

CHAPTER 120

SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

SUBCHAPTER I	
COMMON AND UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS	
120.001	Applicability
120.01	Number of school board members
120.02	Method of changing number or apportionment of school board members.
120.03	Election of school board members; general provisions
120.06	Election of school board members at spring election.
120.08	School district meetings.
120.09	Referendum
120.10	Powers of annual meeting
120.11	School board meetings and reports.
120.12	School board duties.
120.13	School board powers.
120.14	Audit of school district accounts
120.15	School district president; duties.
120.16	School district treasurer; duties
120.17	School district clerk; duties
120.18	Annual school district report
120.19	School building corporations
120.21	School board contracts for courses.
120.22	On-farm training to veterans.
120.23	Joint ownership of school building
SUBCHAPTER II	
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS	
120.40	Applicability
120.41	General provisions.
120.42	Number of school board members.
120.43	Method of selecting school board members
120.44	Changing number or method of selection of school board members.
120.45	Attached territory; elections.
120.46	School board election by classes
120.48	School board meetings.
120.49	School board powers and duties
120.50	Fiscal board.
120.51	Tax levy
120.52	Special tax levy; attached territory
120.53	Taxation of attached territory
120.54	Disbursements
120.55	Construction work
120.56	Sinking fund.
120.57	Technical, collegiate and evening programs.
120.58	Transfer of property.
120.61	Use of school buildings and grounds for civic purposes.
SUBCHAPTER III	
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS	
120.70	Applicability
120.71	Establishment; powers of school district.
120.72	Composition of school board
120.73	Election of school board members.
120.74	School board meetings
120.75	School board powers and duties.

SUBCHAPTER I

COMMON AND UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

120.001 Applicability. This subchapter applies to common and union high school districts.

120.01 Number of school board members. In common or union high school districts, school boards shall be composed of the following number of members:

(1) A common school district operating elementary grades or a union high school district shall have 3 school board members, except that if such school district is coterminous with a town or has a population of 500 or more it may have 5 school board members.

(2) A common school district operating elementary and high school grades may have 3, 5, 7 or 9 school board members.

(3) A common or union high school district may have not exceeding 11 school board members if a plan of apportionment is established under s. 120.02 (2).

120.02 Method of changing number or apportionment of school board members.

(1) CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD

MEMBERS. If, at least 30 days prior to a special school district meeting or to the day when school board members are elected in a common or union high school district, a petition requesting a change in the number of school board members is filed with the school district clerk signed by 100 electors residing in the school district, the school district clerk shall incorporate in the notice of the annual or special meeting or election a statement that at such meeting or election the question of changing the number of school board members to the number requested in the petition will be voted upon. If, at a special meeting or at an election of school board members under s. 120.06, a resolution based on a petition requesting a change in the number of school board members is adopted, school board members shall be elected at the next school board election and thereafter in accordance with sub. (3).

(2) PLAN OF APPORTIONMENT. (a) If, at least 30 days prior to the day of the annual meeting or the election of school board members under s. 120.06, a petition requesting the establishment of a plan of apportionment of school board members is filed with the school district clerk signed by at least 100 electors residing in the school district, the school district clerk shall incorporate notice of receipt of such petition in

120.02 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

2300

the notice of the annual meeting or election. The petition shall specify the proposed plan of apportionment of school board members among the cities, towns and villages or parts thereof within the school district and set the total number of school board members at not more than 11. If the annual meeting or election approves the plan set forth in the petition, the plan shall remain in operation until revised by the same procedure. School board members elected under this subsection shall be elected by a vote of the electors of the entire school district in accordance with the plan prepared under sub. (3).

(b) Any order of school district reorganization may contain such a plan of apportionment of school board members, and the determination of terms of school board members shall be as provided in sub. (3).

(3) ELECTION PLAN. (a) If a common or union high school district votes to increase the number of school board members, the school district clerk shall promulgate, before the next election of school board members, a plan providing:

1. The number of school board members to be elected each year, distributing the number as evenly as possible.

2. The total number of positions to be filled at the first election for 1, 2 or 3 years.

3. An allocation of the number of candidates to be elected to 1, 2 and 3 year terms at the first election, the 3-year terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the highest number of votes, the 2-year terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the next highest number of votes and the 1-year terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the next highest number of votes.

(b) In case of a tie vote in the election of school board members, the election shall be determined by lot and the loser by lot shall become next in order of election if additional positions on the school board are to be filled.

(c) The tenure of school board members whose terms have not expired shall not be affected.

(d) If an agency school committee in its order creating a school district designates a school board of 5, 7 or 9 members, it shall prepare a plan for allocating terms in accordance with this subsection. If a union high school district is established under s. 117.05, the state superintendent shall prepare a plan for allocating terms in accordance with this subsection.

(e) Whenever a school district with more than 3 school board members votes to reduce the number of school board members, one less school

board member shall be elected annually thereafter until the school board is reduced to the approved number of members, but not less than one member shall be elected each year.

120.03 Election of school board members; general provisions. In a common or union high school district:

(1) School board members shall be electors of the school district and shall be elected at large by a plurality vote of the electors of the school district.

(2) The regular terms of school board members shall be 3 years and until their successors have been elected and qualified.

(3) School board members elected for regular or unexpired terms shall take office, provided they have taken and filed the official oath, as follows:

(b) After the annual meeting next succeeding the election, when school board members are elected at the spring election.

(4) Within 5 days after the election or appointment of any person to the school board, the school district clerk shall notify him of his election or appointment. Within 10 days after such notification, a school board member shall take and file the official oath.

(5) (a) The members of a school board shall be the officers of a school district. The school district president, school district treasurer and school district clerk shall constitute the school board in the case of a 3-member school board. If the school board is made larger in accordance with this subchapter, the school board shall elect the school district president, school district treasurer and school district clerk from among its members for a one-year term at its first regular school board meeting.

