

Halifax, N.S.

Friday

January 11, 1918

At a meeting of the Board of School Commissioners held at their offices, 81 Sackville Street, Halifax this day at 8 o'clock p.m.

Present

Commissioners J. P. Quinn, Chairman
 R. H. Woodbury,
 C. P. Wood,
 W. R. Wakely,
 H. S. Colwell,
 J. S. Parker,
 A. J. Finlay,
 E. J. Kelly,

S. J. Wilson, Secretary.
 G. K. Butler, Supervisor

Minutes

The minutes, Nov. 29, Dec. 17-28 having been typed and distributed were taken as read and approved

Reports Comion S.S. B.

Commissioner Finlay submitted the Report of the Committee on School Sites and Buildings which was read as follows:-

Halifax N.S.

January 18, 1918

The Committee on S.S. B. recommends that the following accounts be placed on the paysheet for payment.

Rents, -
 Brunswick St Methodist Church 105.-
 Sundries, -
 G. W. Arnold
 J. G. Crump 12.80
 J. Davison for 22.20
 J. J. Dorey 21.63

Forward 100.60 157.20

Forward		
Starguehar Bros		157.23
J. Harting	75.58	
Millsop & Co	38.55	
J. Jones	95.70	
Lawrence H. W. Co.	28.80	
Longardo Ltd	87.50	
H. H. Marshall	197.45	
D. A. Macdonald	6.50	
Maritime Tel. & Tel. Co.	3.60	
N. S. El. Tramway Ltd	28.20	
Piercy Supply Co	33.38	
W. Robertson Hrn	7.69	
R. Roche	2.19	
Rhodes Curry Co.	2.20	
U. Tibbo	18.60	
Tram Fares	38.85	
E. B. Ward	2.-	
Webster Smith Co. Ltd	36.	
J. W. Woolworth	61.15	
	<u>1.80</u>	1132.70

Explosion Repair Account

54.58

Construction accounts - Register ³ Richmond

3825.-

3825.-

2. They submit a letter from the contractors of Alexander McWay School, and advise that they have requested the City Solicitor to be present at the Board Meeting.
3. They submit a letter, Dec 31. from the Manager Bank of British N. America, written on receipt of Resolution of Board of Control, guaranteeing to place 15000. at the Board's disposal for Explosion Repairs for which it will seek legislation later, in which the Manager says the Resolution is not a guarantee but an undertaking to use its best efforts to obtain legislation.
4. They anticipate having the following schools ready for occupation by pupils on Monday 14th.
Academy, Acadian, St Mary's Boys, St Mary's Girls, Lower Road
5. They report that John Pritchard, Janitor of Richmond School was killed in the school on Dec. 6. while in discharge of his duty and recommend that the sum of \$1000 be paid his widow.
6. That they have revised the items of Estimate coming under the control of this Committee and which are included in the report of Committee on Finance

Sgd.

A. J. Friday, for Chairman

The report was considered clause by clause.

118

Friday

January 11

1918

Clause 1 Passed

Clause 2. -

Read letter from Contractors Alexander McKay School. The City Solicitor was present by request, gave as his opinion that it involved a question of occupation and compensation, he thought it might be diplomatically arranged without prejudicing the Board's claim.

Read letter, Jan 9, from Farquhar Bros. Heating Contractors referring to a balance of \$5160.- on Heating Contract Alexander McKay School, asking for progress payment of at least \$4376.- or 85% of amount due, pending discussion relative to putting the schools in satisfactory condition again, stating that the Heating Contract was completed before the explosion and that a balance of \$2000.- was due on the Plumbing Contract.

As the letter was not accompanied by an architect's certificate, the Secretary was directed to notify Farquhar Bros of this fact.

The item Plumbing Contract was referred to the Special Committee on Alexander McKay School.

The Chairman reported an interview with the Reconstruction Committee who had asked for the use of Alexander McKay School until April 15, when they expected to put the workmen under canvas. They offered to erect a ten room shack on the school premises and leave it there for the Board's convenience when they vacate the premises, this will assist the Board in housing the children until the school building is in readiness.

On motion of Commrs Woodbury and Wakely this was agreed.

The Chairman stated that the Reconstruction Committee was considering the advisability of building two four room shacks on the Exhibition grounds to serve as school houses for the families for whom they are erecting the shelter buildings. This, the Supervisor considered will greatly assist in housing the children in the North West district.

On motion of Commrs Woodbury and Wakely a special Committee was appointed to meet the Contractors of the Alexander McKay School and the Reconstruction Committee discuss and arrange all questions and report back to the Board.

Committee named Commrs Colwell and Finkay with the Chairman of the Board and the City Solicitor.

Clause 3 Bank Oversight

Friday

January 11

1918

Read letter from the Manager Bank of British North America
The Solicitor stated the City had not had any difficulty in
obtaining an overdraft from the Royal Bank, the arrange-
ment was always satisfactory. The only other course would be
a short term debenture.

