

The duties of the School Committee would be to ascertain the amount of assessment required, for the current year, for school purposes; as well the equivalent of the Government grant for teachers' salaries as the fund for school buildings: To receive applications for the opening of schools: To rent or build and keep in repair the school houses of the municipality, as it may see fit: To pay the teachers their portions of the Government grant and the assessed equivalent: To establish and manage an Industrial School Reformatory: To receive and examine the reports of the local managers of the Common Schools: And to prepare and transmit annually to the Minister of Public Instruction a correct report of the state of the schools in the municipality, signed by the Warden or Mayor.

The duties of the local school managers should be first, to appoint a Secretary, who should keep a record of the proceedings of the managers, and fill up all blank returns to the School Superintendent and to the Government Inspector, from a book or register of the daily transactions of the school; the teacher might act as Secretary. Second, to choose and engage a teacher who has passed the Board of Examiners and possesses a certificate of competency. Third, to see that the quality and quantity of secular instruction, prescribed by law, is supplied. Fourth, to see that the school regulations are properly carried out, with respect to cleanliness, regularity, and general moral supervision of the pupils while in school and when absent from school. And in the last place, to report annually to the Warden or Mayor the condition, progress and prosperity of the school; such report to be signed by the clergyman of the congregation.

This is a rough outline of what, in my opinion, should constitute the principal features of that part of the Common School Law applicable to municipalities. Its chief recommendation, it will be perceived, consists in relieving the Councils and Committee of Councils from the difficulties and perpetual strife consequent on their otherwise necessary interference with the religious arrangement of the schools; and leaving the organization of each school to form itself by a natural process of development. While the Committee of Council with its Secretary the Local Superintendent, and the District Government Inspector, would examine the qualification of teachers and grant certificates of qualification; it would in every other respect have its duties confined to finance, for which it is thoroughly competent. Its simplicity is another recommendation, by no means an insignificant one when we take into consideration the endless complaints on the indefiniteness of the present law, its conflicting clauses, the vast number of appeals from school sections to have special clauses construed, and the frequent reference of the Chief Superintendent himself,