

K-12 Public Education in The Pas

The 1930s

As The Pas School District #1635 entered into the years of the worldwide depression, the financial pressures on the School Board, and the community of The Pas as a whole, began to have an effect on the local education system. The School Board made an effort to carry out its responsibilities during these difficult times and, as the decade rolled on, it also had to meet additional challenges in coping with enrollment growth, hiring competent teachers and principals whom they could afford, while facing the instructional challenges resulting from special needs students and curricular changes.

Hiring, Firing and Teacher Contracts

In the 1930s, the hiring of teachers was not a very complicated procedure. The Board could do virtually what it wanted - and did - but the beginnings of the concept of collective bargaining and the unionization of teachers began to germinate, watered by the managerial decisions of the school boards in The Pas and elsewhere in Manitoba.

To start the year 1931, the Board confirmed the employment agreement with the school custodian. The Board agreed to pay him \$135 per month, but augmented this by also naming him the attendance officer for an additional \$100 per year. This dual role practice was continued for many years. In May that year the Board also decided that three teachers would not be rehired. This decision triggered the involvement of the Manitoba Teachers Federation and prompted a request from the Minister of Education to be provided with the reasons for the firing. A Board of Reference was also considered for The Pas. MTF General Secretary George Marshall traveled to The Pas from Winnipeg to meet with the School Board on this matter. On June 2, 1931 a special board meeting was attend by Mr. Marshall. It was reported that "Marshall appeared quite satisfied with his interview with the Board."

Another decision of the Board in June, 1931 was to appoint the school principal as the fire inspector and require regular reports.

As was the practice, teacher salaries were set by the Board and then teachers were offered positions at this established salary. In 1931-32 the average experienced teacher salary was about \$1,000 per year. In January, 1932 at a special board meeting, a motion was passed proposing a voluntary 10% reduction of teachers' salaries to the end of the school year. Trustees met with the teachers and Board Chair Bunting outlined the financial conditions of the Town, reviewed the "need whereby a voluntary reduction of salaries was necessary " and then left the teachers to consider the proposal.

In March, 1932 as the depression deepened, a teacher salary grant schedule was received from the Manitoba Public Utilities Board, with an average salary scale of only \$850.00 per

year. In March the Board had a thorough discussion about which teachers should be retained for 1932-33 and which teachers would not be re-engaged. In favour of retaining Principal Mills, the Board learned he was about to retire and so started advertising in the Manitoba Free Press for a principal. In June, Mr. John E. Lysecki was hired (at \$1,800 per year).

In October, 1932 the Board decided to ask about "the academic standing of the teaching staff in the elementary school" and to "ask for a detailed statement of teaching experience also academic standing and efforts being made to raise same." By November all teachers had complied except for Mary Duncan who stated that "her teaching experience and ability was well known by the Board without submitting a statement in this regard." As a follow up to encourage teachers to improve their qualifications, the Board decreed that teachers would "be allowed time off to write departmental exams but in all cases teachers must supply their own substitutes with no cost to the Board."

In January 1933 the Board reduced the monthly salary of the janitor from \$135 to \$110. In May a special board meeting was held with the teachers and principals. Each was "interviewed separately to enable Board to form a conclusion regarding discipline, co-operation and general routine in school matters," and a June followup special board meeting agreed to re-engage teachers "at salaries to be decided by the Board. The collegiate staff were interviewed collectively and then the Board "interviewed each teacher separately and offered salary." The high school teacher salaries offered ranged from \$850 to \$1350 per year, with the high school principal offered \$1620. The Public School annual salaries ranged from \$700 to \$800, and \$1400 for the principal.

In March 1934 the Board decided not to rehire high school Principal Lysecki for 1934-35, then met with him to discuss their decision. Even a petition from ninety-six collegiate pupils in May asking that he be retained as principal was not successful and the Board began advertising for a new principal at a salary of \$1800. The Board also asked school inspector Knapp to aid in perusing the applications and "ascertain,,,the possibility of obtaining a good man to fill the position...if necessary at \$2,000 per year." In June Mr. Harvey B. Brown of Brandon was hired.

Salary increases of 5-6% were granted to the teachers by the Board in April 1935, with the high school principal receiving a 10% increase and the elementary principal getting a 7% increase. In June 1935 all the teachers were re-engaged and received salary increases of 2%.

