

American Education Week: Duties Of Board Members

Editor's Note—This is another in the series of articles evaluating our education system during American Education Week. It is written by Mrs. Victor (Lucile) O'Neill, past chairman of the Oregon State Board of Education.

By LUCILE O'NEILL

Of all American institutions, none better exemplifies the spirit of democracy than the traditional district school board. . . . a group of citizens selected on a non-partisan, non-remunerated basis, elected by their fellow citizens and responsible to them for local control of education in that district, subject only to the laws of the state and nation.

Under the Oregon statutes, the powers and responsibilities of a board are much broader than an uninformed person might think. First of all, it develops all policies for the conduct of schools under its jurisdiction and sees that these policies are carried out by the administrative staff. It directs one of the largest business enterprises in any community. It determines, through budgets, the amount of taxes needed. It conducts building programs through one of several possible financial plans. It selects and hires administrators, teachers, employees in many fields and, within certain legal limitations, may discharge any employee of the district.

Its responsibilities are threefold

Africa Riots; 2 Whites Die

CAPETOWN, South Africa (AP)—Anti-white riots that left at least two whites and eight Africans and Asians hospitalized 35 miles north of here at Paarl were reported under control today with a detachment of police standing by. Mobs of angry Africans attacked whites Sunday night with knives, clubs and stones in retaliation for government banishment of an African woman trade union leader, mother of three children.

The woman, Elizabeth Mafeking, left her husband and children Sunday under government orders to live 750 miles away in the remote Vryburg district.

Mobs of enraged Africans tore through the streets of the wine fruit center, a city of 30,000, attacking all whites they found.

Police reinforcements, rushed to the city when blood-spattered whites brought news of the attack, exchanged gunfire with the rioters and finally drove them indoors.

There are no restaurants or hotels in the little Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

with the primary aim of securing the best possible educational system for the children of the district. On the other hand, the board is responsible to the taxpayer and has the obligation of seeing that the system is conducted in accordance with sound and economical financial principles. Moreover, the board is responsible to a large extent for the welfare of every person employed by the district, often a very large group, for experience has shown that, for a first class educational system, not only the professional but non-professional personnel should be adequately recompensed and be provided with the best possible surroundings, consistent with

Doctors At Loss To Explain Man's Cancer Recovery

BREMERTON, Wash. (UPI)—Joseph W. Mayerle, given up to die seven months ago, today was looking for work and doctors were hoping that he may be a living cure for cancer.

Seven months ago the 37-year-old ex-bartender walked out of Seattle's Veterans Hospital after doctors had told him they couldn't do anything to save his life. An exploratory operation showed his lungs were shot through with cancer.

He weighed 126 pounds and was a virtual walking ghost. He had only a few weeks to live, doctors told him.

As he cheerfully chopped wood yesterday, Mayerle said "I can break a leather belt around my chest right now." He weighs 152 pounds.

Three months after being told he would die, Mayerle walked into his doctor's office, rosy-cheeked and bubbling health.

"When my physician saw me enter his office, he turned white as a ghost," Mayerle recalled.

"I had just been home a few days after they told me I'd die, when John Foster Dulles died of cancer," Mayerle said. I read that some doctor said people never died with cancer, but died

of starvation because they could not eat.

"I decided I wouldn't die of starvation, so I forced myself, and the wife and kids kept at me, to eat, keep my stomach full."

Mayerle said he followed no diet, just ate what he wanted to.

"We paid a little more for groceries than we would have ordinarily," he said. "But then, I guess we figured it was worth it."

Mayerle, who said he smokes cigarettes regularly now, and has smoked a pack and a half daily since he was 17, is now hoping to find work to support his wife and three children. His third youngest son was born just four weeks ago.

Doctors were unable to explain his recovery. Examinations at the hospital two months ago showed his lungs completely free of any malignancy.

A pint of Mayerle's blood will be used with another cancer victim soon to discern whether a cure is possible.

Physicians said there are only about 40 known cases where cancer has disappeared after being judged hopeless.

the financial situation of the district, and an atmosphere of harmony. A conscientious board member frequently finds himself caught in the middle with these three fundamental obligations.

Klamath County has been indeed fortunate in the fine type of men and women who have been willing to give freely of their time and efforts with no recompense, except that of performing a vital task.

Since the position has few legal restrictions, many persons ask what qualifications a person should have to become a good board member. First, of course, is personal integrity with all that implies, including the courage to resist pressure groups and to arrive at impartial decisions after studying all sides of a question. A sincere, deep dedication to education is obviously essential, as is a determination to lay aside preconceived prejudices. No person should run for the school board who is unable to accept adverse criticism, who lacks the ability to get along with his fellowmen, or who is unable to compromise when compromise is necessary. No one should run who is unable to devote sufficient time to study, consultation and meetings, for this job is extremely time-consuming.

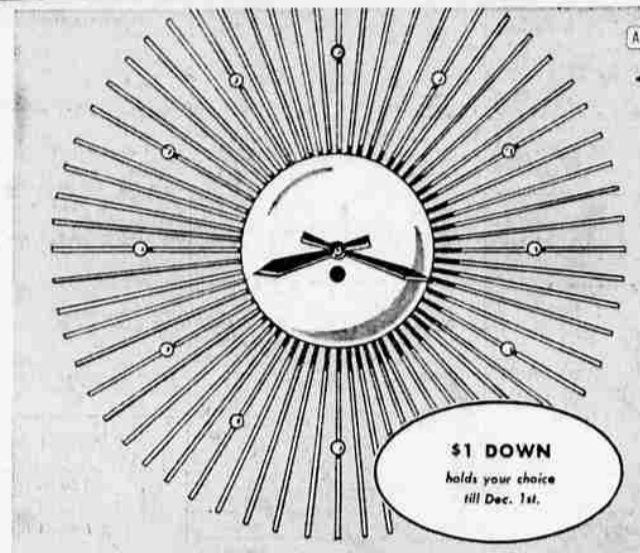
The board itself should have balance in its membership, including a reasonable proportion of men and women, some geographical representation, and diversity of interests.

It is of utmost importance that all members, at least after a year or two, understand to a considerable extent the intricacies of taxation, school finance and even school law, as well as the technicalities of building and construction, besides the obvious special and general problems of education. The average new board member finds that he is almost over-

whelmed the first year by the complexity of a large school district. A school board deserves and needs the support of the community, although disagreement with some policies is inevitable in any district. Sometimes these disagreements can become so extreme as to react to the financial detriment of the board member who is only acting in accordance with his conscience. A hair shirt is a part of the habitual garb of any school board member.



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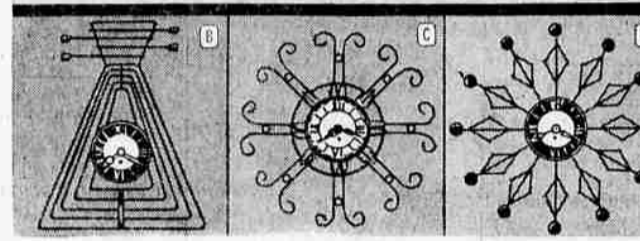
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