

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA

April 24, 1934

Clifford G. Chase, Esquire
Woodland, Maine

Dear Brother Chase:

In response to your letter of the 17th, I am pleased to suggest that Section 64 of Chapter 19, R. S., as amended by Chapter 192 of the Public Laws of 1931, was further amended by Chapter 163 of the Public Laws of 1933, so as to read as follows:

"The election of a superintendent of schools, as herein provided, shall not be effective unless said election shall be approved by the superintending school committee of the town in the said union having a majority of the teachers in the towns comprising the union and by the superintending school committee of the town paying not less than 1/2 of the salary aforesaid exclusive of any sums paid by the state for the purpose."

You will notice that the word "teachers" was substituted for the word "schools".

I agree with you that there seems to be a conflict in this statement, and it further appears to me that this paragraph, or section, of the law was so constructed as to be difficult to interpret. This provision of the law was evidently enacted to remedy a situation that existed at Houlton. I think the persons responsible for its enactment are not entirely satisfied with it in its operation.

It is evident that the election of the superintendent of schools shall not be effective unless it is approved by the superintending school committee of the town in said union having a majority of the teachers, and also by the superintending school committee of the town paying not less than 1/2 of the salary of the superintendent. There does not appear to be any indication that the town may not be called upon to pay more than 1/2 of said salary even though it does not have a majority of the teachers in the union.

I very much regret that I shall not have the pleasure of meeting you in Portland next month at the Grand Commandery, but of course I understand that your time will be pretty well taken up for the next month or so. I trust that you may be wholly successful in your endeavors.

Sincerely yours,
Deputy Attorney General

ELF H