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Of the original 252 audio-recordings in this collection, 212 of these tapes were transcribed around the time of the original recordings (between 1966 and 1978). In 2012, Cabbage Tree Solutions was contracted to create transcriptions for the remaining tapes. Corrections to and clarifications for all transcriptions are welcome, especially for names and places. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, for questions. askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM OF DELAWARE

- 1744 - First state aid. Ratified all conveyances of lands and houses for educational purposes.
- 1772 - Lot of land in New Castle County assigned for a school.
- 1792 - General Assembly passed the first Act for the establishment of public schools and placed marriage and tavern license fees in a school fund. When sufficient in size, shares in the Farmers Bank were to be bought.
- 1817 - The income was first used in 1817 when \$1,000.00 was given to each County to furnish instruction to children of poor parents. This was called the Poor Children's Fund and was not received very well.
- 1829 - Governor Polk in his message advised the establishment of a genuine system of public education.

Willard Hall, born in Massachusetts in 1780, came to Dover in 1803. He became Secretary of State in Delaware and encouraged the people to enact the Free School Law of 1829. Hall has been called the father of public education in Delaware.

- 1829 - School Code - Provisions *Page 143*
 1. Division of State into school districts.
 2. Annual school meetings.
 3. Election and duties of clerks and commissioners. *143*
 4. Set up state aid -- All the clear income of the school fund apportioned among the school districts, but each had to raise an equal amount.
 5. Schools open first Monday in November and continue as long as funds were available.
 6. Corporations formed to hold school property.
 7. Each district named and numbered.
 8. Set up county superintendents and defined their duties.
 9. Repealed all former Acts - the Poor Children's Fund.
- 1830 - Amended so no district could raise more than \$300.
- 1833 - 133 school districts - New Castle 61; Kent 36; Sussex 36. Districts were unwilling to tax themselves for schools and the schools were very poor.
- 1835 - State lottery for \$100,000; of which \$25,000 was for schools.
- 1837 - Balance in United States Treasury distributed to states. Delaware received about \$286,000 which was set up in the school fund. This and the old fund now almost wholly invested in Farmers Bank stock with a value of about \$2,000,000 and an annual income of \$75,000. *\$8,040,000 = Farmers \$7,809,000 = US \$231,271,000*
- 1861 - Made it compulsory for school committees each year to levy and assess in each school district - \$75 in New Castle; \$100 in Kent; \$30 in Sussex and with the vote of the people up the \$400 more to operate and \$500 for buildings and repairs.
 IMPORTANT - in that it declared that each child should be educated and could not be denied by a vote of the people.
 Requirement of equal funds from district modified so that only \$25.00 was required.

- 1875 - Supplement to Law of 1829
1. State Superintendent appointed by the Governor.
 2. State Board of Education - President of Delaware College, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and State Superintendent.
 3. Teachers had to have certificates issued by the State Superintendent.
 4. Revenue same, except that Sussex County required to raise \$60 instead of \$30.
- 1879 - State Superintendent to issue three kinds of certificates -
First Grade for three years
Second Grade for two years
Third Grade for one year
Also Temporary permits
- 1886 - Spent \$246,000; 635 teachers; 422 districts; 562 schools; 29,421 enrolled; average salary per month \$32.40.
- 1887 - State Superintendent abolished
County Superintendents appointed by the Governor.
Provide for teacher examinations and certificates.
Reports of the County Superintendents to the State Board of Education and of the State Board to the Governor.
Teacher institutes provided.
Each County Superintendent paid \$1,000.00.

EDUCATION OF COLORED

- 1866 - 3 schools in Wilmington, 2 in Camden, 1 in Odessa and 1 in Newport. Supported by private societies and organizations and what the parents could pay.
- 1875 - Act passed providing for taxing colored people for the support of their schools. This only raised one-third and the colored people had to raise the balance personally.
- 1881 - Legislature appropriated \$2,400
- 1883 - 5,000 Control and supervision given to
- 1891 - 9,000 County Superintendents
- In 1876 there were 29 schools and 1,197 enrolled.

to 1919- Slight changes

- 1919 - New School Code
1. State Board of Education - 5 members appointed by the Governor.
 2. County Boards. All schools, except Special Districts, which were Alexis, Newark, New Castle, Caesar Rodney, Harrington, Dover, Milford, Smyrna, Georgetown, Laurel, Lewes, Seaford.
 3. Three member boards elected.
 4. Funds - County Board to submit budgets and raise funds \$3 to \$6 capitation, property tax balance, but not more than 1 1/2% of assessed value. Also levy for buildings.
 5. County Superintendents and defined duties.
 6. Boards of Education in Special Districts. 3 elected by voters.
 7. Boards of School Trustees in other districts. 3 elected.
 8. Teachers' certificates - teachers' examinations.
 9. Teachers' salaries.

