Parish School Survey Starts in Lafayette

Officials of the State Department of Health began setting an agenda for a general survey of Lafayette parish schools today.

They met in the office of Superintendent J. C. Landry to begin the first step of the survey, on which a proposed school bond issue will be based.

The parish school board discussed a $1 1/2 million bond issue for schools at their November meeting. They decided to ask the State Department of Education to conduct the survey at that meeting.

The $1 1/2 million was estimated as the maximum the board could ask for. The amount would bring the school board's indebtedness up to the limit of 20 per cent of its assessment.

Meeting in Lafayette today were: C. E. Holly, director of the school facilities survey; Curtis Jacobs, assistant director, and Ralph Teagle, state high school superintendent.

L. L. Kilgore, state superintendent of Negro education, is scheduled to arrive later.

Holly said that the group would begin by setting up an agenda, which will include inspection of all school facilities on a study of population trends.

He said they would compare present facilities with the "minimum essential facilities needed." The study of population will include a survey of school enrollment in Lafayette parish schools since 1945, he said.

The group will also estimate school enrollments at least until 1960. Holly said that the estimates would be based on (1) enrollment in prior years, (2) births and (3) determination of sections which will show increases because of movements of industry or other business expansions.

The state official said that the Lafayette parish survey was part of a nation-wide survey of schools under the direction of the federal government. He added that state officials were acting in a "strictly advisory" capacity and would submit their report to State Superintendent of Schools Shelby M. Jackson.

The report, after being reviewed by Jackson, will be returned to the parish school board for its consideration.