

So many of the Regulations of the Council of Public Instruction have been changed under the late amendments of the Educational Statutes, that it was considered advisable to consolidate provisionally the old and new Regulations at once. It is hoped Trustees and Teachers may therefore find no difficulty in becoming thoroughly acquainted with them.

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COMMENTS AND REGULATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

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COMMISSIONERS OF SCHOOLS.

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*Comments.*

[1.] The provisions of the Act touching the classification of pupils, the employing of assistant teachers, and the grading of schools, render it necessary to retain sections of good size. Except in densely peopled settlements, no section should be less than three miles in length, and in thinly peopled settlements not less than four miles. It is earnestly hoped that each Board of Commissioners will exert its influence and authority to preserve, wherever practicable, such a number of inhabitants in each section as will enable either graded schools or the closest possible approximation to them to be sustained in all the more densely settled portions of the country. No mere preference in favor of one section or another, on the part of parents, should be allowed to interfere with the preservation of the proper bounds of sections. Such bounds should always be determined upon as will enable the people of all the sections to educate their children in the most efficient and economical manner. This can be attained only by means of large school sections. In making any necessary change in the established boundary of any section, the utmost care must be exercised that such change does not take effect prior to the settlement of engagements entered into by the trustees, under the authority of the annual meeting. As the law provides that alterations in boundaries shall not take effect until the beginning of the next ensuing School Year, the Council strongly recommends that they be made only at the regular Annual Meeting of Commissioners. The sections affected should always be notified as early as possible of the decision of the Board.

[2.] The commissioner being authorized by law to name a committee of not less than three of their number to appoint trustees of schools as occasion may arise between the yearly meetings of the full board, the Council strongly recommends that such a committee be named by each board. A careful record of all appointments made by the committee must be kept and reported to the board, to be entered in the minutes. The inspector shall be *ex officio* secretary to the committee.

[3.] The power committed to each board of commissioners of condemning school-houses is an important one, and should, with necessary prudence, be faithfully exercised. There cannot be any lasting educational progress unless suitable school accommodation is provided by each section, according to its ability, for all its children. The law provides means by which an ample portion of the resources at the command of the inhabitants of each section may be devoted to so necessary and so noble a use; and it is for each board of commissioners to insist that the plain and reasonable demands of the laws shall be complied with. The Council recommends that every case calling for the exercise of this power be dealt with at the annual meeting of the commissioners, and that the trustees of the section be immediately notified of the declaration made and its consequences.

REGULATION 1. Any person or persons intending to apply to the commissioners for a change in the boundaries of any school section must hereafter post a written notice of such intention in one or more public places within each section affected, at least five days previous to the meeting of the commissioners; and the notice must specify distinctly the change or changes to be applied for.

REG. 2. All applications for changes in the boundaries of sections, and for the creation of new sections, must be accompanied by full information touching all the interests affected by such changes. This information is particularly required when it is proposed to create new sections, and it should include plans showing the relation of the new section to the section or sections from which it is to be detached, with distances carefully marked; also the number of rate-payers and children of school-going age, and the amount of assessable property in both old and new sections.

REG. 3. As the law provides that no action taken by boards of commissioners towards the establishment of new sections shall have force until ratified by the Council of Public