

Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Board for Native Education held in the Wesley Hall, Vermeulen Street, Pretoria, on the 18th. March 1943.

All members were present with exception of Rev. Stoffberg and Inspector Franz both of whom had submitted apologies for their absence.

The Chairman extended a welcome to the three new members viz. Mr. Rhodes (Native Affairs) and Messrs. Mosaka and Thema (Native Representative Council Council) and suggested that the Secretary should be instructed to send a letter to Mr. Lowe, former representative of Native Affairs Department, expressing the appreciation of the Board for his services in the past.

This was unanimously agreed to.

The Secretary was also requested to issue First class Railway Warrants to Messrs. Mosaka and Thema in future.

Arising out of the Minutes.

(a) Pension Scheme. (N.L. 31612)

Chief

The Inspector read a letter received from the Secretary for Native Affairs in reply to representations which had been made by the Department for the provision of funds for the introduction of a pension scheme for European Teachers in Native Schools. In view of the fact that such a scheme would have to be approved of for all four Provinces, Native Affairs regretted that sufficient funds were not available for the purpose.

The Province would not assume responsibility as they were not allowed to impose taxation on Africans and therefore considered that such expenditure should be met out of Trust Funds.

After the difficulties in obtaining European Teachers for Native Schools under these conditions had again been stressed by members, Mr. Rheinalt Jones mentioned that a conference would be called by the Minister of Finance in July to discuss the question of the financing of Native Education and considered that this matter along with other important ones should then be brought to the notice and submitted the following resolution for consideration:-

(1)

That a Sub-Committee be formed to prepare a memorandum making recommendations on the financing of Native Education with due regard to. (N.E. 7/ 30465A)

(a)

The present needs and possible future developments of educational facilities for African children.

(b)

The provision and maintenance of buildings and equipment.

(c)

The salary and pension adjustments urgently required in respect of both European and African teachers in Native Schools.

(d)

The administrative machinery required for the efficient working of Native Education in the Province.

(11)

That the Board seek the co-operation of the other Advisory Boards in Native Education and of other bodies in presenting to the Govt. the needs of Native Education and in asking for the application of a per centum grant from the Treasury.

(111)

That the Committee consist of:-

The Chief Inspector of Native Education

Mr. Rheinalt-Jones.

Rev. H. Junod.

Mr. F. Mosaka.

Mr. R. Thema.

Canon Woodfield.

IV.)

That the Committee include in its terms of reference the finance and administration of the scheme of free meals for school children.

- (a) The above resolution was seconded by Prof. Hoernlé and unanimously adopted by the Board.
- (b) In reply to Rev. Junod the Chief Inspector said that the double session school day was proving quite satisfactory although it was still too early to claim that it was a complete success. Rev. Junod expressed the appreciation of the Board for what had been done in the matter.

Agenda.

- (1) Free Book Scheme (Rev. Krause) N.E. 35604.

Rev. Krause asked for more details in regard to the Free Book Scheme. The Chief Inspector stated that an Interprovincial meeting was being held in Cape Town on Monday and that full particulars would be supplied to Superintendents as soon as possible thereafter. Members considered that the creation of a Provincial Store would be of great assistance and Mr. Rhodes mentioned that the Provinces had been requested to try and arrange this. The local Provincial Store could probably arrange to do so although there were certain difficulties which had to be overcome.

The discussion was then closed after the Board had again stressed the necessity for bringing into existence a store for supplying requisites and equipment to Native Schools.

- (2) Bursaries. (Mr. Rheinalt-Jones) N.E. 30850.

(a) In reply to questions submitted by Mr. Rheinalt-Jones the Chief Inspector said that there were really no fixed conditions laid down for the award of bursaries but that this depended on the recommendation of a Superintendent or Inspector. He gave figures of the awards made for 1942 and stated that he would welcome the Board's advice in regard to the whole matter.

Mr. Rheinalt-Jones and Mr. Mosaka mentioned some of the difficulties which were being experienced by applicants under the present system and the former suggested that a sub-committee should be chosen to go into the matter and make suggestions to the Board at its next meeting.

He proposed that the members of the Sub-committee should be the Chief Inspector, Mr. Mosaka and Canon Woodfield and this proposal was agreed to by the Board.

- (b) Unqualified Teachers. (Mr. Rheinalt-Jones). N.E. 32113.

In reply to a question by Mr. Rheinalt-Jones as to what facilities were available for unqualified teachers to improve their qualifications the Chief Inspector explained that the new regulations made provision for the granting of certificates in deserving cases. The Board felt however that if vacation courses could be arranged for such teachers it would be a big step forward.

The following motion was then proposed by Mr. Rheinalt-Jones, seconded by Rev. Krause and adopted by the Board.

"That the Department be asked to organise short courses to enable unqualified teachers to obtain a recognised qualification with a view to the elimination of all unqualified teachers in due course."

- (c) Superintendency of Schools. (Mr. Rheinalt-Jones) N.E. 1/31343.

The difficulties being experienced by Inspectors under the present system by which they were acting as superintendents of schools was discussed and members thought that time had come for the appointment of African District Organisers and that Local Councils could also undertake the work.