(b) At the first election of a 3-member school board, the school district clerk shall be elected for a one-year term, the school district treasurer for a 2-year term and the school district president for a 3-year term.

(6) If the territory of a common school district and a union high school district is identical, the school board of the common school district shall constitute the school board of the union high school district.

(8) An election in accordance with s. 17.26 to fill an unexpired term on a school board shall be held in the same manner as a regular school board election is held. In the case of a school board of more than 3 members, elections to fill unexpired terms shall be held simultaneously with the elections for regular terms, the regular terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the highest number of votes and the unexpired terms to be filled by the

appropriate number of candidates receiving the next highest number of votes.

(9) If the school district president, school district treasurer or school district clerk of any school board is unable to discharge the duties of his office due to disability or absence from the school district, the school board may appoint a person to discharge the duties of such person until the disability or absence no longer exists. In the case of a 3-member school board the appointee shall be an elector of the school district. In the case of a larger school board the appointee shall be another school board member. The school board shall determine the compensation of such appointees. A person acting as school district clerk or school district treasurer shall have the powers of a deputy and shall take and file an official bond covering his acts unless the bond of such officer includes a bond for his deputy. This subsection does not apply to vacancies caused by absence from the school district for a period exceeding 60 days covered by s. 17.03 (4).

(10) At an election of school board members, all ballots, as soon as counted, shall be sealed in the ballot box and kept for 60 days by an inspector who was not a candidate at the election. In the case of an election at an annual meeting, the ballot slips shall be retained by the school district clerk for 60 days.

(11) Recounts at an election of school board members shall be conducted under the direction of the school board in accordance with the general election law, as nearly as possible.

(12) A person attempting to vote at an election of school board members may be challenged as provided in s. 6.92 or 120.08 (3).

120.06 Election of school board members at spring election. (1) In every school district, the school board shall be elected at the spring election.

(2) No later than the 2nd Tuesday in January prior to the spring election, the school district clerk shall publish notice of the school district election stating the time, place and manner of filing declarations of candidacy for the school board. No later than 5 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday in January prior to the spring election, a qualified elector may file a written declaration of candidacy with the school district clerk stating that he is a qualified elector. In the case of a 3-member school board he also shall state the office for which he is a candidate.

(3) Immediately upon the expiration of the time for filing declarations of candidacy, but no later than 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday in February, the school board shall verify the declarations of candidacy. If there are more than 2 candidates for any office on a 3-member school

board or more than twice as many candidates as there are members to be elected to a school board of more than 3 members, the school board shall require a primary election for such positions. The primary election shall be held at the time specified for the spring primary.

(4) The school district clerk shall notify the municipal clerk of each municipality lying wholly or partially within the school district of the primary election if one is to be held and of the spring election, furnish such clerks with a copy of the notice of the school board election and provide such clerks with an adequate supply of ballots for the primary and spring election.

(5) If elector registration is required under s. 6.27 in a city, village or town lying wholly or partially within a school district, the same requirement shall apply to electors for school board members within such city, village or town, and provisions shall be made for identifying the electors of the city, village or town who are eligible to vote at the primary and spring elections for school board members.

(6) The absentee ballot provisions of ss. 6.85 to 6.89 apply to elections under this section. Voting machines may be used in any city, village or town lying wholly or partially within a school district conducting an election under this section.

(7) The primary and spring elections for school board members shall be conducted by the election officials for state and municipal elections. In a school board election held in conjunction with a state, municipal or judicial election, the polling places for the state, municipal or judicial election shall be the polling places for the school board election and the municipal election hours shall apply. If no state, municipal or judicial election is held on the day of the school board election, the school board shall set the election hours, the polling places normally used for state, municipal and judicial elections shall be used and the election costs shall be charged to the school district.

120.08 School district meetings. Every elector of a common or union high school district is eligible to vote at an annual or special meeting of the school district.

(1) ANNUAL MEETING. (a) Common school districts shall hold an annual meeting on the 4th Monday in July at 8 p.m. and union high school districts shall hold an annual meeting on the 3rd Monday in July at 8 p.m. One annual meeting may fix a different hour for the next annual meeting. The first school district meeting in a reorganized school district shall be considered an annual meeting.

(b) The place of the annual meeting shall be in a schoolhouse in the school district. If a

120.08 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

2302

schoolhouse which will accommodate the electors is not available, the place of the annual meeting shall be the nearest available place designated by the school board.

(c) The school district clerk shall publish a class 2 notice, under ch. 985, of the time and place of the annual meeting, the last insertion to be not more than 8 days nor less than one day before the annual meeting. The school district clerk shall give like notice for any adjourned meeting, if the adjournment is for more than 30 days. No annual meeting shall be deemed illegal for want of notice.

(2) SPECIAL MEETING. (a) Upon the written request of 3% of the number of heads of families residing in the school district as enumerated by the last school census or 100 electors, whichever is less, or upon the motion of the school board in a common or union high school district, a special meeting shall be called by the school district clerk or, in his absence, by the school district president or school district treasurer. If the written request includes a subject beyond the power of the special meeting to transact, the school district clerk shall reject such subject and so notify each elector signing the request.

(b) Notice of a special meeting shall be published as a class 2 notice, under ch. 985. The last insertion shall be not more than 8 days nor less than one day before the day of the special meeting. If no hour for the special meeting is fixed in the notice, it shall be held at 8 p.m.

(c) A special meeting has the powers of the annual meeting, except the power to elect school board members. No more than 2 special meetings may be held between annual meetings to consider or act upon the same subject, except that in counties having a population of 500,000 or more no more than 4 such meetings may be held. No tax may be voted at a special meeting, unless notice thereof is included in the notice under par. (b). The amount of the tax proposed to be voted shall be set forth in the notice. The special meeting may vote a tax of a lesser amount than stated in the notice, but not a greater amount.