In January 1937 Mr. Brown was reappointed principal of The Pas High School at a monthly salary of \$250, while Mr. C. H. Logie, the assistant principal of the Public School received \$125 per month. In April the Board decided not to reconsider changes to the "wage schedule for 1937, 1938". In November, a request for a salary adjustment by teacher Mr. Marcoux was not acted upon.

In July 1938 Principal Brown sent a telegram to the Board asking that he be released from

his contract as he had been offered a position in Transcona, The Board agreed and advertised for a replacement. Mr. W. E. Booth was hired. In September teacher Gabriel Marcoux requested to be released from his contract "as he was appointed Acting Inspector for District of Beausejour." The Board also released him.

As a result of health concerns in the community, in August 1938 teachers were "advised to have their medical certificates into Secretary-Treasurer by September 10." The Board also wrote "the Ninette Sanatorium to ascertain the possibility of...teaching staff having x-ray examinations..." and a clinic was "to be held in The Pas on October 6-8 for x-ray examinations." By December 12 it was determined that there was "no need for another x-ray examination of teachers" but their test results were to be submitted to the Board. In September 1939 the Board decided that only new teachers on staff should undergo an x-ray examination.

In February 1939 Principal Booth was granted "a substitute for 2 ½ days per week to allow time for supervision."

In March 1939 the Board passed a resolution regarding the manner in which teacher salaries would be paid, with five conditions:

- "1. Paid in 11 instalments instead of 10
2. First 9 monthly cheques be 1/12 of salary in place of 1/10
3. June cheque be a double one - i.e. 1/6 of annual salary
4. Last (11th) cheque be paid at the end of August and be 1/12th
5. If a teacher leaves, salary due be paid in full"

In June 1939 an additional collegiate grant was received from the Department of Education and it was apportioned by the Board. In June that year Principal Booth resigned, having accepted a position of Superintendent of Norwood Schools. A replacement advertisement was run for "a male principal of the Junior High and Collegiate." In July John Laxdel was hired but suddenly was unable to come to The Pas. As a result Mr. B. Scott Bateman was appointed principal.

In October of 1939 the Board passed a motion "to consider adoption of a salary schedule for teachers" but determined that this would not be set up with teachers but would be passed as a schedule of the Board's.

Board Budgets, Finances and Fees

The start of the 1930s would prove to be a financially difficult one for The Pas School District as it depended mainly on revenue received via local taxes, some minor student fees, and limited government grants. All were impacted by the depression and local unemployment. In March 1931 the Board noted the Town's inability to collect taxes and voted to hold the line on its expenditures. Any costs would become scrutinized to meet this objective. Of concern was the water meter reading in the school building. The 1931-32

school budget was set in March 1931 at \$28,966.09. One revenue source was a fee of \$5.00 per month charged to each Grade 12 student, but for the Grade 11 student with the highest marks, this tuition was waived. In November 1931 when English night classes were organized for Ukrainians, a fee of 50 cents per month per scholar was charged. In December 1931 the Board communicated with the Town of The Pas regarding \$20,000 still owed to the School District from the 1931 tax levy.

In June 1932 The Pas Lumber Company manager Rosenberry discussed with the School Board the advisability of “demanding the Town Council to pay over to the School Board all monies due to the said Board to enable the Board to finance without the necessity of borrowing from the bank, making excessive interest charges which should be borne by the Town Council and not the School Board thereby releasing the School Board to that extent.” At that time \$12,145.40 in interest was due to the Royal Bank. The School Board also asked the provincial Municipal and Public Utility Board to clarify which salaries would be approved so they (the Board) could complete teacher staffing.

Another revenue source was a fee for non-resident, specifically aboriginal, students attending the public school. The Board informed the Indian Agent “that high school tuition would be free to Indians up to Grade 12 and the fee for said Grade 12 would be \$50 for the school term.” In September 1932 while the high school principal advocated free textbooks be supplied, the Board decided to discontinue the use of free textbooks in the Junior High school and to charge part-time Grade 12 students \$10 a subject.