Clause 4. Grant to Mrs Pritchard

On motion it was resolved to write the Board of Control
asking for the amount of \$1000 for this purpose.

On motion the report as a whole was adopted

Committee on Teachers

Commissioner Kelly submitted
the

Report of the Committee on Teachers
which

was read as follows:-

Halifax N.S. Jan. 11 1918

The Committee on Teachers recommends that the
following accounts be placed on the pay sheet for payment

T. C. Allen & Co.	2.15	
Cragg Bros & Co. Ltd	2.20	
G. M. Hendry & Co. Ltd.	9.32	
As W. Mackinnon Ltd	58.78	
Soules Typewriter Co.	81.50	
G. M. Smith & Co.	1.57	
War Stamps	15.00	\$119.47

2. That no public Examinations of Schools be held this year.
3. That the temporary teachers employed by the Board be notified after the end of this present month their services will not be required, owing to the closing of departments.
4. They submit the request of Miss S. E. Archibald teacher Domestic Science, for one month's leave of absence of Miss M. A. Eaton, Domestic Science for leave until Summer vacation and of Mr. J. M. Hibbert, Academy for leave until Summer vacation and recommend that they be granted. Mr Hibbert to be requested to notify the Board by April 1, whether he intends to return and remain for the entire year, otherwise his resignation will be accepted.
5. They report having revised the items of Estimate coming under the control of this Committee, and which are included in the report of Committee on Finance
sgd. E. J. Kelly, Chairman

126

Friday

January 11

On motion of Commr Kelly the report was adopted

Medical

Commissioner Woodbury submitted
the
Report of the Medical Committee
which
was read as follows:-

Halifax, N.S.
January 11, 1918

The Committee on Medical reports that it has considered and revised the items of Estimate coming under its control all of which are included in the Report of Committee on Finance
sgd A. H. Woodbury, Chairman

On motion of Commr Woodbury the report was adopted

Printing

Commissioner Wakely submitted
the
Report of the Committee on Printing
which
was read as follows:-

Halifax, Jan. 11, 1918

The Committee on Printing recommends that the following accounts be placed on the paysheet for payment:-

Chronicle Publishing Co.	8.79	
Halifax Herald	24.41	33.20

They report having revised the items of Estimate coming under the control of this Committee, and in which they cannot see their way to make any reduction
sgd W. R. Wakely Chairman

On motion of Commr Wakely the Report was adopted.

Finance

Commissioner Kelly submitted
the
Report of the Committee on Finance
which
was read as follows:-

January 11

1918

The Committee on Finance having examined the accompanying statements of accounts, find them correct and recommend payment amounting to, Twenty thousand, three hundred and sixty ²⁰/₁₀₀ dollars: - viz

Salaries,			
Officials		842.48	
Teachers	14,922.40		
Substitutes	<u>718.25</u>	15,640.65	
Janitors		<u>1,279.-</u>	17,762.13
Accounts			
S.L.B.		1,032.90	
Teachers,		169.47	
Printing		<u>33.20</u>	1,235.59
Interest on Debentures			1,352.50
Secretary's Bond			<u>10.-</u>
			\$ 20,360.20
Explosion Expenses Accounts		850.58 847.77	
Construction Account		3828.-	

Sg. E. J. Kelly, acting Chairman
C. P. Wood,
R. D. Guildford,
W. R. Wakely.

On motion of Commr Kelly the Report was adopted

Estimates

Commissioner Kelly submitted a further Report of the Committee on Finance which

was read as follows:-

School Estimate for the year 1918, ending April 30, 1919 as passed November 29, 1917 and amended January 11, 1918 ^{supp.}

On motion of Commr Kelly the following Resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That the Estimates as submitted be adopted, and that a copy thereof be sent to His Worship the Mayor, with the request that the City Council include in the general assessment of the City a sum sufficient to yield

Two Hundred and Forty seven thousand, six hundred and eighty two dollars and fifteen cents, 247,682.15 thus making a reduction of eighteen thousand and

122
Friday

January 11

1918

eighty five dollars, sixty five cents, that being the sum required for the support and maintenance of the Schools under the charge of the Board for the year ending April 30, 1919, in accordance with Section 897 of the City Charter
sgd E. J. Kelly, for the Chairman

On motion of Commr Kelly the Report was adopted and copies ordered to be sent the Mayor and Board of Control.

Cadet Corps.

Commissioner Colwell submitted a report of work done during the month following the explosion by the Academy and High School Cadets, which was read.

On motion it was authorized to be included and printed in the annual report.

Commr Colwell further stated that he had given Mr E. J. Ross, principal of Joseph Howe School, charge of Cadet Rifles, he to clean and store them in his own house, (free of charge) on condition that a record of the rifles be taken and filed at this office

Reopening of Schools.