(3) CHALLENGE. If a person attempting to vote at an annual or special meeting is challenged, the chairman of the meeting shall state to the person challenged the qualifications necessary to vote at the meeting. If such person declares that he is eligible to vote and if such challenge is not withdrawn, the chairman shall administer the following oath or affirmation to him: "You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you are an actual resident of this school district and that you are qualified, according to law, to vote at this meeting". A person taking such oath or affirmation shall be permitted to vote, but if he

refuses to take such oath or affirmation he may not vote.

120.09 Referendum. If in a common or union high school district at least 60 days prior to the day when the school board members are elected a petition is filed with the school district clerk signed by 100 electors requesting that a referendum be held on a special subject or item of business, the school district clerk shall incorporate a statement of the referendum in the notice of the annual meeting or election. The school district clerk shall prepare the proper ballot to permit voting on such referendum at the annual meeting or election.

120.10 Powers of annual meeting. The annual meeting of a common or union high school district may:

(1) CHAIRMAN AND CLERK. Elect a chairman and, in the absence of the school district clerk, elect a person to act as the clerk of the meeting.

(2) ADJOURNMENT. Adjourn from time to time.

(3) SALARIES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS. Vote annual salaries for school board members. In a school district operating only schools with 2 teachers or less the annual salary of the school district president, the school district treasurer and any other members of the school board, except the school district clerk, may not exceed \$100 each, and the annual salary of the school district clerk may not exceed \$125, except that in a school district which does not operate schools, the annual salary limitations shall be \$20 and \$25, respectively.

(4) REIMBURSEMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS. Authorize the payment of actual and necessary expenses of a school board member when traveling outside the school district in the performance of his duties and the reimbursement of a school board member for actual loss of earnings, not exceeding \$15 per day, when his duties require him to be absent from his regular employment.

(5) BUILDING SITES. Designate sites for school district schoolhouses or teacherages and provide for the erection thereon of suitable buildings or for the lease of suitable buildings for a period not exceeding 20 years with annual rentals as fixed by the lease.

(6) TAX FOR SITES, BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE. Vote a tax to purchase or lease suitable sites for school buildings, to build, rent, lease or purchase and furnish, equip and maintain schoolhouses, teacherages or outbuildings. Such tax may be spread over as many years as are required to pay any obligations approved or authorized at the annual meeting including

rental payments due in future years under an authorized lease.

(7) TAX FOR TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES. Vote a tax to purchase, operate and maintain transportation vehicles and to purchase liability insurance for such vehicles, and to finance contracts for the use and services of such vehicles.

(8) TAX FOR OPERATION. Vote a tax for the operation of the schools of the school district.

(9) TAX FOR DEBTS. Vote a tax necessary to discharge any debts or liabilities of the school district.

(10) SCHOOL SINKING FUND. Vote a tax to create a sinking fund under s. 67.11 for the purpose of financing all current and future capital expenditures and for paying all current bonded indebtedness for capital expenditures. All money raised through taxation or otherwise collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited by the school district treasurer in a separate sinking fund. Such money shall not be used for any other purpose, except as provided by s. 67.11 (1), or be transferred to any other fund except by authorization by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of electors of the school district.

(11) TAX FOR RECREATION AUTHORITY. Vote a tax for the purposes specified in s. 66.527.

(12) SALE OF PROPERTY. Authorize the sale of any property belonging to and not needed by the school district. If a school site or other lands are to be abandoned which were acquired or are held upon condition that they revert to the prior owner when no longer used for school purposes, the school board shall sell any school buildings thereon or move them to another site within 8 months after the school buildings cease to be used for school purposes or the site ceases to be maintained as a school district playground or park.

(13) SCHOOL TERM. Fix the number of days school shall be held during the school term at not less than 180 days. If the annual meeting does not fix the number of days, the school board shall fix the number of days. A subsequent school district meeting or school board shall act only to change the number of days school shall be held during the school term.

(14) LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. Direct and provide for the prosecution or defense of any action or proceedings in which the school district is interested.

(15) TEXTBOOKS. Authorize the school board to furnish textbooks under conditions prescribed by the annual meeting or by the school board. The authorization shall continue in effect until revoked by a subsequent annual meeting.

(16) SCHOOL LUNCHESES. Direct the school board to furnish school lunches to the pupils of

the school district and appropriate funds for that purpose.

(17) NURSES AND DENTISTS. In counties having a population of less than 500,000, authorize the school board to employ public health nurses and licensed dentists and vote a tax for that purpose.

(18) AGREEMENTS WITH BUILDING CORPORATIONS. Authorize the school board to make agreements with school building corporations under s. 120.19.

(19) CONSOLIDATION OF HIGH SCHOOLS. In a union high school district, vote to consolidate schools or to discontinue a school where more than one high school is operated by the school district.

120.11 School board meetings and reports.

(1) The school board in a common or union high school district shall hold a regular meeting at least once each month at a time and place determined by the school board and may hold special school board meetings under sub. (2). A majority of the elected school board members constitute a quorum at a regular or special school board meeting. The school district president shall preside at school board meetings and, in his absence, the school board may select another school board member to preside. The school district clerk shall record the minutes of school board meetings and, in his absence, the school board may select another school board member to act as the clerk of the meeting.

(2) A special school board meeting shall be held upon the written request of any school board member. The request shall be filed with the school district clerk or, in his absence, the school district president who shall notify in writing each school board member of the time and place of the special school board meeting at least 24 hours before such meeting. The notice shall be delivered to each school board member personally or shall be left at the usual place of abode of the school board member. A special school board meeting may be held without prior notice, if all school board members are present and consent, or if every school board member consents in writing even though he does not attend.

