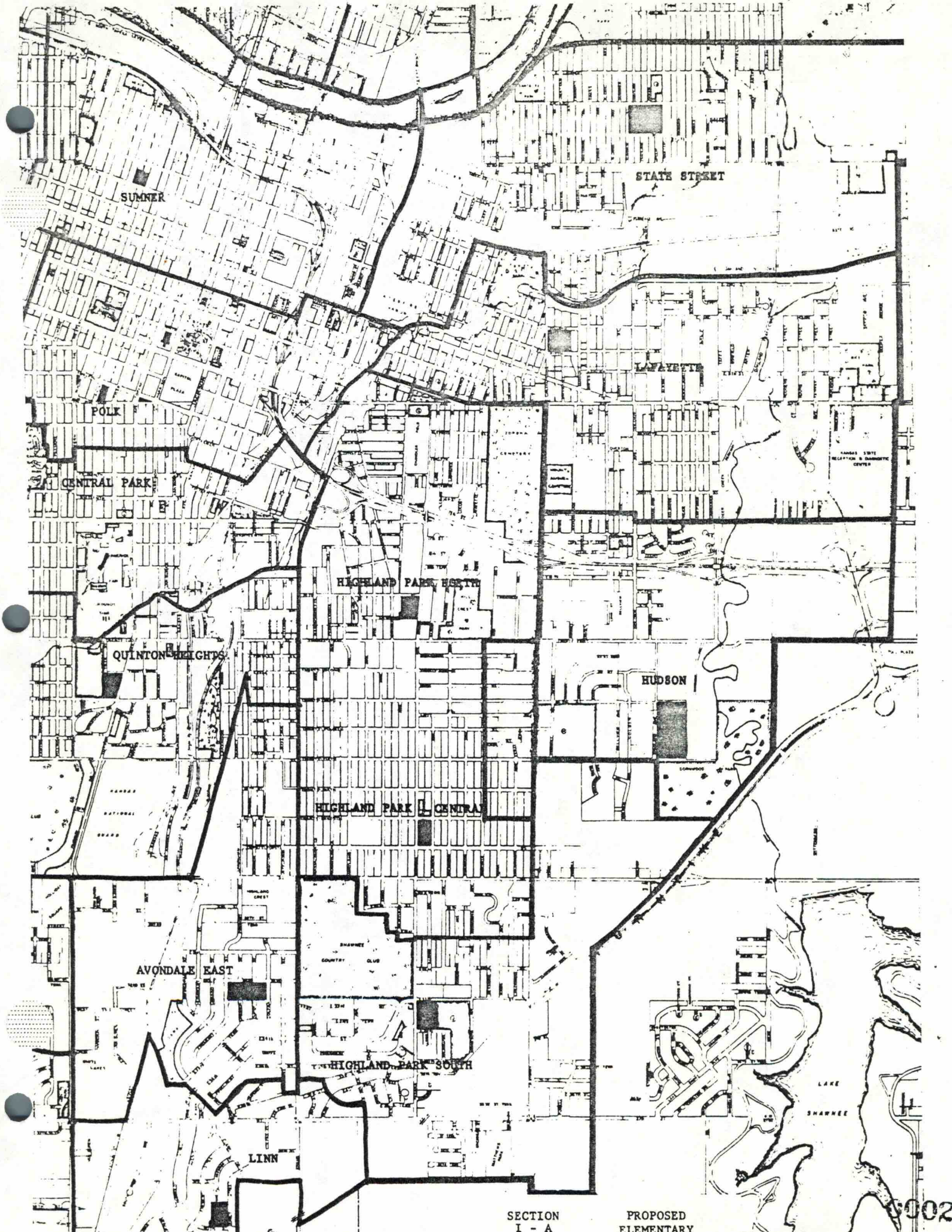
First Interrogatories to