The Committee on School Sites and Buildings having reported five schools ready for occupation the question of reopening them on Monday January 14 was discussed.

Read letter, Jan 11, from the Board of Control re Fuel Shortage, in which the Mayor urged that in order to conserve the supply of coal the public schools be not reopened at least until Feb. 1 when the Coal Famine situation will be better known. That he understood the Fuel Commission had under consideration the possibility of the necessity of using the coal now in the cellars of the public schools for other purposes.

The Chairman reported an interview with the Hon. P. G. Beazley, Fuel Controller at Mr Beazley's request, to talk over the fuel situation, Mr Beazley urged the Chairman to the attention of the Board, the seriousness of the situation and to urge that on account of present shortage it was advisable not to open the schools before March 1.

On motion of Commrs Woodbury and Friday it was resolved that Academy, Acadian, St Mary's Boys' St Mary's Girls, Tower Park Schools be opened as arranged on Monday January 14 and that other buildings that can pass investigation as to safety will be opened as soon as required. If at any subsequent date the Fuel Controller shows it to be necessary, the schools will be

Friday

January 11

1918

closed

Time Table

The Supervisor has arranged the following time table for present use.

Academy, 9 a.m. for Academy pupils and Bloomfield Grades VII, VIII,

1:15 p.m. for Bloomfield Grades IX, X, Chebucto, " VIII, IX,

St. Patrick's Boys' " IX, X, Alexandra " VIII, IX,

Acadian, 9 a.m. 2 advanced classes of Acadia, Alexandra " VIII

1:15 p.m. Joseph Howe grades VIII, VII, VI.

St. Mary's Boys' 9 a.m. All classes of St. Mary's Boys'

1:15 p.m. all classes of St. Patrick's Boys' Common School

St. Mary's Girls, 9 a.m. All classes of St. Mary's Girls'

1:15 p.m. All St. Patrick's Girls' classes High and Common School.

Tower Road, 9 a.m. Tower Road pupils and Morris St. Grade IX

1:15 p.m. All classes of Morris St. Common School

On motion of Commr^s Wakely and Colwell the Supervisor was directed to notify the Clothing Committee that teachers other than those engaged in classwork are to be placed on Rehabilitation work

Transportation III

Read letter, Jan 9, from the Board of Public Utilities re granting free transportation to school to school children, promising further consideration

On motion the Secretary was directed to acknowledge the letter stating that schools were now reopening and that the Board looks forward to an early and favorable reply. 19

Rented Buildings

Read letter Dec 29, from the Archbishop of Halifax agreeing to lease St. Patrick's Boys' School building from year to year until the Board can make other arrangements. Filed

Read letter from the Vestry Clerk, St. George's stating that the lower hall will be in readiness for a class within two weeks. Acknowledge

Electric Meters

The Secretary was directed to have all meters removed from Richmond, St. Joseph's, Bloomfield Common, Bloomfield High, Chebucto, Joseph Howe, and St. Patrick's Girls' High Schools.

College St. School

The Chairman reported having interviewed Messrs Pearson and Low of the Reconstruction Committee relative to

124

1918

Friday

January 11

College St. School and arranged with them that on February 15 Commr Parker, Chairman of S.S.B. or his representative will communicate with them regarding this building making full arrangements regarding necessary repairs, rearrangement of classes &c. with the guarantee from the Committee that the building will be ready to receive pupils on March 1.

The Committee on Reconstruction further agrees to pay the rent of this building to the Secretary of the Board, the cost of fuel used, Janitor's services, and all other expenses incurred during its occupancy.

Bloomfield

Chebuets

Joseph Howe Schools

Bloomfield, Chebuets and Joseph Howe schools having been reported so badly damaged as to be dangerous for school purposes unless very extensive and costly repairs were made.

It was therefore Resolved that the Reconstruction Committee be granted the use of the buildings for housing workmen and storage purpose, on condition that they be handed over when the Board is in a position to make permanent repairs. This by the Chairman's advice was adopted.

Oxford - Infectious Diseases Hospital. 114

The Board's instructions re advising City Health Board of its wishes in the matter of Oxford School have been carried out.

The Chairman of the Board had attended a meeting of the Health Board and, so far as he could learn, the appointment of a committee consisting of W. N. E. Mackay and Commr Finlay to look up another site, was the definite arrangement.

From a member of the Board of Control he learned that it was the wish of the Board of Control to retain the

Oxford - as a permanent hospital for Infectious Diseases. In view of this he had waited upon the Premiers for advice regarding the powers of the Board in this respect. The Premiers advised caution regarding the legal aspect

and suggested an interview with the Deputy Attorney General. In the course of the interview, Mr Jenks (deputy Attorney General) verbally advised him that the School Board has absolute control of its buildings and so far as this building is concerned whether under normal conditions or in case of an epidemic, neither the Board of Health nor the Board of Control has power to use school buildings without the consent of the Board of School Commissioners.

