

Minneapolis Board of Education Records

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: B509; Accession # 2019.018.0001-0003

Collection repository: Hennepin History Museum
2303 Third Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Collection title: Minneapolis Board of Education Records

Dates: 1957-1981 (bulk 1964-1971)

Extent: 3 boxes; 2.38 linear feet

Creator: Lawrence E. Johnson

Language of material: English

Processed by: Sophie Hunt, 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Minneapolis Board of Education oversees the budget, curriculum, personnel, and facilities of the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), or Special School District No. 1. The Board consists of nine directors, who select and are overseen by the superintendent. From 1964 to 1971, individuals involved with the Board of Education included Superintendents Rufus A. Putnam and John B. Davis, Jr., along with chairs Stuart W. Rider, Jr., Reverend David W. Preus, and Richard F. Allen, and directors George Humphrey, Viola Hymes, John M. Warder, Florence Lehmann, Arne Schoeller, Gordon A. Mikkelson, Lawrence E. Johnson, Richard S. Larson, Frank E. Adams, and W. Harry Davis.

Much of the Board's work in the late 1960s revolved around school desegregation. In collaboration with other MPS departments, citizens' committees, and partner organizations, the Board worked to promote "racial balance" in Minneapolis schools. Other major issues included the district's overburdened buildings and the creation of new curricular programs, such as the federal Experimental Schools Program and the Twin Cities Institute for Talented Youth. The Board's desegregation work received passionate responses from Minneapolis residents, who held a broad range of perspectives on what role the public schools should play in addressing social issues. Board Treasurer Lawrence E. "Duke" Johnson, the creator of the present collection, was deeply involved in this issue and did not always side with other members of the Board.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains four series with five subseries. The series are arranged as follows:

Series 1: Board meetings

- Series 2: Correspondence and reports
 - Subseries 1: General
 - Subseries 2: Superintendent's Office
 - Subseries 3: MPS departments and committees
 - Subseries 4: Citizens' committees
 - Subseries 5: Partner organizations
- Series 3: National publications
- Series 4: Ephemera

The first series, "Meeting minutes," contains the published meeting minutes of the Board of Education from 1964-1971. It also contains notes and statements related to these meetings.

Series 2, "Correspondence and reports," the largest series in the collection, dates from 1963 to 1981, with the bulk of the material dating from 1965 to 1971. This series contains the incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Board of the Education and of Board Treasurer Lawrence E. Johnson as well as other correspondence forwarded to the Board from other departments, citizens committees, and partner organizations. Interspersed with this correspondence are reports created by other departments in the Minneapolis Public Schools, and reports about the Minneapolis Public Schools by external committees and organizations. Topics of note in these series include "sight count" reports estimating the racial breakdown of students, teachers, and staff at each school; drafts and community input regarding the Board of Education's Human Relations Guidelines; and studies and correspondence surrounding the implementation of integration policies such as the controversial pairing of Field and Hale elementary schools in 1971.

Series 3, "National publications," and Series 4, "Ephemera," contain general materials published by the federal government, national organizations, newspapers, and others outside of the Board of Education. Series 3 dates from 1970 to 1975. Series 4 dates from 1957 to 1975. Many of the items in these series contain marginal annotations written by Board Treasurer Lawrence E. "Duke" Johnson.

ACCESS

The collection is open for research and has no restrictions.

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The researcher assumes the responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

RELATED MATERIAL

Hennepin History Museum:

- B178 Minneapolis Public Schools: contains MPS Bulletin from 1958-1960 along with other publications

- B562 Prospect Park Neighborhood Mpls Collection: contains materials on Southeast Alternatives Program (experimental schools program)
- Assorted collections on individual schools within the Minneapolis Public Schools system

Minnesota Historical Society:

- Minneapolis Public Schools. Board of Education. Desegregation/Integration Files
- Minneapolis Public Schools. Published Records and Reports. 1878-2004

Hennepin County Library Digital Collection

- Minneapolis Public Schools Collection includes photographs of Board members and meeting detailed in the present collection:
<https://digitalcollections.hclib.org/digital/collection/p17208coll14/>

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated by a private party.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Meeting minutes