the Board

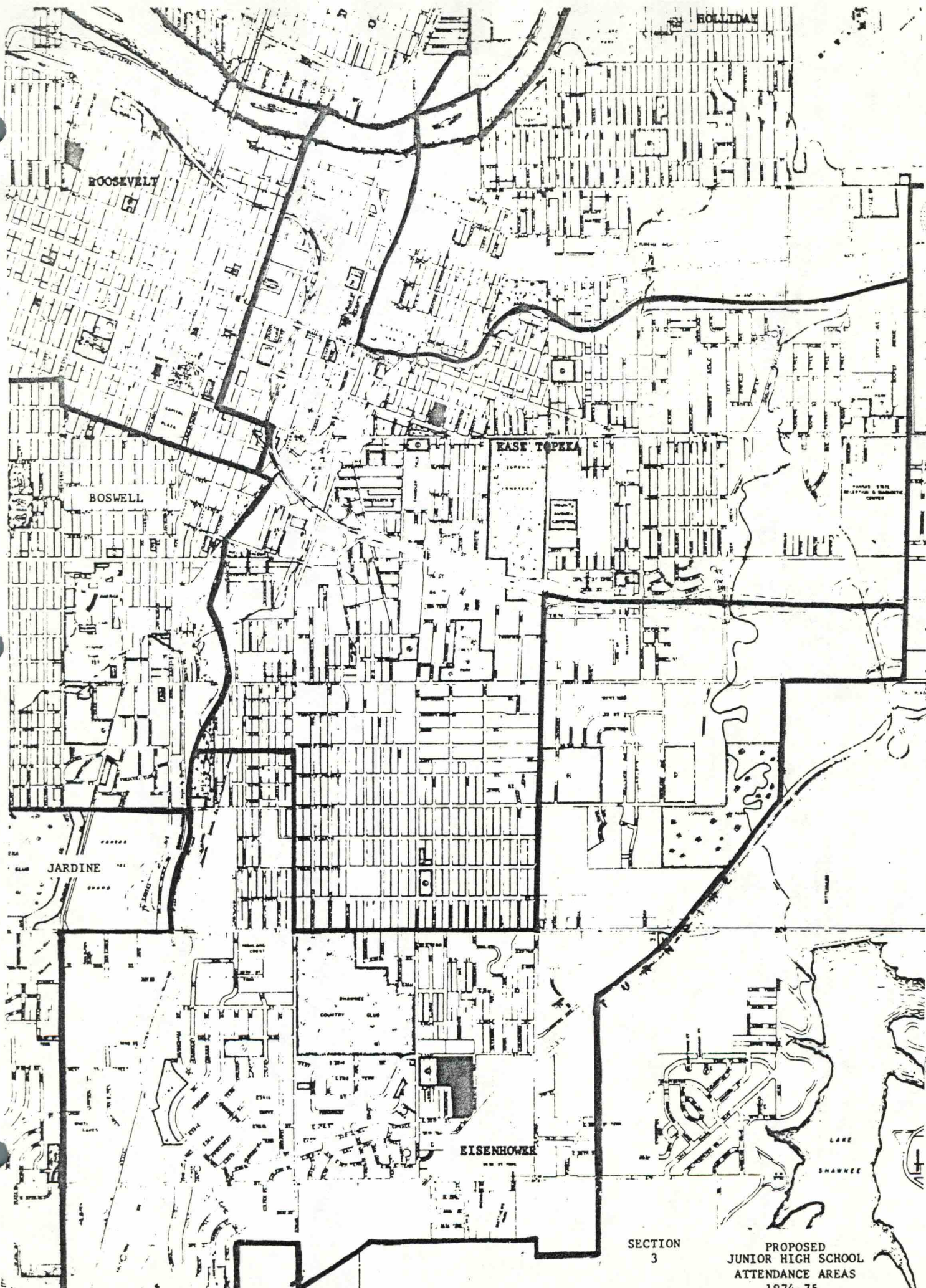
Question #31:

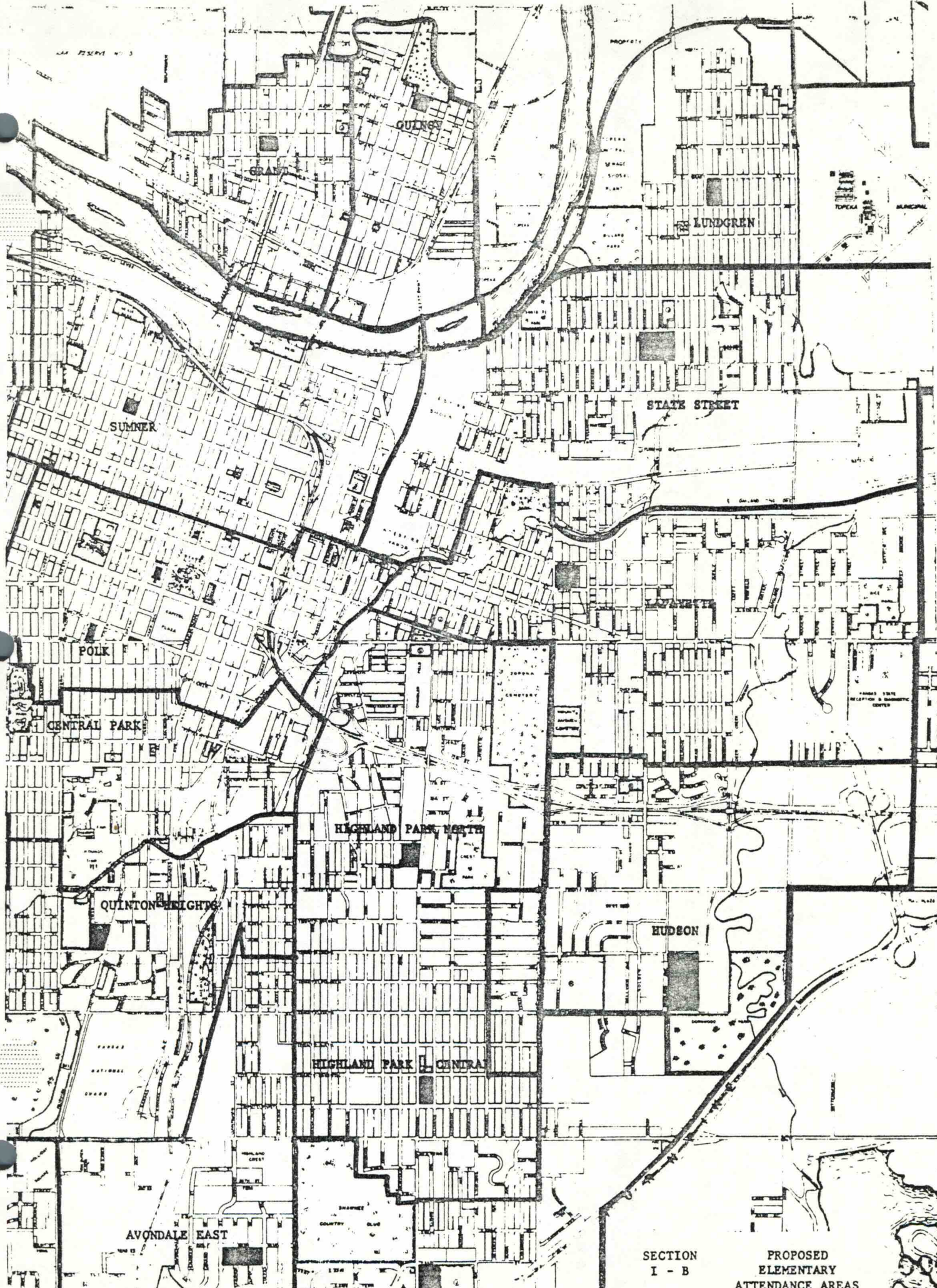
31. Describe the process by which the district determines the school to which a particular teacher is assigned.

Summary of Answer and Documents:

In answer to this question, the School Board provides a copy of Article XXI from the Professional Agreement between the School District and NEA - Topeka, Inc. This excerpt of the Agreement states the posting procedures for job vacancies, and gives the Superintendent or his designee power to fill openings with the "most qualified" teachers.



