

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, Upper Canada.

VOL. XII.

TORONTO: DECEMBER, 1859.

No. 12.

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OFFICIAL REPLIES OF THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, TO LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITIES IN UPPER CANADA.

In continuation of the Chief Superintendent's Official Replies to letters of local School authorities, involving questions and proceedings under the School Law, published in former numbers of the *Journal of Education*, we insert the following, which have been selected from hundreds of answers which have been sent out from the Department.*

NO. 1. ELECTION OF COMMON SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

The law relating to Annual School Meetings.—The law provides, that the annual meetings for the election of School Trustees shall be held in all the Cities, Towns, Villages, and Townships of Upper Canada, on the second Wednesday in January in each year, commencing at the hour of Ten of the clock in the forenoon.

Time of School Meeting.—The law prescribes the time of an annual school meeting, and if it be held at that time it is lawful, though no notice whatever of it was given; but the Trustees are liable to a fine if no such meeting be held for want of notice. Of all special school meetings, six days notice must be given in three public places of the School Section.

* Parties in correspondence with the Educational Department will please quote the number and date of any previous letters to which they may have occasion to refer, as it is extremely difficult for the Department to keep trace of isolated cases, where so many letters are received (nearly 700 per month) on various subjects.

*Proceedings of the annual School Section meetings**—At every annual school section meeting it shall be the duty of the freeholders or householders of such section present at such meeting, or a majority of them,—*Firstly.* To elect a Chairman and Secretary. *Secondly.* To receive and decide upon the report of the Trustees.† *Thirdly.* To elect one or more persons as Trustee, or Trustees,‡ to fill up the vacancy or vacancies in the Trustee Corporation, according to law; Provided always, that no Teacher or Local Superintendent shall hold the office of School Trustee.¶ *Fourthly.* To decide upon the manner [as defined below§], in which the salary of the Teacher or Teachers, and all the expenses connected with the operations of the School or Schools shall be provided for during the year.

Election of Chairman.—The electors present at a school section meeting have the right to elect whom they please as Chairman, whether such Chairman be a freeholder or householder or not. None but householders and freeholders have a right to vote at

* Trustees are not required to state the ordinary business of an annual meeting in their notices, as the law expressly specifies it; but if the trustees have other business to bring forward, they must distinctly state it in their notice, otherwise it cannot be lawfully considered at the meeting. A special school meeting can, however, be called at any time.

† The Trustees are required to present their yearly school accounts to the Annual meeting for audit. For neglect of this duty they are personally responsible. Should no exception be taken to the accounts they must be held to be correct. The meeting should see that the vouchers agree with the sums reported to have been paid by the Trustees on behalf of the Section. If not satisfactory, arbitration should be resorted to.

‡ Local Superintendents are authorized to investigate School Election complaints within twenty days after the Election.

¶ Supporters of separate schools are ineligible as Trustees of public common schools.

§ It belongs to the office of Trustees to estimate and determine the amount of the Teacher's salary and all expenses connected with the school; but it appertains to the majority of the Freeholders and Householders of each School Section, at a public meeting called for the purpose, to decide as to the manner in which such expenses shall be provided for, whether (1) by voluntary subscription; (2) rate bill, in advance, of twenty-five cents (or less) per month on children attending the school; or (3) rate on property. But the Trustees alone determine the amount required for the support of the school, which they are required to keep open at least six months of the year, and they are authorized to provide the balance in such manner as they may think proper. They are also authorized to provide for deficiencies, by a rate upon the property of the section, should the vote of the annual meeting not cover all expenses; or for all the expenses of the school, (over and above the checks of the Local Superintendent) should the annual meeting omit or refuse to decide as above. But for all the money received and expended by them, the Trustees must account annually to their constituents.