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Meeting minutes. 1964
1	2	Meeting minutes. 1965
1	3	Meeting minutes. January-July 1966
1	4	Meeting minutes. August-December 1966
1	5	Meeting minutes. 1967
1	6	Meeting minutes. 1968
1	7	Meeting minutes. 1969
1	8	Meeting minutes. 1970
1	9	Meeting minutes. 1971
1	10	Documents from meetings. 1965-1971
3	62	Edits to meeting minutes. 1971

Series 2: Correspondence and reports

-- General

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	11	Correspondence. Board Chairs Stuart Rider and David W. Preuss. 1966-1970
1	12	Correspondence. Board Chair Richard F. Allen. 1970
1	13	Correspondence. Board Chair Richard F. Allen. 1971
1	14	Correspondence. Board member Lawrence E. Johnson. 1967-1971
1	15	Correspondence with Attorney Norman L. Newhall, Jr. 1969-1971
3	63	Correspondence from citizen Jeanne J. Cummings. 1971-1981
1	16	Correspondence and reports. State of Minnesota. 1966-1971
1	17	Responses to Minnesota State Board of Education policies. 1969-1973
1	18	Human Relations Guidelines. 1967-1971
1	19	Adjustment Panel Materials. 1969
3	64	Adjustment Panel Materials. Copy of Minnesota HF750 Chapter 633. 1969

-- Superintendent's Office

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	20	Memoranda to Board. 1967-1971
1	21	Incoming correspondence. 1966-1972
1	22	Outgoing correspondence. 1969-1970
1	23	Experimental Schools Program documents. 1971
1	24	Better Schools: An Investment in Human Resources report. 1963
1	25	Manual of Position Descriptions Professional Personnel report, revised version. 1966
1	26	A Community Looks at Its Schools: An Inter-Agency Task Force Approach report. 1969
1	27	Desegregation and Integration Plans. 1971

-- MPS departments and committees

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	28	Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education. 1967-1971
1	29	Department of English and Humanities. 1970
1	30	Department of Intergroup Education. 1969-1971
1	31	Department of Guidance Services. 1969
2	32	Department of Personnel. 1964-1966
2	33	Department of Research, Development and Federal Programs. 1966
2	34	Department of Research, Development, and Federal Programs. 1968-1970
2	35	Department of Research, Development, and Federal Programs. 1971
2	36	Department of Urban Affairs. 1967-1970
2	37	Information Services Center. 1968-1973
2	38	School Facilities Study Committee. 1969
2	39	MPS news releases. 1970-1971
2	40	MPS annual reports. 1965, 1970
2	41	MPS Bulletin, volumes 56-69 (incomplete). 1969-1975

-- Citizens committees

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	42	Citizens Committee for Integrated Education. circa 1969
2	43	Citizens Committee on Public Education. circa 1965-1970
2	44	Citizens League of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. 1962-1963
2	45	Citizens School Facilities Committee. Drafts. circa 1969-1971
2	46	Citizens School Facilities Committee. Final reports. 1971

-- Partner organizations

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	47	Edina Public Schools. Proposal for Title III ESEA. 1970
2	48	Michigan State University. Planning for the Future: MPS, volume 1 1963
2	49	Michigan State University. Planning for the Future: MPS, volume 2, pp. 1-348. 1963
2	50	Michigan State University. Planning for the Future: MPS, volume 2, pp. 349-701. 1963
2	51	National Urban League. School Administrators Conference materials. 1966
2	52	Office of Economic Opportunity (federal agency). Fact sheets. circa 1970
2	53	Pillsbury-Waite Neighborhood Services, Inc. Bryant Junior High School Parents Speak Out. 1968
3	65	Twin City Institute for Talented Youth correspondence and brochures. 1968-1971
2	54	University of Minnesota. Educational Research and Development Council of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area reports. 1966

Series 3: National publications

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	55	The Research Council of Great City Schools. Desegregating Schools in the Great Cities: The Philadelphia Story. 1970
2	56	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Planning Educational Change: Integrating the Desegregated School. 1970
2	57	Committee for Economic Development (national organization). Education for the Urban Disadvantaged: from Preschool to Employment. 1971
2	58	U.S. Commission on Civil Rights publications. 1973, 1975

Series 4: Ephemera

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	59	Integrated Education (periodical), issues 25-49 (incomplete). 1967-1971
3	66	Clippings and newsletters. 1965-1975
2	60	Anti-desegregation pamphlets. 1957-1975
2	61	Political flyers. circa 1964-1972



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