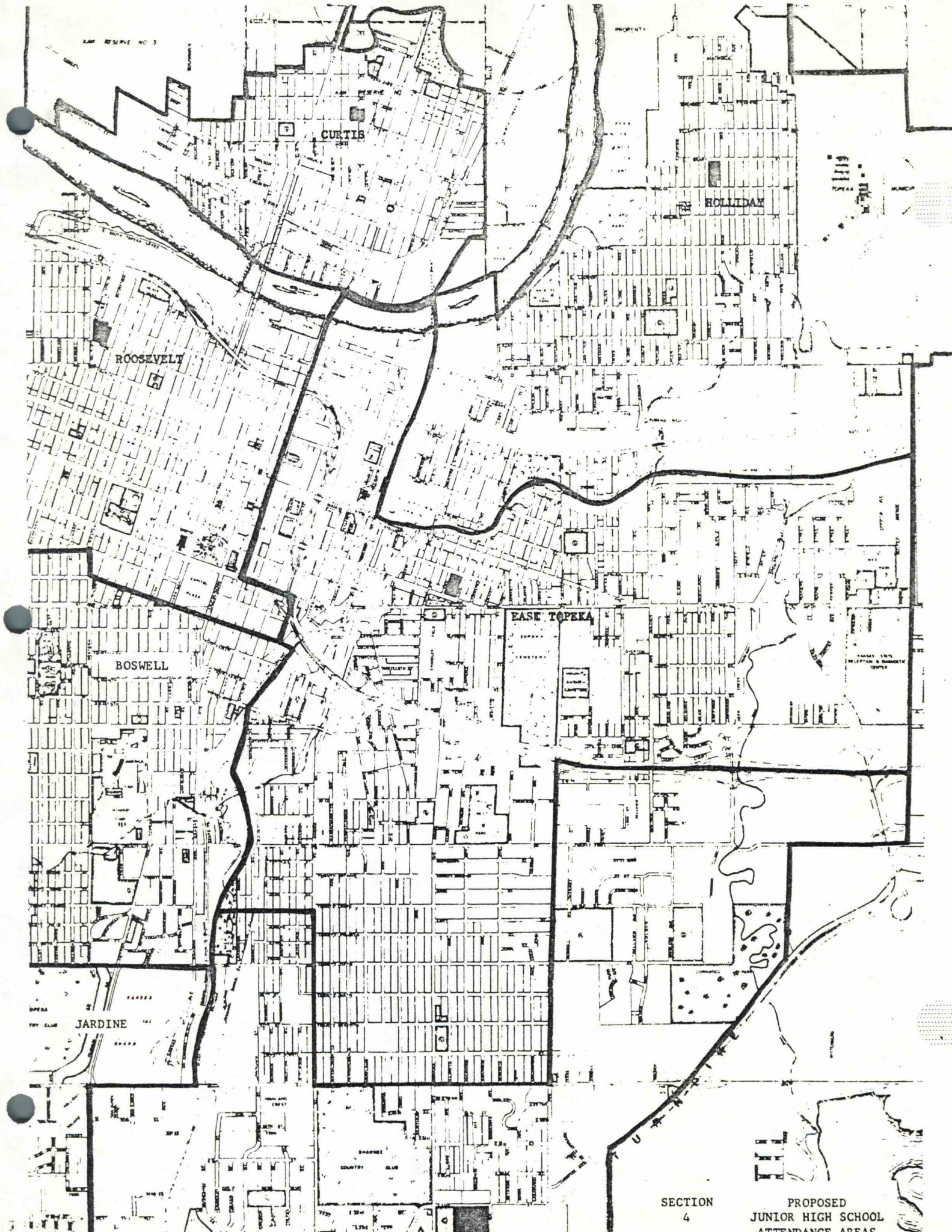




SECTION
I - B

PROPOSED
ELEMENTARY
ATTENDANCE AREAS

50021



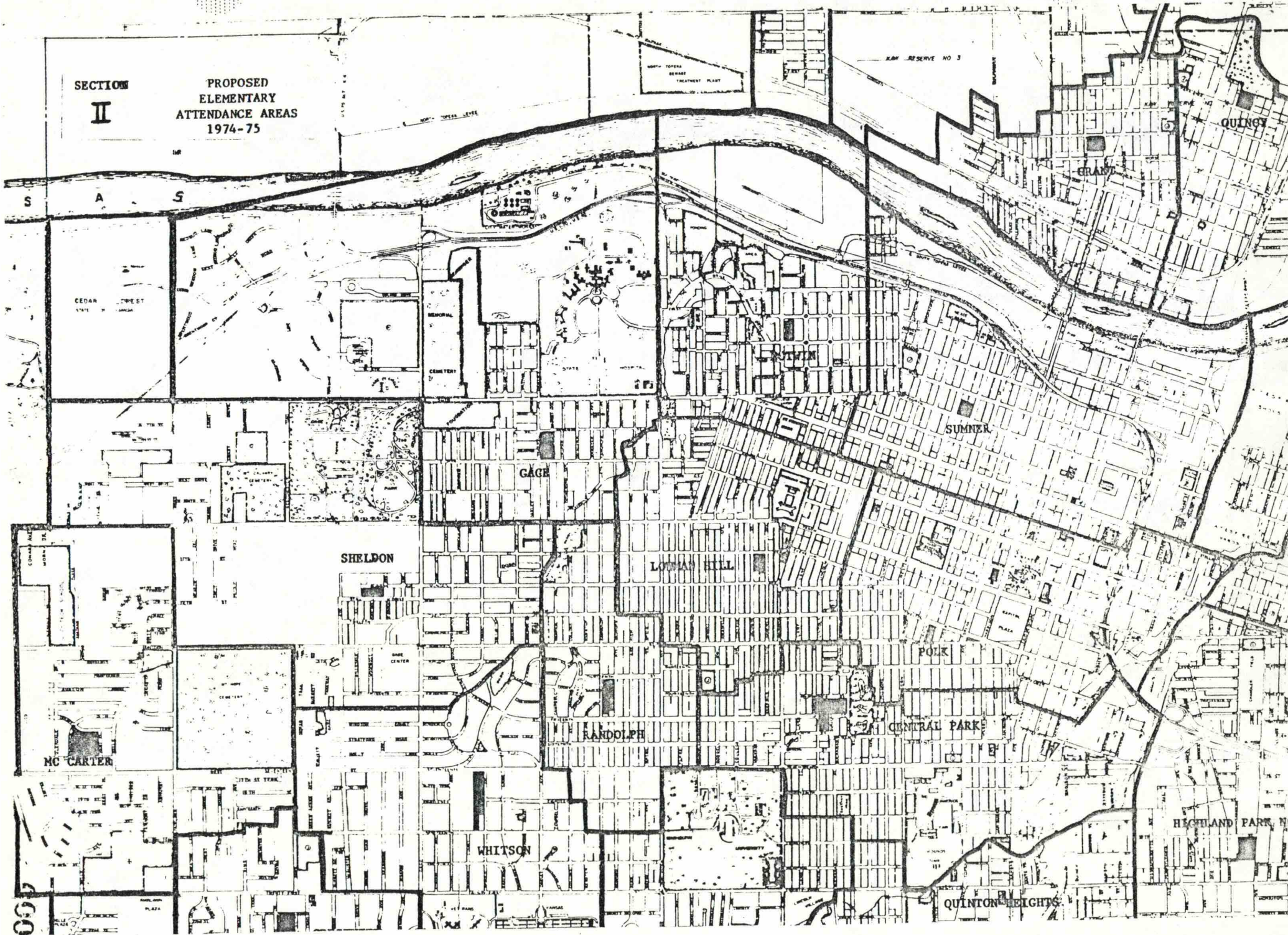
