

Halifax, N.S.

Monday

December 17, 1917.

At an emergent meeting, of the Board of School Commissioners for the City of Halifax, held in their offices, 81 Sackville Street, this day at 10 o'clock A.M.

Present

Commissioners J. P. Quinn, Chairman

R. H. Woodbury,

H. S. Crosby,

G. A. Redmond,

C. P. Wood,

W. R. Wakely,

H. S. Colwell,

J. S. Parker,

A. J. Friday,

E. J. Kelly,

J. E. Furness,

R. D. Guildford.

S. J. Wilson, Secretary

G. V. Butler, Supervisor

Cause of Meeting

The chairman stated that because of the explosion on December 6 the consequent shattering of all glass windows in the various schools and the extreme cold weather, the Inspector, acting under instruction had emptied the boilers and turned the water supply off into the street.

Since then the Supervisor, Triand Officer and men teachers have assisted the Caretaker and Inspector to cover the windows of school buildings storing moveable furniture in the least damaged room of each building.

He reported the use of Chebucto School as a morgue which was done without consulting the Board, and that

The Board of Health had notified him of their intention to use Oxford School as a hospital for infectious diseases.

That permission had been asked and granted to use Acadian and Manual Training Schools as Food Depots.

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Reopening of Schools. -

Read a letter, Dec. 15, from R. J. Macdubreith, Chairman of the Executive Relief Committee stating that the matter of repairing public schools was considered at a meeting of the Managing Committee when it was decided that the Committee would aid in the restoration of the schools to the extent of making emergency repairs and reporting that Messrs Black, Beazley and Faulkner were appointed a special committee to confer with the School Board and Reconstruction Committee in regard thereto.

The Chairman reported an interview with Messrs Black, Beazley and Faulkner re repairing of certain schools. Read a letter Dec. 15 sent Mr Macdubreith after the interview asking that a thorough inspection of school buildings be made by experts to ascertain whether the buildings as they stand can with temporary repairs be made safe for the housing of the school children and further requesting that in the event of a favorable report the Reconstruction Committee make such temporary repairs as the experts regard as safe so that the Board may be able to open classes at an early date using double sessions until the North end schools are in order and submitting a list of schools as follows: - Academy Acadian, College St. LeMarchant, Quinpool, St. Mary's Boys, St. Mary's Girls, St. Patrick's Girls' Common, Lower Road.

The Board considering that the safety of the pupils was at stake, on motion of Commr's Colwell and Parker Resolved: - That the City Engineer be requested to make an inspection of the school buildings and report at as early a date as possible.

On motion of Commr's Croshy and Finkay, the action of the Chairman in taking up the matter with the Reconstruction Committee was approved.

Saving School Property

The Supervisor reported that a large amount of moveable property might be saved from the wrecked buildings and stored in a safe place.

On motion of Commr's Kelly and Wakely it was resolved to apply to the Transportation Committee for teams to transfer property to basements of Academy and Lower Road Schools.

Richmond School Insurance.

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Read letter, Dec. 10, from Messrs Rhodes Curry & Co. Contractors for Richmond School addition calling attention to article II in which the owner shall maintain insurance on said work in his own name and in the name of the Contractor against loss or damage by fire, asking what insurance the Board had placed on the building.

Read letter, Dec. 12, in reply pointing out that the specification signed by the Contractors, on page 7, requires insurance to be maintained by the Contractors and policies filed with the Chairman of the Board.

On motion of Commrs Parker and Kelly it was resolved that the City Solicitor be asked for an opinion on this matter to be submitted within twenty four hours, in the event of his opinion not being submitted in that time outside advice is to be obtained.

Teachers Injured by Explosion

The Supervisor reported the following teachers injured by the Explosion on December 6.

Alexander McKay School	Miss Smith, injured at home
Alexandra	Miss L. G. Clark " at School
Bloomfield	Mr Patton " "
Chelvesto	Other teachers, not seriously "
LeMarchant	Miss Publicover,
Oxford	Miss Gladys Palmer,
Quimpool	One Sister
Richmond	Miss Thompson
St Joseph's	Mr Huggins, very seriously
St Patrick's Boys' School	Miss Hamilton, injured at home
St Patrick's Girls	Four Sisters received fractures
	One Sister internal injury
	Miss Phelan,
	Sr. M. Felix

All well teachers are engaged in Relief Work.

Salaries of Teachers and Janitors

On motion of Commrs Woodbury and Parker it was resolved that teachers and janitors be paid by cheque, month by month, all teachers are required to report to the Supervisor in Halifax after the Christmas vacation, otherwise their names will be dropped from the pay roll.

The Secretary was authorized to advertise this

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Cheques would be ready on Friday the 21st.

Transportation of Children

On motion of Commrs Kelly and Crosby it was Resolved That in the event of certain schools being considered fit for occupation by the children the Board petitions the Board of Public Utilities to grant free transportation on street cars to the school children until conditions become normal and then to carry them at reduced rate.

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Deputation

A deputation consisting of the Archbishop of Nova Scotia Messrs Johnston and Bolster was admitted. The Archbishop addressed the Board regarding a report that the schools would not reopen before June, he further referred to the use of school buildings for hospitals.

The Chairman explained the situation regarding the use of school buildings and promised that the Board would in every way endeavor to protect the health and welfare of the children.

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Condition of Building Fabric

The Caretaker submitted his report of estimated cost of putting buildings in former condition as follows: -

Academy	5500'
Acadian	
Bloomfield High	35,000'
Joseph Howe	25,000'
Quinpool Rd.	
St Mary's Boys'	1,170'
St Mary's Girls'	1,130'
LeMarchant	1,625'
Tower Road	1,050'

Adjourned 12 noon

Spivison