It was pointed out however that the main difficulty at present was the large amount of correspondence for which a superintendent

was responsible and that Local Councils could hardly ease the position. There was nothing in the present regulations which prohibited an African from being appointed in this capacity. Mr. Rheinalt-Jones then moved the following resolution which was seconded by Rev. Junod and adopted by the Board.

"This Board consider that it is undesirable, generally speaking for Inspectors of Schools to be burdened also by the superintendency of schools, and that, in view of the expansion of the Native Educational system with an increasing number of undenominational schools, the time has come to consider the appointment by the Department where the number of schools justify it of competent Africans as superintendents or organisers of such schools."

(d) Education on the Witwatersrand. (Mr. Rheinalt-Jones). N.E. 30564

A

The following motion was introduced by Mr. Rheinalt-Jones and unanimously adopted by the Board without discussion.

"That this Board deploras the decision of the Provincial Administration not to take advantage of the S. . Native Trust offer to supply funds for the secretariat of the proposed Board of Bantu Education on the Witwatersrand, and recommends that support be given to the unofficial effort to establish the Board, both to develop educational facilities on the Witwatersrand and to assist African juveniles into suitable employment on leaving school."

(e) Teachers' Pensions. (Mr. Rheinalt-Jones).

No discussion. Dealt with under (a).

(111) T.T.A. Resolutions. (Dr. Diselen.) N.E. 9/541.

(a) Teachers Salary Cheques.

The association requested that teachers salary cheques should be sent direct to principals of schools in future for distribution among the staff and not to the superintendents as is the custom at present.

After discussion this was agreed to in principle and it was decided to request the Education Department to ascertain whether it could be arranged.

(b) Teachers as Members of Advisory Boards.

At present teachers were allowed to serve on Location Advisory Boards only if they were returned unopposed but members felt that under this system African were being deprived of services of some of their most competent men. Mr. Rheinalt-Jones consequently submitted the following resolution which was seconded by Prof. Hoernlé and adopted by the Board.

"That in view of the help which teachers can give to their people on Advisory Boards and the strong representations made by the people this Board recommends that the bar to the election of teachers to Advisory Boards be withdrawn."

(c) Bantu Clerks and Messengers in Native Education Section.

The Board felt that it would be a great advantage if posts in the Native Education Section (Head-office) were made available for Africans and the following resolution was moved by Prof. Hoernlé, seconded by Rev. Junod and then adopted by the Board.

"This Board strongly recommends that, as opportunity offers, qualified Africans be introduced onto the staff of the Native Education Section of the T.E.D. and that copies of this recommendation be sent to the Tvl. Provincial Administration and to the Public Service Commission."

(d). Africans as Inspectors of Schools.

It was felt that the time had not yet come for such appointments to be made and that the matter must be left to the judgment of the Chief Inspector.

(e) Requisition Store for African Schools.

Not discussed. Dealt with under 1.

(f) Domestic Science Course.

The Chief Inspector reported that it might be possible to introduce such a course next year.

(g) Examinations and appointment of Africans as Examiners.

The examination papers would in 1943 be set in English and Afrikaans only in order to economise and Africans as well as Europeans were eligible for appointment as examiners.

(h) Establishment of Un-denominational schools.

Can usually be arranged in Urban areas where Department or Municipality has erected buildings but has so far not proved a great success in the case of schools which had to continue in their old buildings.

(i) Free Meal Scheme.

Not discussed. Dealt with under (1).

(j) Recognition of previous service of Post- Primary Teachers.

Such an arrangement is not in force anywhere else except perhaps in the Cape Province. It is really a question of finance and if maximum of Primary Scales could be raised to over-lap Secondary ones matter would adjust itself.

(k) Proposed Post-Primary Scales.

This had been dealt with by Mr. Smit at the last meeting of the Native representative Council and further discussion was therefore unnecessary at this stage.

(l) Administrative Posts.

Not discussed. Dealt with under (c).

(m) T.A.T.A. representative on Advisory Boards. N.E. 30564.

The Chief Inspector then explained the changes which the new regulations would bring about in the constitution of the Advisory Board and mentioned that neither the Training Institutions nor the T.A.T.A. would in future be represented. In the case of the latter the Administration felt that teachers already had complete representation through their Association and that it was therefore unnecessary for them to have a representative on the Board itself.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with these arrangements and the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Rheinalt-Jones.

"That Board recommends that representation should be given to the Training Institutions and the T.A.T.A. on the Board and that this resolution is to be submitted to the Administration along with a memorandum to be drawn up by Messrs. Mosaka and Thema. Furthermore it is recommended that the Chief Inspector should be an ex officio member of the Board."

This was seconded by Rev. Bottrill and adopted by the Board.

IV) Clerical assistants for Inspectors. (Dr. Eiselen). N.E. 36042

The Chief Inspector explained that Inspectors had to deal with a great deal of correspondence and at present one of the supervisors usually has to assist with the work. This was undesirable and he therefore proposed the following resolution for submission to the Dept.

"That clerical assistance should be given to Inspectors and that qualified Africans should be employed in these posts."

Seconded by Rev. Bottrill and adopted by the Board.

The meeting then closed after the Board had expressed appreciation to the Chief Inspector and the Chairman for their services.

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