

of school commissioners and trustees are numerous and important ; they engage and dismiss teachers ; see that the courses of study approved by the Committees of the Council are followed ; make regulations for the government of their schools ; fix the time of the annual public examinations ; oblige the Secretary-Treasurer to keep his accounts and register according to instructions received from the Superintendent ; hear and decide disputes between the parents, or children and teachers ; require that no other books be used in their schools than those authorized by the Council of Public Instruction or either of the Committees. However, the Cure or priest administering a Catholic Church has the exclusive right of selecting the books having reference to religion and morals for the use of pupils of his religious faith, the Protestant Committee having similar powers respecting Protestant pupils.

Furthermore, the school commissioners do whatever may be expedient with regard to the buildings ; repairing, renewing, or renting, if needs be, of school houses ; have the responsibility of seeing that the school furniture is kept in repair or renewed ; cause to be levied the taxes deemed necessary for the support of the schools under their control ; may divide the municipality into school districts, may change the limit of these districts ; may establish girls' schools distinct from boys' ; shall cause an annual census of the children in the school municipality to be made, giving the age of the children and the number of children actually attending school ; shall in each year make two reports of their proceedings to the Superintendent.

All decisions of school commissioners are entered in the minute book of the board, and in certain specified cases ratepayers who are interested, may appeal to the Superintendent from such decisions.

The Superintendent may summon all parties to appear before him, or he may delegate his powers to a school inspector or to any other person whom he may choose, who then acts in his name and reports to him. The decision of the Superintendent is final, but he may from time to time repeal or modify it according to circumstances.

The principal cases in which an appeal to the Superintendent is allowed, are : concerning school sites ; the limits of school districts ; the construction and repairing of school houses.