

Public Education Association of Chicago

78

1140 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

TELEPHONE HARRISON 6576

DIRECTORS

MISS GRACE ABBOTT
Director, Immigrants' Protective League

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President, Chicago Woman's Club

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Attorney at Law
Holt, Cutting & Sidley

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Dean, Rush Medical College

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Member of Board New Trier
Township High School

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Author of
"Juvenile Courts and Probation"

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Woman's City Club

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State Senator

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Chicago Settlement

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Engineer
Hoover & Mason

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University of Chicago

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Chairman, Trade Board of
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Agreement

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Architect

JOSEPH SCHAFFNER
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Tenney, Harding & Sherman

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Secretary, National Public
Ownership League

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Secretary . . . Grace Abbott

Executive Committee

Arthur J. Mason, Chairman
Bernard Flexner
Edmund D. Hulbert
George H. Mead
James Mullenbach
Allen B. Pond, Ex-Off.

January 9, 1917.

You are invited to attend a dinner given
by the Public Education Association of Chicago,
Monday, January 15th, at the Auditorium Hotel.

Thomas E. Finegan, Deputy Commissioner of
Education and Assistant Commissioner of Elementary
Education for New York State, will discuss - THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS DETERMINED BY THE PRESENT LAW, AND DESIRABLE
CHANGES IN VIEW OF THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER CITIES.

An opportunity will be given for questions
and general discussion. The Association is asking
only those who are believed to be especially inter-
ested in this subject, in order that the meeting
may be in the nature of a conference. If you cannot
be present we would like to be notified at once so
that some one can be asked in your place.

ARTHUR J. MASON, Chairman
Executive Committee.

GRACE ABBOTT, Secretary.

Dinner at 6:30 - (\$1.50 per plate)
Discussion at 8 p.m.

Chicago, January 10, 1917

Dear Mr. Mason:

I beg to acknowledge your invitation under date of the 9th of January for the 15th inst., and regret that another engagement makes it impossible for me to be present at your dinner.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Arthur J. Mason
1140 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

Chicago, January 10, 1917

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I beg to acknowledge your invitation under date of the 9th of January for the 18th inst., and regret that another engagement makes it impossible for me to be present at your dinner.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

H. P. J. - L.

Mr. Arthur J. Nelson
1140 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago



POND & POND ARCHITECTS
1107 STEINWAY BUILDING
64 EAST VAN BUREN STREET CHICAGO
IRVING K. POND - FAIA - ALLEN B. POND - FAIA -
CHARLES D. WATERBURY - AIA -

IN RE: _____

TELEPHONE HARRISON 2927

March 9th, 1917

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Judson:-

I am glad to receive yours of 6 March in re No. 1 Bulletin of the Public Education Association. I agree with you that in Chicago, as it is, it would be unwise to make a change to an elected school board. We might not fare any worse with the school board than in the past, but we should certainly fare worse all along the line by over-burdening the electorate. We are issuing a third Bulletin which will be out within the next week, I think, devoted to the consideration of elected versus appointed boards, showing the experience throughout the country and indicating the general trend; but emphasizing strongly the fact that the method of selection of the board is in itself no guarantee whatever of good results or bad results, and that what is needed primarily in Chicago is a total re-organization affecting size of board, definition of function of the board, definition and function of superintendent and other administrative officers, methods of securing suitable tenure and providing against dry rot and the like, - and that citizens of Chicago ought to secure re-organization and to secure it from the present legislature without fail, irrespective of individual preferences in the matter of method of appointment.

I agree with you that a tenure that makes removal for inefficiency so difficult as to be wellnigh impossible would be disastrous. I have no special quarrel with a year to year probation of three years, provided we are not tied up tight at the end of that time.

Mr. Harry P

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Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, #2.

With regard to the tenure and efficiency superintendent, business manager, attorney, - personally I am strongly in favor of making the business manager a subordinate of the superintendent just as we should make a business manager of a university a subordinate to the president and not a co-equal. Generally speaking, I agree that the board should be able to ship a superintendent who proves to be a failure. On the other hand, in the public school world at the present time there is such a wide division of opinion with regard to what a school ought to do and how it ought to do it and there is such obvious necessity for wise experiment that I think a superintendent ought to be contracted for a period sufficient to give him a chance to try his experiment unless he develops executive incapacity of a gross nature, so that I am inclined to argue for a term of three or, even better, four years for a superintendent with a method of cancelling the contract in case of development of gross incapacity. I do not think we can go to smash in a two or three year term with a man chosen with care, - a competent man chosen with care will be much more likely to use proper initiative and develop proper experiments if he has a certain fixity of tenure. I see no reason why an attorney should be given a fixed tenure, and should have no objection to making the business manager a year to year appointment, inasmuch as the initiation of policies does not tie itself up so closely with his part of the work.

