

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SECOND SUMMARY REPORT
TO THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE
VOLUME TWO

JANUARY, 1971



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December 28, 1970

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 105TH LEGISLATURE:

The Legislative Research Committee hereby has the pleasure of submitting to you Volume II of its report on activities for the past two years.

This volume relates to all remaining matters except for State Government Reorganization H.P. 1468, which was undertaken by the Committee in conjunction with the State Planning Office and previously published and released by that office under separate cover on December 2, 1970.

We of the Committee gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the many individuals, organizations and agencies for their valuable contributions to the work of the Committee and it is our hope that the information contained in this report will be of assistance to the Members of the 105th Legislature and the people of the State of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Dennett
Chairman
Legislative Research Committee

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STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

REPORT ON
STATE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
to the
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

January, 1971
Committee Publication 105-11

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STATE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION

Upon its own motion, the Legislative Research Committee on February 18, 1970, appointed and directed the foregoing Subcommittee to conduct a study of the State Principals' Association of Maine. Among those areas of chief concern prompting this study aside from a manifestation of public interest shown throughout the State, was the overall legal authority of the Association to regulate extracurricular activities among high schools and junior high schools, the general effectiveness of the State Principals' Association, voluntarily undertaking the overall management of moneys realized from interscholastic activities.

The State Principals' Association began as a group of dedicated men who undertook regulation of interscholastic activities in the early 1920's because such regulation was badly needed at that time and no other group was willing to undertake control of outside school events and the students involved in athletic competition. The Association has done a competent job of regulation and perhaps should continue to regulate extracurricular school activities.

However, there are several areas discovered during the course of study which the Committee feels are deserving of further consideration.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

First, its corporate purpose "to promote the best

interests of the secondary schools of Maine; to encourage cooperation, professional efficiency and good fellowship among its members; and to regulate all interscholastic activities in secondary schools," is recorded in a Certificate of Organization, Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Vol. 918, pg. 598, pursuant to corporate law.

Second, the Association has been given no authority by any part of the constituted government in Maine to regulate any school activities in any way.

Deputy George C. West of the Attorney General's Office of Maine, in an Interdepartmental Memorandum dated December 16, 1969, states that the State Principals' Association is a "nonstock corporation" and that "It is fair to state that the Department of Education exercises no control over the Association." Earlier, the then Commissioner of Education, William T. Logan, Jr., had stated that the State Principals' Association had no official connection with his office and further, that the Board of Education had disassociated itself from direct connection with the Association and other similar boards. Hence, the State Principals' Association is not officially a governmental function designated or authorized to regulate any kind of school activity. The Association has simply incorporated and organized to perform a purpose heretofore unregulated by the sovereign State of Maine or the lawfully designated School Administrative Districts and Superintending School Committees.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Committee is convinced that it is essential that the extracurricular activities of Maine's secondary schools must be placed on some legal footing.

Without in the least detracting from the extraordinary devotion of many principals the state over, the Committee feels that the time has come to offer official supervision to that broad area of high school education called extracurricular.

The isolation of the State Principals' Association and its sponsored Student Council organization from any public control has been clearly documented. The obvious dissatisfaction of the communities of South Portland and Lewiston with the State Principals' Association's handling of championship football receipts has no outlet but recourse to the courts.

The most telling evidence, though, of the isolation of State Principals' Association leadership from public control or opinion occurred subsequent to the hearings of this subcommittee. The salary of the State Principals' Association's executive secretary was increased \$3500, to \$17,000 per year. He was directed to use his accumulated sick leave as additional vacation time, and lauded because "he certainly suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune on our behalf."

If the Committee is deeply critical of the State Principals' Association's isolation from public opinion, it is also critical of its judgment in the maintenance of a \$60,000 cash reserve fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That legislation be prepared which clearly mandates the control, supervision and responsibility for all extra-curricular activities of Maine's public schools to the State Board of Education or, in the event of government reorganization now contemplated, to the State Commissioner of Education.

2. That the Commissioner promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required for the maximum benefits to Maine students.

3. That he may well wish to continue to avail himself of the dedicated services of the State Principals' Association's members whose contributions over the years we clearly acknowledge.

4. He may wish to consider the establishment of an advisory committee on extracurricular activities involving such parties as may appear to offer the best possibility for constructive leadership.

5. In any event, whether the State Principals' Association or any other group is ultimately to perform interscholastic functions now being undertaken by the State Principals' Association, the State Commissioner shall have the ultimate authority to require financial responsibility from the participating parties.