In October 1932 there was a Board discussion at a special meeting regarding a Town motion to reduce the assessment of The Pas Lumber Company, and the School Board agreed to support this. The justification from The Pas Lumber Company, noted in the School Board minutes, stated “that owing to the depression and the existing tariffs they are unable to carry on operations unless their over head is materially reduced, and claim that the assessment of their plant and stock is excessive, and have asked the council to reduce the assessment by an amount which will reduce their taxes in unorganized territory by \$5,000 less than their current taxes and in consideration of which the company will forthwith establish a winter camp which will entail operations during the summer of 1933 and if conditions permit will establish winter camps and carry on in succeeding years.” If the government approved, the Town had agreed to this reduction request for the years 1933, 1934, and 1935.

In December 1932 the Canadian Bank of Commerce wanted monies owed by the School District from 1931 to be paid. The Board ratified a renewal note for the balance owing (\$6,419.15), payable on demand for one year at an interest rate of 7%. The Pas Mayor C. R. Neely came to the aid of the District when, in December 1934, he authorized the Town to make various advance payments to assist the School Board in meeting their debenture payments when they were due. The Board was very appreciative of this support.

Up to January 1935 the Board had been trying to purchase from Indian Affairs Block 23 for the site of a new school. The Board decided to “write Indian Department in respect to the

purchase of block 23 The Pas, pointing out that the Board have (sic) paid on this property more than the present value and in view of ... the financial situation of the Board consideration must be given to the question whether or not payments should be continued on the present balance outstanding." Further the Board requested the Department to make a substantial concession with respect to the purchase and accept an offer of \$1,000 in full settlement. The Board was very appreciative to the federal Minister of Indian Affairs when he agreed to complete the land sale for \$1,000.

In February 1935 the Board was in discussion with the Town for better rates for water and light and to investigate the use of a bleeder in the school where water was running continuously until the school closed for the summer.

In January 1936 the Board set a draft budget at \$27,376.19 of which \$17,623.98 was to come from the Town. The remaining funds were to come from a surplus (#1,092.21), grants from the Department of Education (\$4,060) and taxes from Unorganized Territory (\$3,600).

By March 1937 the Board applied for a reduction in the water rate for the school in line with a verbal understanding given the School Board by the Town Council's Finance Committee. In October a \$100 rebate was given.

In June 1937 the Deputy Minister of Education was written to request a special grant of \$600 solicited due to the present financial position of the School District, the paring down of the budget by the Town Council, and the indebtedness of a former teacher...in accordance with toe Public Schools Act. A copy of this was sent to Manitoba Premier Bracken (the MLA from The Pas) asking for his assistance with this special grant. In July the Board endorsed a report of the Manitoba School Trustees Association on the financing of schools that had been presented at its annual convention.

By April 1938 some tax payers in the Unorganized Territory were in arrears (\$2,809) and the Board wrote the Municipal Commission to get authority to deal with individual delinquents for settlement, or to be given direction on what action could be taken. The Board gave an additional extended time of up to two years for those in arrears to pay before a tax sale would occur. However, the Board was then informed that it was the Town Secretary-Treasurer who was the official collector of taxes. The Board was informed that all tax books had to be turned over to the Town forthwith.

In February 1939 additional grants for the collegiate staff were received, and no further action was taken on delinquent fees of non-resident students.

Teacher Issues

The Board's direct role in vetting the teachers it employed and making decisions about their retention on staff has been mentioned earlier. As the 1930s progressed, several other issues arose around the practice of teachers and principals. In December 1931 an effort

had begun to define a list of duties of the principal by establishing a trustee committee to look into this.

In November 1932 the school custodian (who lived in the school) complained that teacher Gabriel Marcoux was in the school every night and stayed very late. At the Board meeting a “considerable argument” ensued between Mr. Cox the custodian and Principal Lysecki on this issue. The principal “was instructed to arrange some plan whereby harmony would prevail.”

In April 1933 the principal and teacher Mr. Marcoux discussed with the Board the teacher’s “authority to suspend or expel a pupil when considered advisable by him to do so.” In the Board’s opinion “any teacher has the right to require any pupil to leave his or her classroom for the maintenance of discipline but any formal suspension or expulsion should be referred to the Board through the Principal.”

In May that year Inspector Peach reported some attendance registers were not properly marked. As well, Principal Lysecki wanted to introduce a standard record keeping system (Kodex System) for Grades 9 and 10.

