

Organization of Loudoun's Schools and
School System

The people of the county elect the Commonwealth's Attorney, the State Board of Education elects a division superintendent of schools, and the judge of the circuit court appoints ~~in~~ a citizen of the county who becomes associated with the above-named officials, the three constituting the school trustee electoral board.

The duties of this board are to elect district school trustees and to act as a board of appeal from the action of any district school boards.

The court appointee on this board is now Mr. Chas. P. Janney of Leesburg.

Annual meetings are held in August to elect one school trustee for each district. Special meetings are held to elect trustees to fill vacancies or to hear appeals.

The court appointee is paid \$2.00 for each meeting. The other two members draw no special fees except that the superintendent who is clerk of the board may expend not over \$5.00 for stationery, postage, record book, etc. each year.

County
changed
The ~~chief~~ chief authority in local school matters is the district school board. This board is composed of three residents of the district. Their only qualifications for office are residence in the district, and ability to read and write. Holders of certain other offices ~~can~~ can not be school trustees.

The duties of the district school boards are many. They employ and dismiss teachers, build school houses, sell

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them when no longer used, and perform nearly all other duties that have to do with the complicated business affairs of the schools. There are certain laws and regulations to which they are subject and by which their powers are limited and in many cases, such as the selection of school lots and adoption of plans for buildings, their acts are subject to the approval of the division Superintendent.

Changed

All of the twenty-one school trustees of our county ~~constitute~~ constitute a county school board. This board is required by law to meet in March and July of each year. Its duties are chiefly to approve the school budget and school accounts, to apportion the county school funds and make necessary appropriations therefrom, and to fix the school holidays.

While very little actual authority is vested in the division superintendent of schools his activities extend to every phase of the school business. His time is occupied in visiting schools, attending school board meetings and teachers' meetings, conducting correspondence, making up school budgets, school accounts, compiling statistical reports, and various other work. A large number of matters requiring a decision or opinions come up to him for attention. Frequently these involve a conflict of interest. The real business of the superintendent is to direct all of the school activities of the county and to endeavor to have the schools properly managed.

The location and size of our schools have been determined mainly by two factors - the distribution of population

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and the demands of the people. As our high schools developed one was located at almost any point where the people demanded it and backed up their demands by offers of substantial contributions toward the cost of the building. We now have in the county schools of 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10 teachers. There are 10 four-year high schools, 1 two-year schools and 1 four-room, 2 three-room, 7 tw-room and 36 one-room white ~~xxxxxx~~ elementary schools in Loudoun. Nearly all of the colored school are of the one-room type, the largest being a three-room school at Leesburg.

The supervision of class-room instruction has been very carefully worked out for years in the cities but has only recently gained much attention in the rural section. The popular notion that a county superintendent, or any one else, can supervise adequately and efficiently as many as 150 teachers has been discarded by all people who are well-informed about the details of such work. Hence we now have this scheme worked out in Loudoun. The principals of four-year high schools are required by the State Board regulation to spend not less than one-fourth of each day in supervision of the work of their assistants. Other principals in Loudoun where the schools have three or more teachers are expected to do a certain amount of supervision. We have then employed one colored and two white supervisors whose work is confined to the smaller type of schools. That these supervisors have accomplished a great amount of good in improving their schools and the teachers there can be no doubt.

Our high school all have a term of nine months and some of

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the other white schools, even one-room schools, secure the standard nine months term. The minimum term for white schools is eight months and for colored schools is seven months. The average term of all schools in 1910 was 146 days while last year it was 162 days or nearly a whole school month more than ten years ago.

The length of term and a good many other conditions of our schools are determined to a very great extent by the wishes of the patrons and there can be no doubt from the evidence at hand that parents ~~x~~ now are striving very earnestly to give their children better educational opportunities than were enjoyed by them. All ~~praise~~^{praise} be to the self-sacrificing parents in our homes.