With regard to the accounting system, our bulletin is necessarily a skeleton. If we made it too long, the public at which we are aiming would not read it. I think we all have in mind -

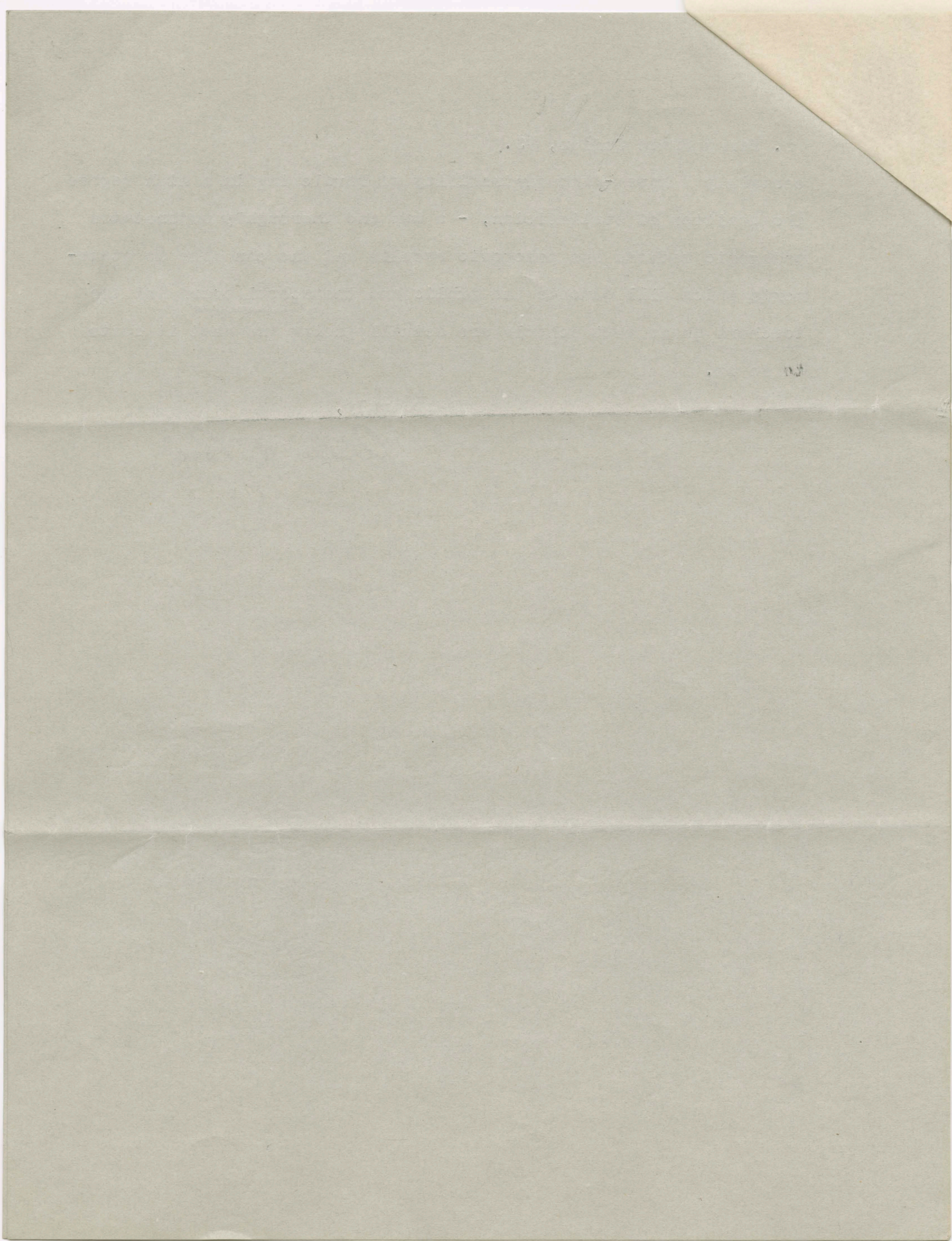
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Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, #3.

certainly I have - the desirability of developing in a high degree the position of statistician, - a man who thoroughly understands pedagogic methods and pedagogic results and who can make up statements which will educate the public and the school board and the teachers as to what schools are actually doing and what it costs to do it.