In September 1933 Mary Duncan was appointed the Assistant Principal of the Public School (Grades 1-6). The teachers and the trustees had a social hour in the school from 4-5 p.m. in September. That month AP Mary Duncan reported that there was an epidemic of whooping cough that kept 27 students away from school.

In December the Board agreed that “more frequent [fire] drills take place and that instead of using the stairways applicable to some of the grades that the shoots (sic) be used for the purpose of exit during fire drills.”

In January 1934 at a special board meeting on physical drill, teacher Marcoux noted his dissatisfaction with the existing timetable for this. The Board referred the issue back to Principal Lysecki. In March 1934 the Board discussed with the principal the results of the mid-term exams in science and physics. The poor standing in mathematics in various grades was also discussed, and a special effort was to be made in primary grades to address this. Once again, in April, the Board demanded that “the use of fire chutes must be rigidly enforced in future.” These issues may have played a role in the decision to not retain high school principal Lysecki. Fire drill results in May noted that all students were evacuated from the school in one minute thirty-two seconds.

When the new principal, Mr. Harvey Brown from Brandon, took charge he reported that “equipment in the laboratory (sic) was inadequate for Grade 12.” In April a special board meeting granted Mr. Marcoux leave for a year due to illness. At an October board meeting Board Chair Musgrove brought up the matter of girls attending the Collegiate in slacks. Principal Brown responded that the matter had been discussed by the teachers and the practice was to be discontinued. In November Principal Brown recommended the purchase of a Gestetner copy machine at a cost of \$135. The Board agreed if payments could be

arranged. Its use was restricted to school use only when community groups asked to use it. In November 1934 the Board became concerned about playground supervision and “suggested two or more teachers should be appointed for that purpose.”

A request in January 1936 to allow teachers to curl in a bonspiel was allowed by the Board if substitutes could be found.

In May 1936 a major issue arose when Assistant Principal Mary Duncan reported that Miss McMillan, a Grade 5 teacher, “was altogether too harsh, particularly in the use of the strap.” Complaints had been received and the trustees considered speaking to the teacher to warn her. The Board also wrote to the Winnipeg School Board to ask about its “strap regulations.” They did get a reply and in October the Board agreed to adopt regulations on corporal punishment and place these in the hands of all teachers.

In January 1937 Mr. Brown was again appointed principal of The Pas High School and the Public School. Mary Duncan was seriously ill in hospital and the Board agreed to send her flowers, to express deep regrets for her illness, and to thank her for her services. In February when the Board learned that she had been discharged from hospital, they cancelled the flowers, though they did ask Dr. Trimble about the cost of her hospitalization. In March the Board accepted Mary Duncan’s resignation “with sincere regret ... (and) great appreciation of the School Board for her splendid work and cooperation during the years.”

In October 1937 the Board was still concerned about children using the railway tracks en route to and from school, a problem first noted with the parents in April 1935 via advertising in the Northern Mail (local paper) and advising the railway company. The Board also purchased bibles for teacher use in the school. It was also noted that a pupil had been injured going down the fire escape (i.e. the chute).

At the January 1938 school board meeting Principal Brown encouraged modernization of the school curricula, and the installation of a radio in the school to allow students to listen in. The Board agreed on the radio purchase, and also made a grant of \$125 for playground equipment.

In May, a request by teacher Marcoux to have his salary increased was denied. The Board in October granted the principal “authority to suspend students when desirable.” In November the principal reported that the Gestetner was not suitable for the work required and asked that one be purchased that provided an automatic feed.

During the 1930s the Board did approve two teacher exchange opportunities. In August 1938 an exchange was authorized with St. Vital and in June 1939, another was approved for Brooklands in west Winnipeg.

The Community and the School

Because of tradition, or concerns for the safe keeping of the school facility, access to the

school by outside groups was not a regular occurrence and required school board approval before it could happen. In February 1931 the Board allowed the use of one classroom, in the evening, for one week to conduct "Prospector classes." And on the third Wednesday of each month, the Social Welfare Commission could hold meetings in the school starting at 4:30 p.m. In May the Board allowed the Girl's Softball League the use of the school grounds for three days a week during July and August. And in November 1931 the use of the school for English classes was allowed, contingent upon a fee being paid. As the school had no adequate space for larger groups, other community venues were sometimes needed. In December 1931 a music concert was planned to be held in the Crystal Gardens on Edwards Avenue and Fourth Street West, a dance hall located on the present site of the Legion Hall.