(3) Before the annual meeting, the school board shall meet to examine the accounts of the school district treasurer and to prepare a full, itemized written report which shall be presented and read at the annual meeting. The report shall state all receipts and expenditures of the school district since the last annual meeting, the current cash balance of the school district, the amount of the deficit and the bills payable of the school district, the amount necessary to be raised by taxation for the support of the schools of the school district for the ensuing year and the

120.11 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

amount required to pay the interest and principal of any debt due during the ensuing year. The report also shall include the budget summary required under s. 65.90. The school district clerk shall copy the report, with the action taken thereon, and all other proceedings of the annual meeting in full in the school district record book.

(4) The proceedings of a school board meeting shall be published within 45 days after the meeting as a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, in a newspaper published in the school district, if any, or publicized by school district-wide distribution prepared and directed by the school board and paid out of school funds. If there is no newspaper published in the school district, the proceedings shall be posted or published as the school board directs. For the purpose of publication, the proceedings shall include the substance of every official action taken by the school board at the meeting and a statement of each receipt and expenditure exceeding \$100, but salaries may be listed in the aggregate.

120.12 School board duties. The school board of a common or union high school district shall:

(1) **MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT.** Subject to the authority vested in the annual meeting and to the authority and possession specifically given to other school district officers, have the possession, care, control and management of the property and affairs of the school district.

(2) **GENERAL SUPERVISION.** Visit and examine the schools of the school district, advise the school teachers and administrative staff regarding the instruction, government and progress of the pupils and exercise general supervision over such schools.

(3) **TAX FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.**
(a) On or before the 3rd Monday in October, determine the amount necessary to be raised to operate and maintain the schools of the school district if the annual meeting has not voted a tax sufficient for such purposes for the ensuing school term. On or before the last working day in October, the school district clerk shall certify the appropriate amount so determined to each appropriate municipal clerk who shall assess the amount certified to him and enter it on the tax rolls as other school district taxes are assessed and entered.

(b) If a tax sufficient to operate and maintain the schools of a school district for the ensuing school year has not been determined, certified and levied prior to the effective date of school district reorganization, except an attachment to a city school district, affecting any territory of the school district, the school board of the reorganized school district shall determine, on or

before the 3rd Monday of October following the effective date of the reorganization, the amount of deficiency in operation and maintenance funds on the effective date of the reorganization which should have been paid by the property in the reorganized school district if such tax had been determined, certified and assessed prior to the effective date of the reorganization. On or before the last working day in October, the school district clerk shall certify the appropriate amount to each appropriate municipal clerk who shall assess, enter and collect such amount as a special tax on such property. This paragraph does not affect the apportionment of assets and liabilities under s. 66.03.

(c) If on or before the 3rd Monday in October the school board determines that the annual meeting has voted a tax greater than that needed to operate the schools of the school district for the ensuing school year, the school board may lower the tax voted by the annual meeting. On or before the last working day in October, the school district clerk shall certify the appropriate amount so determined to each appropriate municipal clerk who shall assess, the amount certified to him and enter it on the tax rolls in lieu of the amount previously reported.

(4) **TAX FOR DEBT RETIREMENT.** On or before the 3rd Monday of October, determine the amount necessary to meet any irrevocable tax obligations or other financial commitments of the school district not otherwise provided for. The school district clerk shall certify the amount apportioned to each appropriate municipal clerk who shall include the amount certified to him and enter it on the tax rolls as other school district taxes are assessed and entered.

(5) **REPAIR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.** Keep the school buildings and grounds in good repair, suitably equipped and in safe and sanitary condition at all times.

(6) **INSURANCE ON SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.** Keep the school buildings and equipment amply insured. If there are no funds in the school district treasury sufficient to pay the premium, the school board may execute a note for that purpose.

(7) **DEPOSITORY.** Designate one or more banks in which the money belonging to the school district shall be deposited. When the money is so deposited in the name of the school district, the school district treasurer and his bondsmen are not liable for any loss as defined in s. 34.01 (6). The interest on such deposits shall be paid into the school district treasury.

(8) **INVENTORY.** Annually make an inventory of the school district property.

(9) **DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS.** Upon the written application of one-half of the electors of the school district, allow the use of the school

buildings or grounds for the free discussion of public questions so far as such use does not interfere, in the opinion of the school board, with the prime purpose of the school buildings or grounds.

(10) CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS. If the citizens of any community are organized into a nonpartisan, nonsectarian, nonexclusive association for the discussion of public questions or for the promotion of public health by instruction in physical culture and hygiene or by physical exercises, grant to such association the use, when not being used for its prime purpose, of a school building or other school district property which is capable of being used in the work of such association, provide free of charge any necessary light, heat and janitor service and make such other provisions as are necessary for the free and convenient use of such school buildings or property by the association at such times as the association designates. All such gatherings shall be free to the public.

(11) INDIGENT CHILDREN. Provide books and school supplies for indigent children residing in the school district.

(12) SANITARY FACILITIES. Provide and maintain enough suitable and separate toilets and other sanitary facilities for both sexes at each school.

(13) MAIL BOX. Provide and maintain a mail box for each school of the school district located on a rural mail route.

(14) HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY. In a union high school district or a common school district operating elementary and high school grades, determine the high school course of study, with the advice and consent of the state superintendent.

History: 1973 c. 61, 90

120.13 School board powers. The school board of a common or union high school district may:

(1) SCHOOL GOVERNMENT RULES; SUSPENSION; EXPULSION. (a) Make rules for the organization, gradation and government of the schools of the school district, including rules pertaining to conduct and dress of pupils in order to maintain good decorum and a favorable academic atmosphere, which shall take effect when approved by a majority of the school board and filed with the school district clerk.