Friday

January 11

1915

As the Superior deems it necessary to have this building

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. (COPY.)

Halifax, N.S.,
January 11/15.

The Board of School Commissioners,
City.

Dear Sirs:

RE FINANCES.

I have already reported to you that I made application to Mr. MacIlreith for either financial assistance in repairing our schools or that the Reconstruction Committee should make the necessary repairs for us and as time went on I was fully satisfied that if we depended upon them to make the necessary repairs, it would be a long while before we would be able to occupy our buildings for school purposes, consequently Commissioner Parker, and myself waited upon the Board of Control and made known the facts of the case to them.

They agreed with us that it was necessary to begin work immediately on our schools and a resolution was prepared by the City Solicitor authorizing us to overdraw our account with our Bankers not exceeding \$15,000, which resolution was made for the purpose of guaranteeing that the Bank would be repaid. Mr. Hope, the Local Manager of the Bank recommended this to his Head Office, and they in turn said it would be quite satisfactory provided that their legal advisers in Halifax would recommend it from a legal standpoint. This they refused to do contending that the City Charter did not permit the School Board or the Board of Control to overdraw for school purposes.

I then took the matter up with Mr. G.S. Campbell, Chairman of the Finance Relief Committee and he promised to give the matter due consideration and recommend it to the Finance Committee. Since then I had an interview with Mr. Campbell in which he suggested as there were some outstanding points between the School Board and the Reconstruction Committee it would be better to have these adjusted, after which he felt that, if we made application for the necessary amount of financial aid, through the Executive Committee, they would in all probability assist us.

Having arranged our few differences with the Reconstruction Committee and I think to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, I would, therefore, recommend that we make application to the Executive Relief Committee for an amount covering the repairs to the following buildings:-

- Tower Road } \$25,000
- St. Mary's Boys } \$25,000
- Girls }
- County Academy }
- Acadian }
- LeMarchant St. }
- Quinpool Road }
- Science Bldg. - Cunard St. }
- St. Patrick's Boys } \$25,000
- Alexander }
- St. Patrick's Girls Com. }
- Oxford Street }
- College Street }

Totalled \$50,000. In addition to this in the event of our being able to arrange and find it advisable to carry on school during the month of July, that they be asked for further amount of \$15,600 in order to pay our teaching staff for that month, which is not provided for in our estimates.

I trust the foregoing will meet with your approval.
(Sgd.) J.P.C., Chairman.

about Schools, it was, by Resolved and further requested thoroughly give a clean Bill of Health to me since their occupation, and all other expenses 'occupation of the premises

a report of steps he had made necessary by explosion

and Parker it was resolved Board wait upon the setting for an amount as suggested in the in the event of the school during July, by teachers.

Environment Grant it was made to the Premier.

led information of the note to the Archbishop

explosion the janitor of pneumonia had gone to the ill. The janitor of St Mary's (the Acadia School furnished to advise in this matter to attend to his duty.

J. P. C.

SECRETARY

Handwritten initials and the word "CHAIRMAN" at the bottom left.

Friday

January 11

1918

As the Superior deems it necessary to have this building to house the children of Oxford and Chebucto Schools, it was, on motion of Commr's Wood and Finlay **Resolved** That a definite stand be taken in regard to it and further **Resolved** that the City Board of Health be requested thoroughly fumigate and hand over the building, give a clean Bill of Health to this Board, make good all damage done since their occupation, pay for all fuel used, janitors expenses and all other expenses incurred during the Board of Health's occupation of the premises

General Financing of Repairs

The Chairman then submitted a report of steps he had taken to finance the Repairs to schools, made necessary by explosion (see fly)

On motion of Commr's Wakeley and Parker it was resolved that the Executive Committee of the Board wait upon the Executive Reconstruction Committee asking for an amount to cover the repairs on school buildings as suggested in the Chairman's report, and in addition, in the event of the Board being able to arrange to conduct school during July, the sum of \$15,000 - be granted to pay teachers.

Government Grant

Regarding the payment of the Government Grant it was resolved that special application be made to the Premier.

Detailed Information

Archbishop of Nova Scotia

The Secretary was directed to give detailed information of the Board's arrangements for reopening schools to the Archbishop of Nova Scotia. (Archbishop Worsell)

Janitor Acadian School

It being reported that on the day of the Explosion the Janitor of Acadian School, who had been ill with pneumonia had gone to the School to help and has since been seriously ill. The Janitor of St Mary's Boys' since then has been detailed to attend the Acadian School furnace. On motion the Chairman of S.B.C. was asked to advise in this matter until the Janitor is sufficiently recovered to attend to his duty.

Adjourned - 10.45

S. Wilson

SECRETARY