In September 1932 the Girl Guides were allowed to use a basement room for meetings. In December the Boy Scouts were given the same opportunity. However, the basement was a constant source of unsanitary odours, resulting in a desire to involve the community sanitary inspector and "to purchase a deodrant (sic) for the use of the lavatories."

In January 1933 one community venu outside the school attended by many students was the skating rink. Complaints of juveniles smoking and general misconduct at the rink resulted in the Board communicating to the Town Council "with a view of imposing restrictions at the rink owing to a lack of supervision in the skating rink and misconduct among minors is prevalent and having a decided effect on the school work."

For Friday, March 31, 1933 permission was granted by the Board to release students from school after the afternoon recess so students could attend the Elks Dog Derby events. Reimbursement for the \$22.92 cost of proficiency medals that year was requested of five local organizations: Elks, Masons, Oddfellows, Rotary and the Board of Trade.

In July 1933 the use of the school grounds for baseball became an issue. Nearby residents protested this activity, perhaps for concerns for damages to their houses, but the Board took no action when the Baseball Association was willing to pay for any broken windows. The Association itself complained that the Softball League was damaging the diamonds and in response the Board cancelled the privileges of playing softball there.

In June 1934 the Board sought a high school teacher who could lead in athletics (baseball, basketball, football and hockey). They engaged Mr. J. W. Chalmers of Hartney, MB for his ability.

In April 1935 the high school principal could report to the Board that a school orchestra with twelve pieces was now well underway, and that the Department of National Defense had provided a grant of \$65 for the high school cadet corps. Unfortunately in May 1935 the planned Public School concert had to be cancelled due to an epidemic of measles, and the performance of a high school operetta was postponed until October. The Board did set up a committee to consider holding a music festival for The Pas and in June agreed on "a competitive Music Festival to be set up and Sacred Heart School invited to participate."

In July 1935 the Board discussed an outbreak of Scarlet Fever in town, which the trustees viewed with alarm “and the apparent negligence in observing quarantine regulations” so it sent a letter to the Town ‘urging every possible step be taken to prevent further spread of the outbreak,” By December 1935 Principal Brown could report that four teams of Junior Hockey were now organized, one sponsored by the high school. Socks and sweaters for the high school team would be funded out of the Cadet Fund.

In April 1937 the Board agreed to sponsor a float for the Coronation Day parade and allowed \$15 for the expense of this. It did cost more, however. The Board also agreed to hold the annual Music Festival in the Lido Theatre on May 18-20. In May the Board felt the need to communicate to the Town regarding “poor regulation of traffic within the Town...creating a menace ... to school children,” It also noted that the Board was not liable for stolen bikes on school grounds.

In January 1939 a delegation of three representatives from the Adult Education Association met with the Board to propose vocational classes (auto mechanics, radio, carpentry) be held in The Pas for unemployed young men. The Board endorsed this project and urged government to make funds available for this.

Religion and the School District

Through the 1930s there were a few interactions of the school board with the local Roman Catholic parish and other groups. In June 1931 The Pas Mayor Robertson passed on a complaint from Bishop Charlebois “that girls playing basketball in Devon Park were, in his opinion, dressed indecently and that the Bishop demanded that this practice be stopped.” Upon reflection, the Board felt this was a municipal matter “and should be dealt with by the Town Council and the Chief of Police.”

In March 1933 the local Orange Lodge of Manitoba wrote to oppose the use of the provincial religious exercises in the school. The Board decided to ignore this complaint. In August that year the Board, concerned about overcrowding for the September school opening, had discussed with parish priest Fr. Marchand the possibility of renting some classrooms at the parochial Sacred Heart School. While he was in favour, the Bishop was not, so instead the Anglican Parish Hall was rented for two months.

In November, however, the Board by motion “conveyed to Bishop Lajennesse (sic) the clergy and parishioners of the diocese of Keewatin, its sympathy in the loss sustained by them through the death of His Excellency Bishop Charlebois.”