Yours truly,

Allen D. Rowd



Chicago, March 12, 1917

Dear Mr. Pond:

Thanks for yours of the 9th inst. with regard to the matters discussed by the Public Education Association. I am interested in the matter as you look at it, and I dare say that we shall agree on most points.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Allen B. Pond
1107, 64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago

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regard to the matters discussed by the Public Education
Association. I am interested in the matter as you look
at it, and I dare say that we shall agree on most points.
Very truly yours,

H. P. L. - L.

Mr. Allen E. Pond
1107, 64 N. Van Buren St., Chicago

Chicago, March 27, 1917

Dear Mr. Pond:

I have received a copy of your bulletin No. 3, in which the question of an elective or appointive school board is discussed. I regret to see that this discussion has not taken into account the very vital matter of the need of a short ballot and the bearing of that on the question of the elective school board. This omission is in my judgment fatal to the whole discussion.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

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64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago

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Mr. Allen B. Pond
64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago



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1107 STEINWAY BUILDING
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IRVING K. POND - FAIA - ALLEN B. POND - FAIA -
CHARLES D. WATERBURY - AIA -

IN RE: _____

TELEPHONE HARRISON 2927

March 30th, 1917.

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Judson:

I am in receipt of yours of 27 March with regard to Public Education Ass'n Bulletin No. 3. One of the main difficulties from which we suffer in Chicago at the present time is a degree of heat amounting to hysteria in connection with the public school system, and it seemed to us that one of the most important functions that the Association could fill would be to extract a certain amount of heat from the situation and make it possible to discuss the subject rationally. Bulletin No. 3 was prepared for this purpose. We sought to make it plain that there is no guaranty of success or failure in school board effectiveness resulting from any method of selection which has yet been devised; that competent boards and incompetent boards, wise boards and foolish boards are to be found under both the elective and appointive systems; that, whatever decision may be reached along the line of appointment or election, failure will be certain unless attention is given to questions of organization and administrative detail, and unless provision is made for these questions in fundamental law in the absence of a public opinion sufficiently educated to enforce a wise procedure without the authority of law. In Chicago there is no such educated public opinion, with the consequence that all our boards have gone wrong, in our judgment, on the matter of organization and procedure. If we can once make this point clear to the people and get them to give heed to questions of organization and procedure as affected by proposed legislation at Springfield, an enormous step will have been made forward, no matter what happens to the method of selection of the board and a certain amount of heat will be extracted from a

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Mr. H. P. Judson.

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very difficult situation.

As a matter of fact, we are all of us convinced that no change will be made at Springfield by the present legislature in the method of appointment of the board and that argument is superfluous for the time being on that proposition.

There is no unanimity among our own members with regard to method of selection. I am strongly for appointment by the mayor, placing my argument along the same lines that you indicate. Judd, who is one of our active advisers, I think has the same views that I have. Morton D. Hull holds the view that I hold. Others of the board favor election and still other have not, so far as I know, committed themselves; but the reasons for not stating all the facts in this particular issue were not based on division of opinion of the board but on the opinion that the issue at the present time is relatively unimportant and that the real issue is administration and procedure.

Faithfully yours,

Allen B. Ford

ABP-C

Chicago, April 13, 1917

Dear Mr. Pond:

Yours of the 30th of March with regard to Bulletin No. 3 was received when I was in Washington. I fancy that the bill in its present form does not embody the elective feature, and I trust that no change will be made in the process of legislation. I cannot agree with your opinion that "the issue at the present time is relatively unimportant." It seems to me exceedingly important as bearing on the question of the short ballot, and I should rather have the bill fail altogether than to have this unfortunate feature embodied.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Allen B. Pond
1107, 64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago

Chicago, April 12, 1914

Dear Mr. Bond:

Yours of the 30th of March with regard to Bulletin No. 2 was received when I was in Washington. I fancy that the bill in its present form does not embody the elective feature, and I trust that no change will be made in the process of legislation. I cannot agree with your opinion that "the issue at the present time is relatively unimportant." It seems to me exceedingly important as bearing on the question of the short ballot, and I should rather have the bill fall altogether than to have this unfortunate feature embodied.

Very truly yours,

H.P.L. - L.