(b) The school district administrator or any principal or teacher designated by him also may make rules, with the consent of the school board, and may suspend a pupil for not more than 3 school days or, if a notice of expulsion hearing has been sent under par. (c), for not more than a total of 7 consecutive school days for noncompliance with such rules or school board rules, or

for conduct by the pupil while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority which endangers the property, health or safety of others. Prior to any suspension, the pupil shall be advised of the reason for the proposed suspension. The pupil may be suspended if it is determined that he is guilty of noncompliance with such rule, or of the conduct charged, and that his suspension is reasonably justified. The parent or guardian of a suspended minor pupil shall be given prompt notice of the suspension and the reason therefor. The suspended pupil or his parent or guardian may, within 5 school days following the commencement of the suspension, have a conference with the school district administrator or his designee who shall be someone other than a principal, administrator or teacher in the suspended pupil's school. If the school district administrator or his designee finds that the pupil was suspended unfairly or unjustly, or that the suspension was inappropriate, given the nature of the alleged offense, or that the pupil suffered undue consequences or penalties as a result of the suspension, reference to the suspension on the pupil's school record shall be expunged. Such finding shall be made within 15 days of said conference. A pupil suspended under this paragraph shall not be denied the opportunity to take any quarterly, semester or grading period examinations missed during the suspension period.

(c) The school board may expel a pupil from school whenever it finds him guilty of repeated refusal or neglect to obey the rules, or finds that he engaged in conduct while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority which endangers the property, health or safety of others, and is satisfied that the interest of the school demands his expulsion. Prior to such expulsion, the school board shall hold a hearing thereon. Not less than 5 days' written notice of the hearing shall be sent to the pupil and, if the pupil is a minor, to his parent or guardian, specifying the particulars of the alleged refusal, neglect or conduct, stating the time and place of the hearing and stating that the hearing may result in the pupil's expulsion. The pupil and, if the pupil is a minor, his parent or guardian may be represented at the hearing by counsel. The school board shall keep written minutes of the hearing. Upon the ordering by the school board of the expulsion of a pupil, the school district clerk shall mail a copy of the order to the pupil and, if the pupil is a minor, to his parent or guardian. The expelled pupil or, if the pupil is a minor, his parent or guardian may appeal the expulsion to the state superintendent. An appeal from the decision of the state superintendent may be taken within 30 days to the circuit court of the county in which the school is located. This

paragraph shall be printed in full on the face or back of the notice.

(2) ACCIDENT INSURANCE. Provide for accident insurance covering pupils in the school district. Such insurance shall not be paid from school district funds unless the expenditure is authorized by an annual meeting.

(3) AGREEMENTS WITH GOVERNMENTAL UNITS. Enter into agreements, including leases for a term not exceeding 50 years, with a school district, city, village, town, county or the state or any department or agency thereof for the purchase, operation and maintenance of land, buildings and equipment for educational purposes, including, without limitation because of enumeration, contracts for the construction or repair of school driveways, roadways and parking areas or for the operation of any school program authorized by law.

(4) TUITION PAYMENTS. (a) On its own order, provide for the education of the pupils of the school district on a tuition basis, if it first has made a written finding of fact that an emergency exists, stating the nature thereof, because of the destruction of school buildings of the school district, failure to obtain a qualified teacher or any other emergency which makes it impossible to conduct school within the school district. No state aid may be paid to such school district until a copy of the finding of fact has been filed with the state superintendent. For a period of 2 years after making such order, a school district which suspends its schools under this paragraph is eligible to receive state and county aid in the same amount as if it had operated schools.

(b) On its own order, provide for the education of a portion of the pupils of the school district on a tuition basis, if the enrollment of a school district increases to a number exceeding 30 pupils per classroom. For a period of 2 years after making such order, the school district shall be eligible to receive state and county aid as though the pupils included in the order had been enrolled in the schools of such school district. The state superintendent may extend such period of eligibility from year to year, if he is satisfied on the basis of evidence presented to him that the school district is unable to provide sufficient funds for the construction of additional school buildings because of constitutional limitations on debt or that a school district reorganization which affects the school district is being contemplated under ch. 117. Thereafter the school district is not eligible to receive state and county aid until adequate school building facilities are provided in the school district to properly accommodate pupils eligible to attend the schools of the school district.

(5) BOOKS, STATIONERY AND EQUIPMENT. Purchase necessary books and stationery for the

proper administration of the school district; purchase equipment, books, school apparatus and heating and ventilating apparatus approved by the department for the use of the schools of the school district, not exceeding \$600 in any one year, from any funds not otherwise appropriated; and purchase any school books which in its judgment are needed by pupils whose parents are not able to furnish such books. The \$600 limitation in any one year does not apply to such purchases in a common school district operating elementary and high school grades.

(6) FEDERAL AID. Apply for, receive and expend moneys made available to it by any act of congress for agricultural, vocational or military training, for educational facilities, including teaching staff, or for school lunch programs.

(7) EXCHANGE TEACHERS. Exchange any teacher employed by the school district for a teacher employed by a school district in another state or country. No such exchange may be for a longer period than one year. A teacher of this state exchanged under this subsection shall be deemed to have taught during such period in the school district by which he is employed and shall be assessed, for the benefit of the state teachers retirement system, the full amount which would have been assessed against him had he actually taught in such school district.

(8) SCHOOL HOURS. Establish rules scheduling the hours of each school day during which the schools of the school district shall be in session. The school board may differentiate between the various elementary and high school grades in scheduling such school hours.

(9) ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS. Contract with or employ architects and engineers for the preparation of plans and specifications for school buildings, structures and other improvements to school district property and for all other related services.

(10) SCHOOL LUNCHESES. Furnish school lunches to pupils and pay for such lunches out of school district funds. The school board may charge pupils and employes for the cost of school lunches.