In April 1934 Mary Duncan reported to the Board that some students were transferring out of the Public School into Sacred Heart School, but then were returning to the Public School later in the year. She did not approve of this. A meeting with the Supervisor of Sacred Heart students, Fr. Dubé, in May resulted in an agreement not to permit two transfers by a student in a term. In addition the Board approached Fr. Marchand about using the Guy Hall for school athletics, etc. and Fr. Marchand’s “willingness to cooperate was much appreciated.”

Enrolment and Construction

The slow but steady increases in school enrolment during the 1930s put pressure on the School District to accommodate students. With only an eight room brick school (The Pas School) opened in 1915 the need for classroom space was addressed in various ways from very large classes (up to 50 or more students in a classroom) to renting the Hudson's Bay Store for a classroom, to the building of single classroom wooden annexes alongside The Pas School. In May 1931 the need to build two more such classrooms was a Board topic. By February 1932 tenders for the erection of one such classroom were received from the Beaver Lumber Company and from the Monarch Lumber Company. In March the Board accepted the Beaver Lumber Company bid of \$1385, which was contingent upon \$200 being paid off within 90 days.

In August 1933 space was again becoming tight. Enrolment had risen to 600 students resulting in overcrowded classrooms even by the standards of the day. When the use of classrooms in the Sacred Heart School was denied, temporary space was arranged for two months in the Anglican Parish Hall (formerly the one room Armstrong School) and a call for bids went out for the construction of another annex.

In July 1934 two painting contracts were approved, one for the five room annex and another for the three room annex.

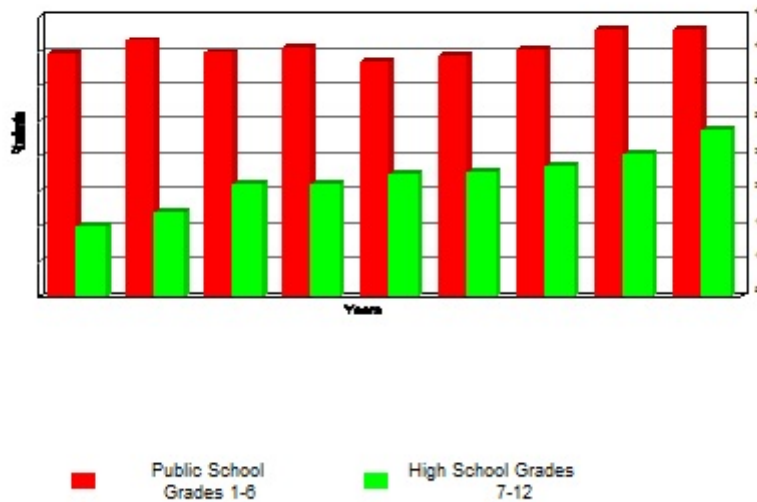
Overcrowding was still evident in February 1937 when the Public School Assistant Principal's Grade 6 class had 59 students enrolled, with an average attendance of 84%. In September that year the Board decided (by a vote of 3 to 2) to erect a one classroom unit on the north end of the west annex.

In June 1938 the Board wrote the Department of Education seeking the construction of a new school building where Home Economics and Manual Training could be taught, hopefully with a space that could also be used as a school auditorium. In December a plan for a school addition was drawn up by trustee Cox.

In February 1939 the Board attempted to arrange for a new school building on a lot now owned on Constant Avenue. The Board optimistically wrote to the Hudson Bay, SK School District to try to get the plans for their new school. The Minister of Education was also written to request plans for an eight room school with an auditorium, and the Town was asked to identify sites available for a school.

By April 1939, with the imminent opening of The Pas Highway route to the south expecting to bring more residents to The Pas, a new school building was felt to be needed. Some school blue print plans were being considered for a nine room school. In the interim consideration once again turned to the possibility of renting classroom space at Sacred Heart School. (It was not until 1954 that a new high school would be constructed and not until 1958 before two new elementary schools were opened to replace the annexes.)