Mr. Allen B. Bond
1107, 64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago



POND & POND ARCHITECTS
1107 STEINWAY BUILDING
64 EAST VAN BUREN STREET CHICAGO
IRVING K. POND - FAIA - ALLEN B. POND - FAIA -
CHARLES D. WATERBURY - AIA -

IN RE: _____

April 16th, 1917.

TELEPHONE HARRISON 2927

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, Pres.,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Judson:

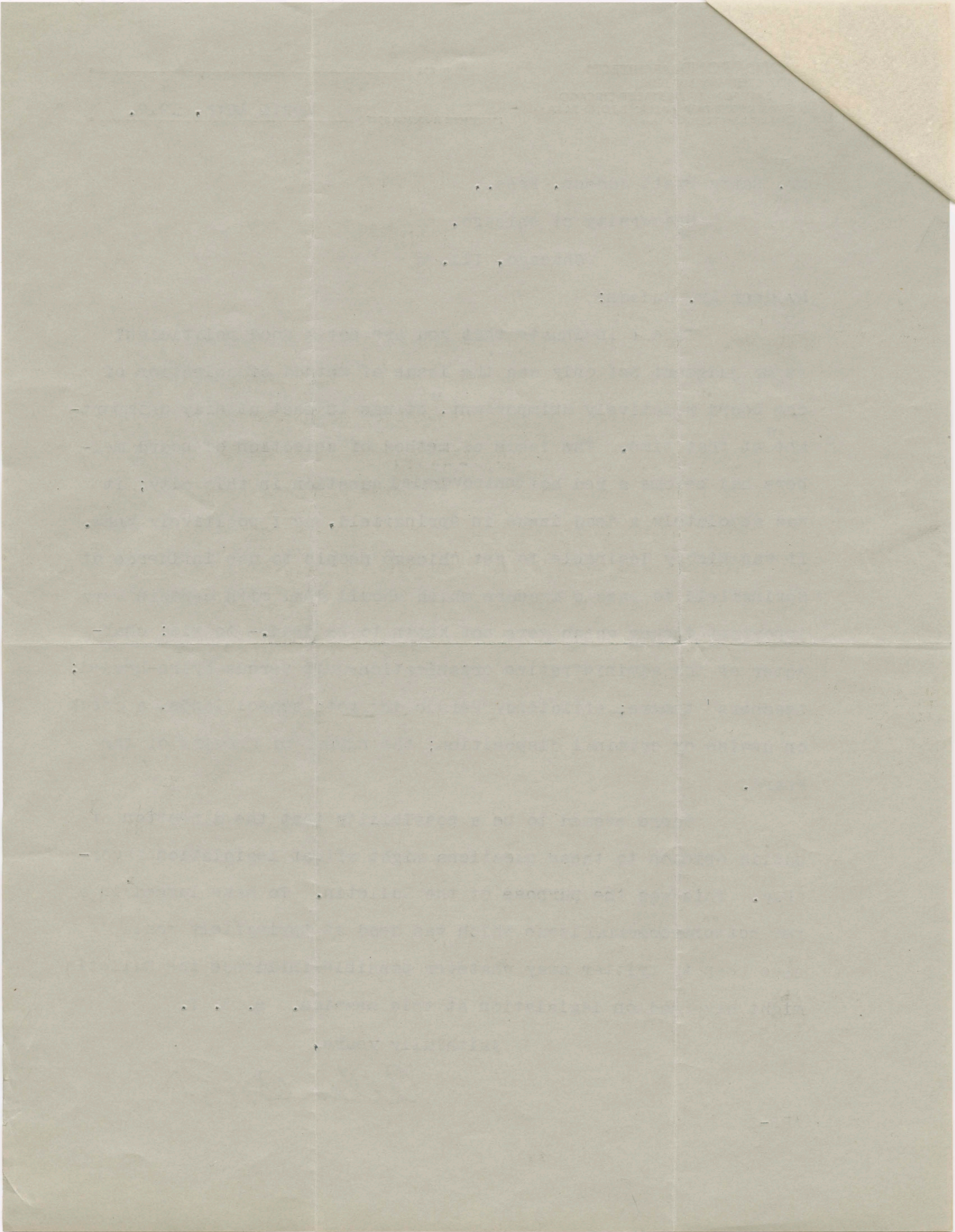
Dare I insinuate that you are not a good politician?
In my judgment not only was the issue of method of selection of the board relatively unimportant, "it was in fact" utterly unimportant at that time. The issue of method of selection of board members had become a red hot controversial question in this city; it was absolutely a dead issue in Springfield, as I positively knew. It was highly desirable to get Chicago people to use influence at Springfield to pass a measure which should deal with certain very important issues which were not known to be dead,-- to wit: character of the administrative organization-unit versus hydra-headed; teachers' tenure; efficiency versus dry rot; school lands--a check on unwise or criminal disposition; the number of members of the Board.

