

City of Cambridge

In Common Council

16 Jan. 1867.

Ordered:

That the Committee upon Public Instruction be requested to consider and report upon the expediency of establishing the office of Superintendent of Public Schools.

Adopted and sent up for concurrence.

Attest: J. H. Holt, Clerk.

In Board of Aldermen, Jan'y 16. 1867.

Concurred.

Attest: Justin A. Jacobs, City Clerk.

Order

Sup^r: of Publ^{ic} Schools.

Jan^y 16, 1867.

City of Cambridge

The Common Council

Jan. 20th 1867

Ordered;

That the Committee on Ordinances be instructed to prepare and report an ordinance establishing the office of Superintendent of Public Schools, with a salary to be hereafter determined upon.

Adopted and sent up for concurrence
Attest J. P. Holt Clerk

In Board of Aldermen. Jan'y 30. 1867.

Concurred.

Attest. H. R. Harding, clerk pro tem.

~~Handwritten scribble~~

Handwritten scribble

1000

Handwritten scribble

Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to blurring and bleed-through.

Order

Superintendent of Public Schools

Jan 30, 1917

City of Cambridge

The Common Council

January 30th, 1867.

The Committee on Public Instruction, to whom was referred the expediency of establishing the office of Superintendent of Public Schools, have attended to that duty, and respectfully report: - that it is expedient that the office should be established, and submit the accompanying order.

Under our present system, where a School Committee, unaided by a Superintendent, have charge of more than twenty schools, with more than an hundred teachers, scattered over an extensive area, the schools in the several wards are necessarily in charge of sub-committees. One school is well cared for while another is neglected.

Cambridge is abundantly supplied with men qualified to perform the duties of a School Committee; but here, as elsewhere, most of those fitted for this important post are men of affairs, with other work to do, and families to support; and, however willing they may be to labor for the public good, each can give the schools under his special charge but a little of his time.

No man who does not see them all can know the comparative value of the different schools, or the comparative value of teachers and their adaptability to the different schools: under our present system, this comparison of schools and

Teachers, so absolutely essential to maintain the efficiency of our schools, is impossible; for no Committee man, or other public officer, sees them all.

Our schools must be progressive; the humanity which characterizes the age is continually pressing forward in successful experiments in school discipline; in schools elsewhere, new modes and new branches of instruction are continually introduced; therefore, there is an imperative need of a man of acknowledged power and mind, a man whom our teachers can look up to as fit to be their instructor, who shall give his undivided attention to the promotion of the interests of our schools, whose business it shall be to know what improvements have been introduced elsewhere, and to superintend their introduction here. Only so, can we derive full advantage from the great advances which are being made in modes of discipline and instruction, and secure an uniform and certain progress.

The same reason which makes a Superintendent of Streets, — Drains, or, necessary, operates with much greater force in favor of the appointment of a Superintendent of Schools; it must be our man's ~~sole~~ business to see that duties are performed, and progress made; responsibility is felt when it falls upon one man, divided amongst several, it has comparatively little weight,

With a Superintendent, the Committee would still retain full powers, to exert, if need be; they would ordinarily act as an advisory board, with the Superintendent as their executive, and under their control; he would hold nearly the same relation to the Committee, that the Secretary of the Board of Education does to the Board.

We do not recommend a mere experiment. There is scarcely another City in the Commonwealth where the office has not been established with the most gratifying results, and the experience in other States is equally favorable.

If the office is to be established, the salary must be large enough to obtain a man worthy of the trust; our system of public instruction is our dearest institution, and a poor Superintendent would be worse than none; but if the establishment of the office is as essential to the good of our schools, as this Committee believe it to be, the salary to be paid should have no weight against this change; besides, as the School Committee, under present laws, will receive no compensation if the change is made, the salaries now paid them will be saved to the City.

One reason which has operated with great force upon the minds of the Committee is the almost entire unanimity with which our present very able School Committee have urged the expediency and

and necessity of the action which we now unhesitatingly
recommend

Charles F. Walcott

for the Committee on
Public Instruction -

Presented to
Committee on Publ. In-
struction - in Supp. of
Schools - Jan. 20 1897

City of Cambridge
In Common Council

Feb 26th 1867

The Committee on Ordinances who were instructed to report an Ordinance establishing the Office of Superintendent of Public Schools beg leave to submit the accompanying Ordinance

Geo. E. Ryder for Com.

Report of
Com. on Ordinances
with Ordinance
Sup. Pub. Inst.

City of Cambridge.

In the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and
Sixty-seven.

An Ordinance

To provide for the appointment of a Superintendent
of Public Schools.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City
of Cambridge as follows:

Sec. 1. The School Committee shall annually
appoint a Superintendent of Public Schools, who,
under the direction and control of said Com-
mittee, shall have the care and supervision of
the schools, and whose duties shall be defined
by said Committee.

Sec. 2. Said Superintendent shall receive an
annual salary of
payable in equal quarterly payments.

Sec. 3. The appointment of a Superintendent
for the current year shall be made as soon
as conveniently may be.

In Roman numeral May 12, 1867

Laid on the table.

Att. J. H. H. Clark

An Ordinance

to provide for the organization
of a Superintendant
in charge of Public Schools.