(11) NURSES AND DENTISTS. (a) In counties having a population of less than 500,000, employ public health nurses and licensed dentists who shall be under the supervision of the local and state boards of health.

(b) In counties having a population of 500,000 or more, employ qualified public health nurses and licensed dentists who shall co-operate with the local and state boards of health.

(12) HISTORICAL RECORDS. Under s. 44.09, transfer title to any school records to the state historical society which are no longer needed for the proper administration of the school district

and which the society determines are of permanent historical interest.

(13) PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSES. Establish and maintain classes for children less than 4 years of age under such regulations as it prescribes. The school board may accept and receive federal funds for such purpose and expend such funds in conformity with the purposes and requirements thereof. The school board may charge a reasonable fee for attendance at such classes but may waive the fee or any portion thereof to any person who is unable to make payment.

(14) KINDERGARTEN. In a common school district operating elementary grades or operating elementary and high school grades, establish and maintain a kindergarten. The kindergarten shall constitute a school of the school district and may not be discontinued unless the kindergarten enrollment for the preceding year was less than 15. The school board may discontinue kindergarten classes for 4-year olds.

(15) SPECIAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES. In a union high school district or a common school district operating elementary and high school grades, establish and maintain courses in industrial arts, home economics, agriculture or commercial subjects.

(16) SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATION; FEE. Pay the membership fee in an organization of school boards in this state and the actual and necessary expenses of its representatives incurred in attending meetings of such organization.

(17) PUBLIC MEETINGS; LIABILITY. Grant the request of any responsible resident of the school district to use a schoolhouse in the school district for such public meetings as, in the judgment of the school board, will aid in disseminating intelligence and promoting good morals. The applicant shall be primarily, and the school board members secondarily, liable to the school district for any injury to property and for any expense incurred in consequence of any such use of a schoolhouse.

(18) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES. Grant the use of a schoolhouse in the school district for lectures, entertainments and school exercises held under the auspices of and for the benefit of the school and permit an admission fee to be charged.

(19) USE OF PROPERTY FOR FEES. Grant the use of school buildings and grounds to any responsible organization for public meetings to which an admission price is demanded, and to charge for such use an amount fixed by the school board and grant the use of school property during nonschool hours to religious organizations upon payment of reasonable fees and upon such conditions as the board determines, if such use does not interfere with the prime use of the school property. Amounts so received shall be

paid into the school district treasury to constitute part of the general fund and to be used for the benefit of the schools of the school district.

(20) CIVIC ACTIVITIES. Provide for the free use of school property for civic, social and recreational activities which do not interfere with the prime use thereof. The use of school buildings shall not be granted for public dancing, if a majority of the electors of the school district object in writing or if a resolution against public dancing in the school buildings has been adopted at an annual meeting.

(21) LECTURES. Provide free lectures on educational subjects in school buildings, public library buildings or other suitable places, and provide for the further education of the adult residents of the school district. The school board may purchase books, stationery, charts and other things necessary to conduct such lectures and may designate a person to manage such lectures.

History: 1973 c 94, 290

See note to Art. X, sec. 3, citing *Pacyna v. Board of Education*, 57 W (2d) 562, 204 NW (2d) 671

120.14 Audit of school district accounts.

In a common or union high school district:

(1) At the close of each fiscal year, the school board of each school district shall authorize an audit of the school district accounts pursuant to sub. (2) or employ a licensed accountant to audit the school district accounts and certify the audit. The cost of the audit shall be paid from school district funds.

(2) The school board may request the department of revenue in accordance with s. 73.10 (5) to audit the school district accounts, install a system of accounts and advise and make recommendations concerning existing systems of accounts.

(3) The annual meeting may authorize and direct an audit of the school district accounts either by a licensed accountant or by the department of revenue.

History: 1971 c 108 ss. 5, 6; 1971 c 125 s. 523

120.15 School district president; duties.

The school district president of a common or union high school district shall:

(1) Countersign all checks for disbursement of school district moneys.

(2) Defend on behalf of the school district all actions brought against the school district.

(3) Prosecute, when authorized by an annual meeting or the school board, actions brought by the school district.

(4) Prosecute an action for the recovery of any forfeiture incurred under this title in which the school district is interested. If the school district president has incurred the forfeiture, such action shall be prosecuted by the school district treasurer. Of the net sum recovered

120.15 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

2308

under such action, one-half shall be paid into the school district treasury and one-half to the county treasury for the benefit of the school fund.

(5) Act as chairman of school board meetings and see that minutes of the meetings are properly recorded, approved and signed.

120.16 School district treasurer; duties.

The school district treasurer of a common or union high school district shall:

(1) Within 15 days after his election execute and either file a bond executed by 2 qualified sureties approved by the school board or file a surety company bond in an amount determined by the school board, but at least equal to 5% of the annual school district budget. In no case may the bond be less than \$1,000. If the school board so determines, the school district treasurer within 15 days thereafter shall file additional personal or surety bonds in such greater amounts as the school board requires. The school district treasurer may purchase surety company bonds with school district funds.

(2) Apply for, receive and sue for all money appropriated to or collected for the school district and disburse the same in accordance with this subsection and s. 66.042. Disbursements from the school district treasury shall be made by the school district treasurer upon the written order of the school district clerk after proper vouchers have been filed with the school district clerk. Such disbursements shall be by check and no check is valid nor may it be released to the payee unless signed by the school district clerk and school district treasurer and countersigned by the school district president. In a school district having 5 or more school board members, another school board member may countersign such checks in lieu of the school district president. No check may be drawn for the payment of which money has not been appropriated according to law. The school district treasurer may receive money raised in extracurricular activities. The school board may by resolution authorize the use of facsimile signatures as provided in s. 66.042 (3). A certified copy of such resolution shall be filed with the school district clerk and the public depository concerned.