SECTION
4

PROPOSED
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE AREAS

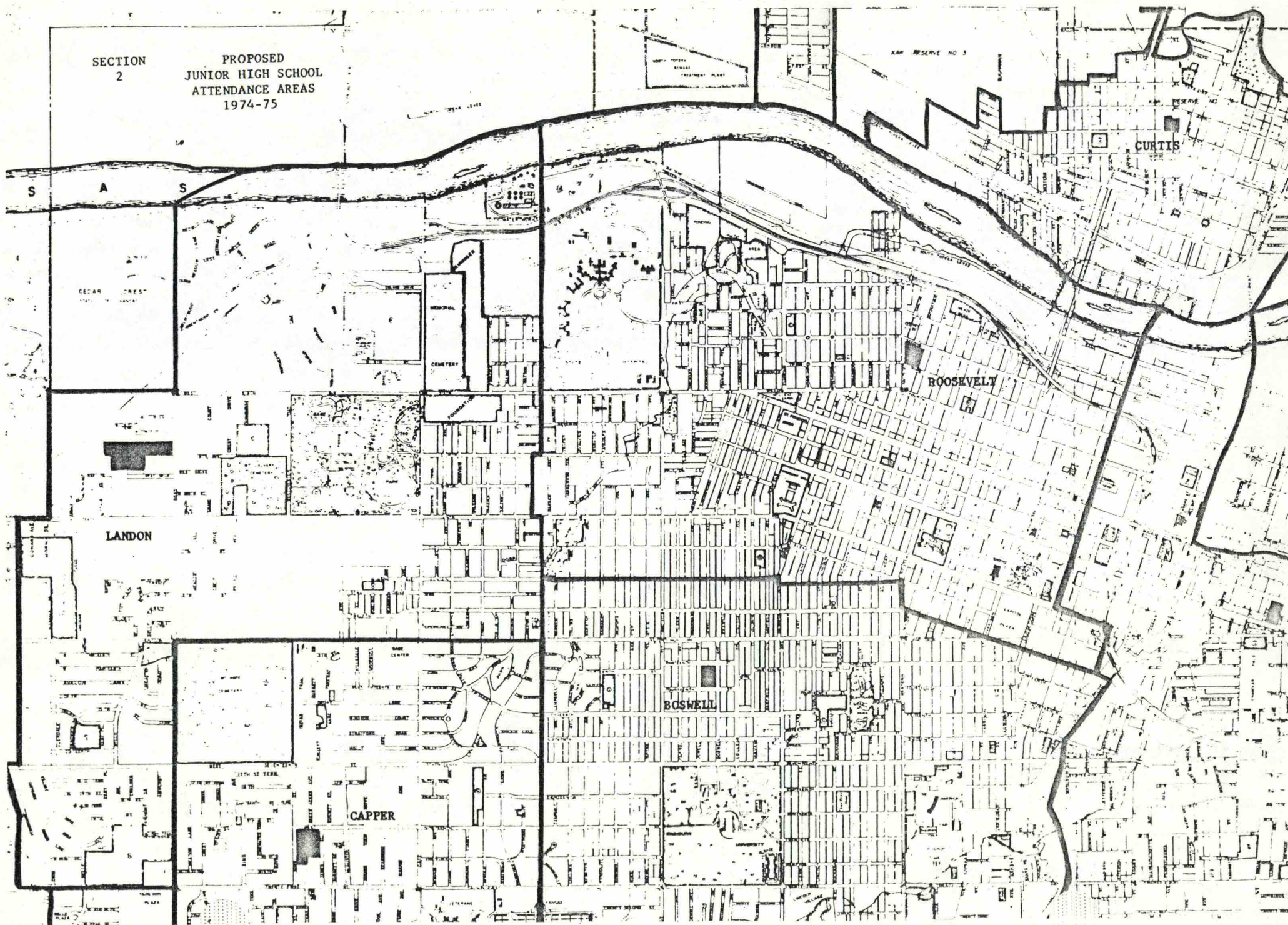