There seemed to be a possibility that the direction of public opinion to these questions might affect legislation favorably. This was the purpose of the Bulletin. To have lugged in a red hot controversial issue which was dead at Springfield would have been to fritter away whatever possible influence the Bulletin might have had on legislation at this session. Q. E. D.

Faithfully yours,

Allen B. Pond

ABP-C



Chicago, April 17, 1917

Dear Mr. Pond:

Thanks for yours of the 16th inst. I plead guilty to not being a good politician because I don't like to refrain from telling the whole truth in order to carry a certain point. I hope that you have succeeded in getting through the legislature a good bill, and I certainly hope that the bill does not contain the absurd provision of a virtually life tenure after only three years of preliminary service in the schools.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Allen B. Pond
1107 Steinway Bldg., Chicago

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H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Allen B. Pond
1107 Stearns Bldg., Chicago



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CHARLES D. WATERBURY - AIA -

IN RE: _____

TELEPHONE HARRISON 2927

181
April 18th, 1917.

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, Pres.,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Judson:

Public Schools

I am in receipt of yours of 17 April. I regret to say that the amended Baldwin bill, as passed and as it will be signed by Governor Lowden, is not satisfactory in any of the four points that I raised in my letter to you of the 16th. The teachers' tenure provision is defective in that the process of separating from the system an incompetent or inefficient teacher is so difficult that, in my judgment, it will be impracticable to weed out incompetents. Over and above this the bill carries, so far as I can forecast, a perpetuation of the present unfortunate administrative supervision and exposes the superintendent to the detailed meddling of a non-technical board.

The Association, and all other organizations devoted to the public schools, have their work cut out for them for two years to come in a campaign of education on these points preparatory to an effort to amend the law at the next session of the legislature.

Faithfully yours,

ABP-C

Allen B. Pond

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H.
M.

Chicago, April 20, 1917

Dear Mr. Pond:

Yours of the 18th inst. is received.

I am very sorry that so defective a bill has passed the two houses. It is so much easier, it seems to me, to secure the right bill to start with than to secure suitable amendments that I am a little discouraged in the matter. However, one must never give up the fight for right organization.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Allen B. Pond
1107, 64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago

Chicago, April 20, 1914

Dear Mr. Ford:

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1107, 64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago

PUBLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
64 EAST VAN BUREN STREET
CHICAGO, ILL.

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July 8, 1919.

My dear Mr. Judson:-

An adjourned meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Public Education Association will be held at the City Club on Friday, July 18, 1919, at 4 p.m., for the election of trustees. The report of the nominating committee is as follows:

Trustees for Three-Year Term.

Mary McDowell
Amelia Sears
Morton D. Hull
Matthew Woll
Leo Wormser.

Trustee for One-Year Term to fill vacancy.

Allen B. Pond

Opposing nominations should be in the hands of the nominating committee, Mr. F. B. Johnstone, 108 S. La Salle Street, Chairman, one week before the date set for the adjourned meeting.

A brief report of the year's work will be made. And the President, Mr. Pond, will state the problems confronting the association.

The scope of the work of the association has been limited because of the pre-occupation of the members in imperative war activities. With the annual meeting this year it is important that the proper expansion of its work be undertaken. The executive committee, therefore, earnestly urge you to attend the coming meeting. For the information of the committee, please fill out and return the enclosed post card.

Very truly yours,

Gene Edwards
Executive Secretary.

July 8, 1919.

My dear Mr. Johnson:-

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Very truly yours,


Executive Secretary

PUBLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

President
Mr. George Henderson

Vice Presidents
Mr. Leslie W. Miller
Miss Dora Keen
Mrs. Edwin C. Grice

1015 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

Organized 1881

TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Membership 1016

Treasurer
Mr. E. Pusey Passmore
Secretary
Mr. James S. Hiatt
Bell Telephone
Filbert 3280

PHILADELPHIA December 21st, 1911.

Ed
Dr. Harry Pratt Judson,
President, University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Sir:

May we ask the courtesy of your judgment and experience upon two questions of educational policy which are now prominently before the Board of Education in Philadelphia?