(3) Enter in his account books all money received and disbursed by him, specifying the source from which it was received, the person to whom it was paid and the object for which it was paid.

(4) Present to the annual meeting a written statement of all money received and disbursed by him during the preceding year.

(5) Immediately upon receipt, deposit the funds of the school district in the name of the

school district in the public depository designated by the school board. Failure to comply with this subsection shall be prima facie grounds for removal from office. When such funds are so deposited, the school district treasurer and his bondsmen are not liable for losses as defined in s. 34.01 (6). The interest derived from such funds shall be paid into the school district treasury.

(6) Annually on or before June 30 make payments out of general property taxes collected for the district to the state treasurer to make settlement for any amounts certified to him by the state superintendent under s. 121.08 (3).

History: 1973 c. 90

120.17 School district clerk; duties. The school district clerk of a common or union high school district shall:

(1) Report the name and post-office address of each officer of the school district, within 10 days after the election or appointment of the officer, to the clerk and treasurer of each municipality having territory within the school district.

(2) Act as clerk and record the proceedings of annual and special meetings.

(3) Enter in the record book provided by the school board the minutes of its meetings, orders, resolutions and other proceedings.

(4) Enter in the record book copies of all his reports to the municipal clerks and the certificate of the proceedings of a meeting returned by a temporary clerk.

(5) Draw orders on the school district treasurer as directed by an annual or special meeting or the school board and record all orders drawn on the school district treasurer.

(6) At the expense of the school district, furnish a school register, in the form prescribed by the department, for the use of each teacher employed by the school district, require its return to him at the expiration of the teacher's employment and preserve the register with the records of the school district.

(7) Furnish each teacher with a copy of the contract between him and the school board.

(8) (a) Annually on or before the last working day in October, deliver to the clerk of each municipality having territory within the school district a certified statement showing that proportion of the amount of taxes voted and not before reported, and that proportion of the amount of tax to be collected in such year, if any, for the annual payment of any loan to be assessed on that part of the school district territory lying within the municipality. Such proportion shall be determined from the full values certified to the school district clerk under s. 121.06 (2).

(b) When the equalized valuation of that part of a municipality lying within the school district

is reduced in any one year to an amount below its equalized valuation of the previous year because of the destruction or removal of taxable property which results in an excessively inequitable apportionment of the school district tax levy on the remaining taxable property of the municipality, the school district clerk shall notify the supervisor of assessments. If the supervisor of assessments finds that an inequitable apportionment will result, he shall reduce the equalized valuation of the previous year by the full value of the property so destroyed or removed and certify the resulting equalized valuation to the state superintendent and the school district clerk for use in computing the tax levy certifications under this subsection.

(bm) If the equalized valuation of that part of a municipality lying within a school district is reduced due to the removal of property from the tax roll because the imposition of the property tax on that property is found unconstitutional, the school district clerk shall notify the supervisor of assessments. The supervisor of assessments shall reduce the equalized valuation by the full value of the property so removed and certify the resulting equalized valuation to the state superintendent and the school district clerk for use in computing the tax levy certifications under this subsection. Corrections may be made under this paragraph only for the valuations used by the department of public instruction for the last 2 school years.

(c) If an order of school district reorganization or an ordinance of annexation is effective after May 1 and before October 1 of any year, the school district clerks of the school districts affected shall prepare the certified statement under par. (a) based on the equalized valuation of the school districts as altered by the order and related to the equalized valuation of the year upon which the tax levy is required to be made. If the school district clerk has filed such statement prior to the effective date of the order, he shall file a corrected certification which shall be accepted by the clerks of the municipalities affected and acted upon by them as provided in par. (a). Failure of the school district clerk to file a corrected certification of the levy based on the equalized valuation of each of the municipalities or portions thereof within the school district shall be corrected by the school district clerk by an appropriate adjustment in the levy certified in the following year.

(9) Within 5 days after receipt of notification from the school board of the name of a new school, notify the proper postmaster of the name and location of the school and the number of the school district. If a school is not located on a mail route, the school district clerk shall furnish the postmaster with the names of persons to whom

the mail for the school may be delivered. The school board may rent a lock box at school district expense for each school not on a mail route. The school district clerk shall notify the postmaster of school vacations and shall direct what disposition shall be made of the school mail during vacations.

(10) Have authority to administer the oath of office to school board members.

History: 1971 c. 56; 1973 c. 61, 90.

(8) (b) applies only when equalized valuation decreases
60 Atty Gen 251

120.18 Annual school district report.

Annually at such times as the department prescribes but on or before August 15, the school district clerk of a common or union high school district shall file a verified annual school district report with the department, on forms supplied by the department. At the beginning of the school term, the school district clerk shall send a copy of the annual school district report to the school district administrator and shall notify the person in charge of each school in the school district that the reports are on file in the school district clerk's office. If the school district clerk neglects to make the annual report, he shall be liable to the school district for the whole amount of money lost by the school district because of his neglect. The annual report shall contain:

(1) Except in a union high school district, the school census, showing the names and ages of children between the ages of 4 and 20 residing in the school district, and the names of their parents or other persons with whom such children resided as of June 30. Children cared for at a charitable or penal institution of this state may not be included in the report. The school district clerk may employ a competent person to take the school census.

(2) The number of children between the ages of 4 and 20 taught in the schools of the school district during the school year.

(3) The number of children attending the schools of the school district during the school year under the age of 4 and over the age of 20 years.

(4) The number of school days taught, including holidays, by teachers legally qualified to teach.

(5) The names of all teachers employed by the school district during the school year; the number of days taught by each, including holidays; the monthly salary paid to each; and the time allowed each teacher for attendance at an educational convention for which no wages were deducted.