SECTION

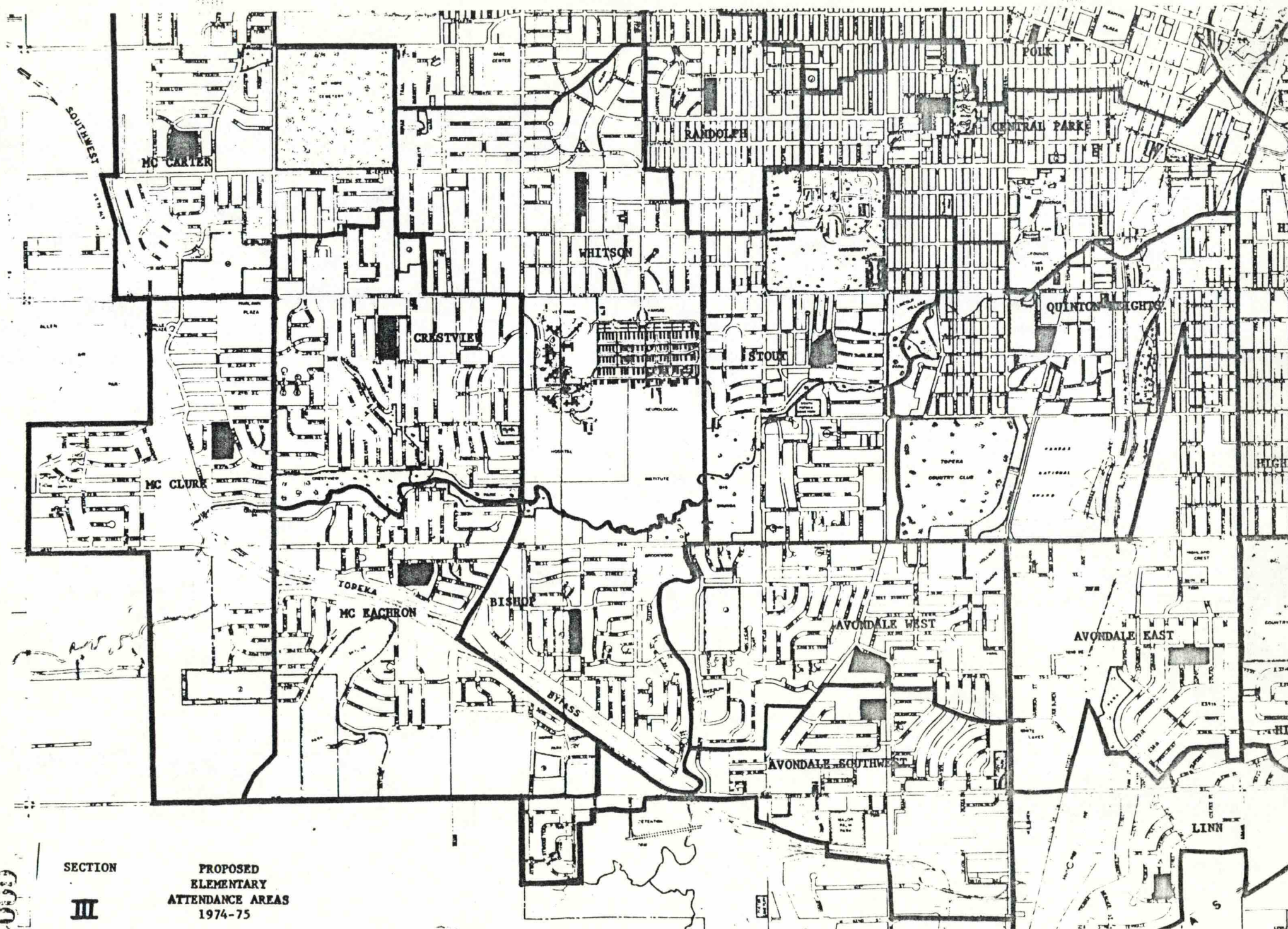
II

PROPOSED
ELEMENTARY
ATTENDANCE AREAS
1974-75



PROPOSED