10. Rules of school attendance.
11. Aid for high schools.
12. State Treasurer trustee of school funds.
13. State support - Cost of department and summer schools
Teachers salaries - On certificate from \$450 to \$800
14. Elementary - income from school fund
High School- 1/2 salary of teachers
1/4 salary of superintendent
to \$2,400 for first class high school
1,600 for second class.

This cost too much and some districts could not raid the amount required so

1920 - Amended to provide given income from school fund and all the proceeds from an income tax.
Also, appropriated \$490,000 from State Treasury for operation and \$50,000 for transportation.

1921 - Repealed all of 1920 Code and

1. State Board of four appointed by the Governor - 5 year terms.
2. State Superintendent for Commissioner.
3. Boards of Trustees - 3 elected who prepared budgets approved by the State Board.
4. Boards of Education - 3 elected - District Superintendent.
5. All property outside of special districts placed under the control of the State Board - change from county boards.
6. State support - 25¢ on real and personal property Changed
Income from school fund method of support for
Personal income tax high school to not more
Corporation and franchise tax than \$100 per pupil and
Filing fee of \$3.00 gave \$100,000 to care for
excess of costs of small H.Schools

Elementary aid on the basis of net enrollment, a.d.a, number and qualifications of teachers, and grade and standard of school buildings.

Other provisions about the same - Since then the major changes have been:

State support - 1921 to 1929 - Same as above
1929 to 1930 - Basis of net enrollment of previous year - \$69
1931 to 1933 - \$90 Grades 10-12
\$82.50 Grades 7-9
Balance grades 1-6 on enrollment \$62
1933 to 1935 - \$81 Grades 10-12
\$74.25 Grades 7-9
Balance grades 1-6 on enrollment
1941-1951 Appropriation for kindergartens - only for 2 years
1935 to 1941 - Same plan
1941 to 1949 - One fund - on basis of classification of costs to all districts - one teacher and larger
1949 Present salary and unit plan
Salary schedules introduced in 1947-48. This helped to change the plan.

In these years there were many special aids - salary increases, capital improvements, handicapped children and new buildings -

1929-1935 an appropriation to the State Board for distribution
1936-1941 Very small amounts and for projects
Later building programs set up in the Legislature.

School Fund - 1928 - Property tax reduced to 15¢ - taken off in 1930
1928 - Filing fee taken off
Other sources with varying rates remained the same
until the one fund amendment in 1941

State Board of Education

1931 - 6 members appointed by the Governor
1943 - President of the University of Delaware made ex-officio member
1945 - President State College made ex-officio member

Local Boards - 1931 all appointed by the resident judge - 4 members
1943 Elected in Kent and Sussex
1945 Elected Claymont
1947 Elected Middletown
1949 Elected in Rose Hill and New Castle Special

Election Law - HB 79 as amended
Wilmington has its own school code which has been changed by the Legislature in regard to its Board. It shares as do the other districts in funds and receives them on the same basis.

Many minor changes have been made by Legislatures. Some of these are:

CONSTITUTION

General Assembly

State Board of Education

State Department of Public Instruction

Wilmington
Board of Education
6 members appointed
President
Superintendent
Operates under separate
Code

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Special Districts
Board of Education
4 members appointed
or elected
President
Superintendent-Sec. of
Board
15 special districts

STATE BOARD UNIT DISTRICTS
Board of School Trustees
4 members elected or
appointed
Chairman
Clerk-may be principal

Total Board Members ~~40~~
Total Boards ~~22~~

1 Teacher ~~10~~
2 Teacher 14
3 Teacher 3

Appointed Boards - ~~New Castle County, Monroeville~~
Claymont
Middletown
Rose Hill
New Castle

Combined for appropriations

4 or more ~~41~~ 88 dist.
5 Conrad
7 Comprehensive (3)

Elected Boards - Kent and Sussex Counties and Claymont, Middletown, Rose Hill,
New Castle, Henry High and Jason

Conrad 5
Wilmington 6
39

75
15
91
dist.

85
4
340
39
279 members

3
Milton
Slaght
Rehoboth
Lewes
Kent
New Castle

4
Wilmington
195

Out