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SUPERINTENDENT POWERS QUILTS JOB AT SALEM

STUDENT BODY AFFAIRS ARE TO BE RE-INVESTIGATED BY ANOTHER EXPERT AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE—NEW VOUCHERS MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE TO HELP EXPLAIN SHORTAGES—NO ACTION TAKEN ON TEACHERS.

At a meeting of the school board Saturday night, the resignation of J. M. Powers as city superintendent of Salem schools was received and accepted. The only condition in submitting the resignation was that the board pass a resolution exonerating the superintendent from any blame in connection with the turmoil and strife that has existed among the faculty of the high school, which resolution was prepared by Superintendent Powers and is as follows:

"Whereas, The report has been published as coming from an authoritative source, that a majority of this board has agreed to request the resignation of the superintendent, and further, that in the event such request was refused, a majority of the board would then prefer charges against the superintendent with a view to his dismissal by the board, therefore,

"Be it resolved, That a majority of this board has never entered, and has never contemplated entering into any such agreements as have been reported; that such reports were untrue, having no foundation in fact; that they were unauthorized by the board and should not have been published."

"Be it further resolved, that this board appreciates at its full value the high character of the service rendered to this school district during the last eight years by Superintendent J. M. Powers, and sincerely regrets that any report derogatory to this view should have gained publicity.

"Be it further resolved, that the clerk be, and he is hereby authorized and requested to spread these resolutions upon the minutes, and to mail a copy thereof to each of the local daily papers, and to the Oregonian and Evening Telegram of Portland, Or., accompanied with a request for their publication."

Prior to the introduction and passage of the resolution, Mr. Powers made a statement in which he said, in part, "During the last year there has been a lack of harmony among those connected with the city's schools. I believe that the highest duty of those connected with the schools can only be reached by forgetting the individual and thinking only of the best interests of the public to be served. I regret that my financial condition has not been such that I could forget myself sooner, but I have now reached the point where I intend to forget myself. I will go as far as I can to show the people that I am desirous of eliminating friction from our schools and do it at once."

After the reading of the resolution by the school clerk, Mr. Miles took the floor and made a plea for the adoption of the resolution in which he stated that he considered that Mr. Powers was making a great sacrifice in tendering his resignation and that the superintendent was meeting the proposition more than half way. He felt that there was nothing in the resolution that should cause any member of the board to vote against its adoption and he hoped that it would pass. He said that Superintendent Powers had presented the olive branch of peace and it was now up to the board to adopt or reject it. At this juncture Chairman Moores called Director Holt to the chair. Moores then made a motion that the resolution be adopted and supplemented his remarks with a statement that he held the resignation of Mr. Powers in his pocket and that he would submit it to the board immediately upon the passage of the resolution. Mr. Lafky remarked that he might have something to say about the resolution, but on account of the best interests of the public schools, which he was earnestly trying to serve to the best of his ability, that he was willing to swallow all accusations and insinuations. The resolution was passed unanimously. Chairman Moores then said, "I reluctantly hand you the resignation of Superintendent Powers."

With this matter out of the way, a difficulty arose over the report of the special investigating committee of the finances of the associated student body. The matter was brought to the attention of the board by a communication from Prof. R. L. Kirk, in which he quoted the summary of the report of the investigating committee. Mr. Kirk insisted that as the report questioned his honesty and integrity as well as that of Prof. Moore, and that the report of the investigating committee was biased and incomplete. Mr. Kirk contended that as a teacher's stock in trade is his honor and integrity, that both he and



Mr. Moore should have an opportunity at once to face the charges. This brought Mr. Schreiber into the controversy who defended the report and stated that the financial affairs of the student body were in very bad shape. Mr. Schreiber then continued to give his version of the condition of affairs in the student body to considerable length, so that Chairman Moores, realizing that a great deal of the talk was foreign to the matter before the board, called the meeting to order and quiet was once more obtained. Mr. Lafky then took the chair and was warned by the chairman to be as brief as possible, as a great deal of time was being wasted over trifling matters. Mr. Lafky at great length attempted to justify methods of expenditure and irregularities in the transactions of the student body affairs. G. W. Eyre was also allowed the courtesy of the floor and talked on student body affairs. He contended that it is a matter into which the school board should not enter. The finances of that body are provided by the students and their parents and not by taxation. He said the students liked all the teachers and honored all the officials of the schools as well as the board and that they got value received for all moneys spent in the different activities of the student body. He was in favor of turning the whole matter over to that body, but his view did not meet with much favor by the board as a resolution, was drafted which called for an investigation of the accounts and reports by the Finance committee of the board, (Millard and Lafky), and an expert accountant.

When it became known that Mr. Kirk and Mr. Moore were not to have an opportunity of refuting the charges at last night's meeting, Mr. Moore arose and dramatically stated that he had the vouchers and proofs of his expenditures as manager of the football team and they were submitted to the board. Mr. Davis, verified the vouchers as having been submitted to the investigating committee, which reported that he had not furnished such reports and vouchers as was customary for managers to submit. The vouchers were inspected by the members of the board. At this point Clifford Farmer, of the auditing committee, was asked to examine these vouchers and on inspection said he had never seen them before and they had never been submitted. Prof. Schreiber looked at them and said these vouchers had been asked for by the committee, but had not been produced by Mr. Moore, who told the auditing committee that they were lost.

Prior to adjournment, however, Mr. Lafky introduced a resolution which had for its purpose the dissolution

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of the student body of the high school, which created a great deal of surprise among the members of the board and those present. Chairman Moores doubted the legality of the movement and asked Mr. Lafky if he had consulted an attorney, or whether he had gotten an opinion from the attorney general on the subject, to which Mr. Lafky replied he had the attorney general's opinion on the matter. This matter will be made a special order of business for the next regular meeting, which is next Saturday. No action was taken on selection of teachers.

The school board committee to investigate the finances of the student body is composed of supporters of Prof. Kirk and it is believed they will bring in an entirely friendly report and will not probe anything of an unpleasant nature.

Mr. Lafky offered the resolution to investigate the affairs of the student body verbally. It took him some time to get it stated right to the clerk, and contained nothing requiring a sweeping or thorough investigation. The investigation as provided by this resolution is to be only along certain lines. The nature of the charges are so grave, as found

by the auditing committee that he himself moved the abolition of the student body activities. If his resolution carries, Salem is to be the only high school city in the state where there are to be no student body activities because the management has been loose, irregular and apparently conducted in an unbusiness like manner. The general consensus of opinion is that the student body affairs are in need of thorough reformation but not many will go so far as to say there should be no student body activities whatever.

Gresham is to have a fruit cannery.

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