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE AREAS
1974-75



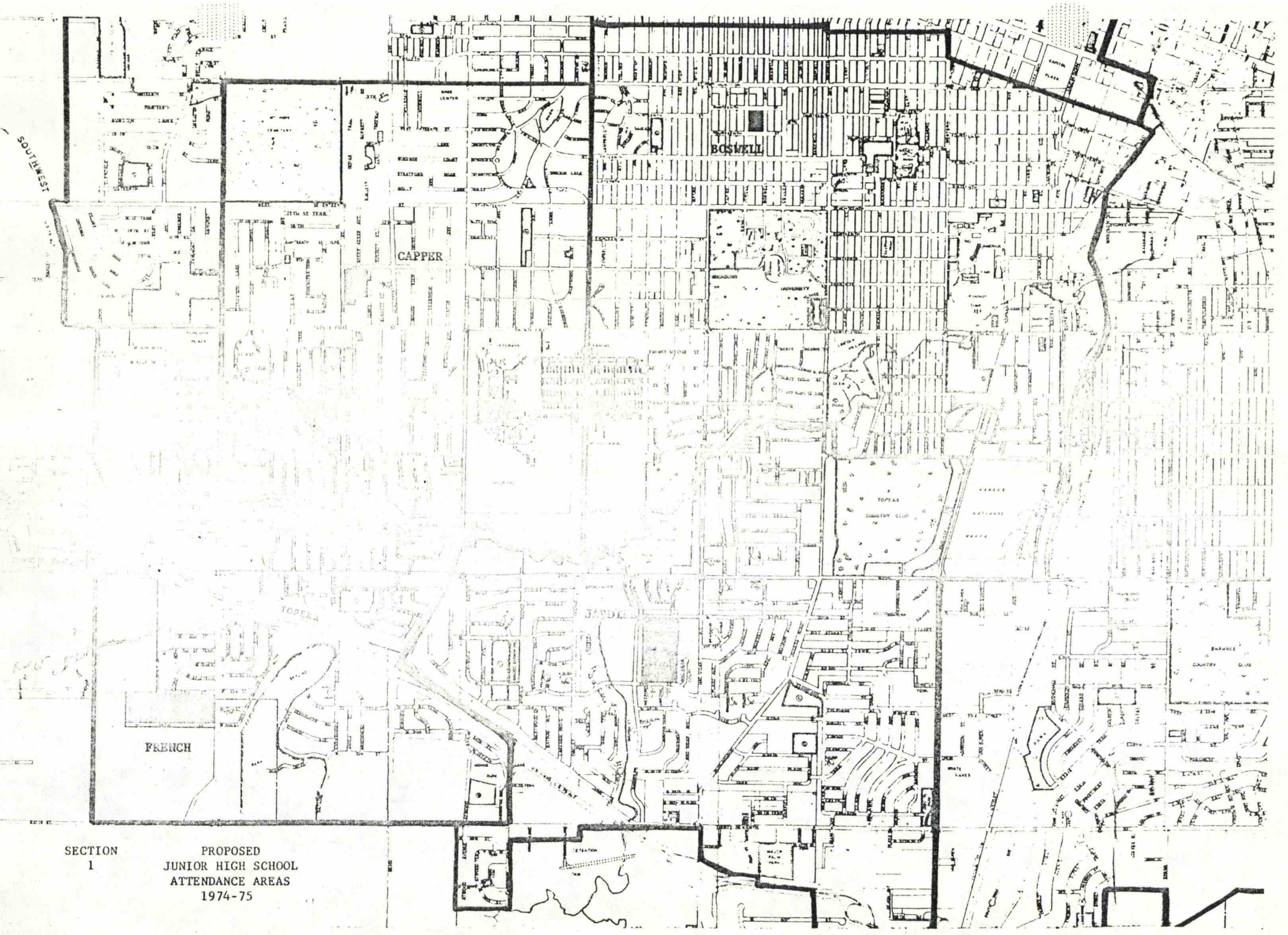


SECTION

III

PROPOSED
ELEMENTARY
ATTENDANCE AREAS
1974-75

660013



SECTION
1

PROPOSED
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE AREAS
1974-75