The Pas School District Enrolment Growth
Years 1931-39



Special Education

One interesting educational debate at the school board level involved the accommodation and instruction of the less capable students. In June 1935 a trustee raised the question “of retarded pupils throughout the school, stating that he was of the opinion that this matter was of sufficient importance to warrant serious consideration.” As a result, Assistant Principal Mary Duncan was directed to do a survey of the number of retarded pupils in the student population. She reported back to the Board in September 1935, noting that there “were approximately thirty-one such pupils” which were classified as follows:

- ◆ 8 -9 hopeless
- ◆ 5 may be taught something
- ◆ 16 very slow
- ◆ 1 deaf

When asked, Sacred Heart School stated it had one such pupil and had no problem.

The Secretary-Treasurer was directed “to write the Department of Education soliciting advice regarding the conducting of classes composed of retarded pupils, having in mind the establishment of separate classes for this purpose.” In December Trustee Wanless volunteered to meet with the Deputy Minister of Education on this topic as she was going to be visiting Winnipeg.

In February 1936 the meeting with the Deputy Minister on this topic was discussed by the Board. A committee of trustees was established to interview parents regarding setting up a special class “taking care of sub-normal pupils.” By October 1936 Trustee Wanless, on the topic of “sub-normal pupils” argued that the Board “should take steps to isolate these

children from other pupils whenever possible.” The Board then decided to have a specialist investigate the matter, and in November appointed a special committee to investigate the costs of an additional room, rental, teacher, supplies for the operation of a special class. At its December meeting, the Board approved the establishment of a class of “sub-normal pupils” and applied for a grant to assist this.

In January 1937 a report to the Board on the cost of establishing and equipping a special class for the sub-normal pupils was received. In July the teacher of the special class resigned and the Board debated whether the special class should be continued.

Some Interesting Student Items

In 1931 the concept of granting free Grade 12 tuition for the Grade 11 student with the highest marks began. In 1932 Gerald W. Moule received free tuition. In 1933 Fred Premachuk was entitled “ to free tuition on account of his high standing in Grade 11. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of congratulations with the suggestion that he improve his English which would mean so much to him in the future,”

In February 1938 the trustees were given an opportunity to visit the school’s shooting range. The Board also wanted to ascertain why two students, Harry Kowalchuk (Grade 7) and Katherine Kowalchuk (Grade 9) had left school.

Public High School Education

Up to 1927, the “Intermediate” status of The Pas School entitled the School District to a secondary grant as a one-room high school. For the next three years it was classified as a “High School” with two teachers doing the secondary work. In the fall of 1930, grade twelve was begun for the first time in The Pas – and this was the first grade twelve class in Northern Manitoba. After two years, the school changed its status from a “Collegiate Department” to a “Collegiate Institute” having progressed from a three-room to a four-room secondary school.

In 1929-30, under principalship of Mr. A. L. Mills, the school was reorganized on a Junior-Senior High School basis. The teaching staff at the Grades eight to twelve level grew from five teachers in 1932-32 to six in 1932-33. By 1934-35, there were seven teachers and over 200 students in the high school department. The elementary division consisted of ten classes with over 400 students. By 1939 The Pas School District had reached its highest peak of expansion to date with 430 elementary and 288 high school students for a total of 718 students.

Big Eddy School District #2240

A few miles north of The Pas, the Big Eddy School District No. 2240 was formed in 1933. The first school building brought from The Pas was Larose School, one of the original three which fulfilled the area’s school needs. This now renamed school building had been in operation since 1910, before the district was formed. In December, 1933, Inspector J. S. Peach reported that there were eleven pupils in grade one and five pupils in grade two.

All of them were either Métis or non-treaty Indian children. The Big Eddy school in 1935 was under the charge of Walter C. Lundie who had been there for thirteen years. By then, he had completed forty-seven years of teaching experience in spite of the fact that he was a permit teacher, having had no formal teacher training and had only a Grade eight academic standing himself.

Carrot Valley School District #2283

There were also two rural schools established in the Carrot Valley. Carrot Valley School was located on the farm presently owned by John Jaeger, which was located 22 kilometres from The Pas on the P.T.H. #283 West. The other school, called “The Moffat School”, was named for school inspector H. P. Moffat, who was in charge of rural schools at that time. During that period, the rural schools were run under different supervision than the town schools and operated independent of The Pas School District.

Wanless School District #2301

A one room school was established in the 1930s and operated in the rural community of Wanless, north of The Pas.

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Information Sources:

The Pas School District #1635 Board minutes: 1930-1939