First: Though the recent Pennsylvania School Code gives the Superintendent of Schools broad powers and states specifically, (Sec. 1706), that "every public high school shall be under the supervision of the Superintendent,--" the new Board of Education, by a majority of one, still continues the practice that in the high schools the Superintendent shall not nominate the teachers, nor prepare the courses of study, nor have charge of the distribution or promotion of pupils. These functions are carried out by the various principals of the schools in direct relation with the various sub-committees on High Schools of the Board.

Though seven out of the fifteen members of the Board of Education who desire to broaden the supervising powers of the Department of Superintendence are supported by the progressive educational thinkers of the city, a considerable opposition is found, particularly in the high schools themselves. (See enclosed clipping.) For many years Philadelphia had but three high schools, two for boys and one for girls, in the center of the city. Recent developments have placed district high schools and manual training high schools, to the number of nine, in outlying districts. But at present most of these are organized as annexes of the central schools.

This development is probably a part of the second problem, namely, the organization of the Board itself, and the relation between the legislative and executive functions in the system. At present the Board is organized with 11 committees, 3 of 7, 5 of 5, and 3 combined committees of 12 members each. Each of these committees has definite control of the executive details of some portion of the educational system. That is, we have a smaller Board with a larger number of committees than formerly.

As this situation may be typical of the former organization of many school systems, we believe that your experience and judgment will be of the greatest value at the present time. Thanking you in advance for as full and free a discussion as is convenient, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

James S. Hiatt
Secretary.

JSH-H

PUBLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

1015 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Organized 1881
Membership 1918

Treasurer
Mr. E. F. Tamm
Secretary
Mr. James C. Hill
Ball Ticket
\$1.00
Life Ticket
\$25.00

President
Mr. George H. H. H.
Vice President
Mr. Leslie W. H.
Miss D. H.
Miss E. H.

Philadelphia December 21st, 1911.

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Though seven out of the fifteen members of the Board of Education who desire to strengthen the supervising powers of the Department of Superintendence are supported by the progressive and radical citizens of the city, a considerable opposition is found particularly in the high schools themselves. (See enclosed slip.) For many years Philadelphia had but three high schools, two for boys and one for girls, in the center of the city. Recent developments have placed district high schools and manual training high schools, to the number of nine, in outlying districts. But at present most of these are organized as annexes of the central schools.

This development is probably a part of the second problem, namely, the organization of the Board itself, and the relation between the legislative and executive functions in the system. At present the Board is organized with 11 committees, 3 of 5, 3 of 3, and 3 unassigned, composed of 12 members each. Each of these committees has definite control of the executive details of some portion of the educational system. That is, we have a smaller Board with a larger number of committees than formerly.

As this situation may be typical of the larger organization of many school systems, we believe that your experience and judgment will be of the greatest value at the present time. Thanking you in advance for an full and free discussion as is convenient, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

James C. Hill
Secretary

Chicago, December 23, 1911

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st inst. received. Of course I know nothing as to the local situation in Philadelphia, and can only speak from the point of view of general principles. It is my opinion that the final authority should be vested in the Board of Education, which should especially control, and very carefully and thoroughly control, all matters of finance. Of course the Board must also in the last resort determine educational policies and make all appointments, both on the educational and on the business side.

In the next place, it seems to me that the best organization calls for an educational administration subject to the Board, in the hands preferably of a superintendent, who will be responsible for nominating to the Board all teachers, and recommending to the Board all educational policies.

3. The superintendent should be aided in acquiring the information needed to make suitable nomination of teachers by such committee

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or subordinate organization as may be deemed expedient.

4. The general principles it seems to me should apply to the preparation of courses of study and to the general question of the distribution and promotion of pupils.

To put these functions in the hands of the Board of Education, it seems to me, implies that it is necessary to secure as members of such Board a body of educational experts. It is very hard to find a single educational expert to act as superintendent. If it is possible to find a dozen who have the expert knowledge and efficiency which we expect in a superintendent, then it would be wise to provide salaries for all of them, to have them give their entire time to the administration of the public schools, and to have in fact a paid body of superintendents in lieu of one superintendent. I doubt whether such an administration would be as efficient as that of a single superintendent. At all events, it would be almost impossible to secure the expert knowledge in so many men.

Very truly yours,



Mr. James S. Hiatt,
1015 Witherspoon Bldg.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.