(6) The amount of money received during the school year, designating separately the amount received from the school fund income, from taxes

120.18 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

2310

levied by the county board, from taxes voted by the school district and from all other sources and the manner in which such money was expended, showing separately the expenditure of school money received from the state.

(7) The amount and character of school district debts.

(8) Such other facts and statistics in relation to the schools, public or private, in the school district as the department requires.

120.19 School building corporations. (1) In order to provide school buildings and equipment for elementary or high schools and to enable the construction, financing and ultimate acquisition thereof, the school board of a common or union high school district may, when authorized to do so by an annual meeting, make agreements with nonprofit corporations as follows:

(a) The school board may convey, sell or lease part of a school site owned by the school district to the corporation which shall construct and equip a school building on the land designated by the school board. The school board then may lease the land and the building from the corporation for the use of the school district.

(b) The corporation by purchase or gift may acquire land not owned by the school district and construct and equip school buildings on the land designated by the school board. The school board then may lease the land and buildings from the corporation for the use of the school district.

(2) Leases under this section shall be for periods not exceeding 20 years and shall be based on conditions approved by the school board as to annual rental, maintenance and ultimate purchase by the school district.

(3) Buildings, equipment, improvements and the leasehold interest in land designated by the school board under this section shall be exempt from taxation.

(4) (a) The corporation may issue revenue bonds in such amount as is required to pay for the purchase of sites and the construction and equipping of school buildings, and may issue refunding bonds to retire existing bonds at current value and pay the cost of construction of enlargements or improvements to such buildings and construct and equip additional buildings. Additional revenue bonds may be issued to pay the cost of construction of enlargements, additions or improvements.

(b) The bonds may be secured by a pledge of the revenues received from the rental of the school buildings to the school district.

(5) A school board may organize a nonprofit corporation under this section and ch. 181. The corporation shall have the powers enumerated in ch. 181 insofar as applicable. School board

members may serve as incorporators, directors and officers of such corporation.

120.21 School board contracts for courses. (1) The school board of a union high school district or a common school district operating elementary and high school grades may contract:

(a) With the university extension division of the university of Wisconsin for extension courses for pupils enrolled in high school.

(b) With flight operator schools, approved by the U. S. civil aeronautics administration, for courses in flight instruction approved by the state superintendent.

(2) The cost of such contracts shall be paid out of school district funds and shall be included in the cost of operation and maintenance of the school district for the purpose of computing tuition costs.

120.22 On-farm training to veterans. The school board of a union high school district or a common school district operating elementary and high school grades may provide institutional on-farm training to veterans who are eligible for such training under any act of congress and may charge tuition on the basis of the cost per week to each veteran enrolled for all classroom, group, individual or other instruction recognized by the veterans administration in the payment of education and training allowances.

120.23 Joint ownership of school building. The electors of a union high school district and of a common school district operating only elementary grades and included within the union high school district territory may direct their respective school boards to jointly erect and maintain school buildings for the elementary and high school grades. If such an agreement is made, the school district administrator of the union high school district shall be the administrative head of both schools.

SUBCHAPTER II**CITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

120.40 Applicability. School districts operating under this subchapter are city school districts.

120.41 General provisions. (1) General school law governs the schools of a city school district, insofar as applicable and in harmony with this subchapter. Every city operating a school system under this subchapter is a single and separate school district, but the school system does not constitute a separate legal

entity. Territory outside a city which is joined with city territory in the formation of a city school district is attached to the city for school purposes and such a school district constitutes a joint city school district.

(2) No city school district may be created or abolished except under ss. 117.02, 117.04 and 120.50.

(3) Any territory of a city operating a city school district which lies within another school district shall not pay school tax within such city. The electors residing in territory which lies within the other school district shall continue to vote on school matters within such other school district and shall not vote on any matter relating to the city school district.

120.42 Number of school board members. A city school district operating elementary grades may have 3 or 5 school board members. A city school district operating elementary and high schools grades may have 3, 5, 7 or 9 school board members. A city school board which is not elected at large may have additional school board members.

120.43 Method of selecting school board members. (1) (a) School board members shall be electors of the school district and may be elected at large or by aldermanic districts at the spring election, may be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the common council or may be appointed by the common council. A plan of apportionment of school board members may be adopted in accordance with s. 120.02 (2).

(b) School board members are city officials. Prior to taking office, they shall take and file the official oath.

(2) Electors residing in any territory attached to the city for school purposes may be elected or appointed to and may serve upon the school board in the same manner as electors of the city.

(a) If city school board members are elected by aldermanic districts, each municipality in the attached territory shall elect the same number of school board members as are elected from each city aldermanic district.

(b) If city school board members are appointed by the mayor or the common council, the mayor or common council shall appoint from the entire attached territory a number of school board members obtained by dividing the latest census of population of the attached territory by the city population per city school board member, with a major fraction counting as an additional school board member. The attached territory shall have at least one school board member.

(3) Nomination papers shall be required for electors residing in the attached territory seeking election to the school board. The nomination papers shall be filed with the city clerk in accordance with the laws governing the filing of nomination papers for city officers.

(4) (a) The city clerk shall prepare all ballots for the election of school board members, including ballots solely for the attached territory when the school board is not elected at large.

(b) Voting machines may be used in an election of school board members if an entire ward is included. For a partial ward a special poll list shall be prepared by the appropriate municipal clerk and printed ballots shall be supplied by the city clerk.

(5) When an order of school district reorganization attaching territory to a city school district becomes effective, the first additional members on the school board required under sub. (2) (a) or (b) shall be appointed in accordance with s. 17.26 (2).

(6) The regular terms of school board members shall be for 3 years. Unexpired terms shall be filled in accordance with s. 17.26 (2). School board members selected for regular terms shall take office, provided they have taken and filed the official oath, on July 1. School board members appointed for unexpired terms under s. 17.26 (2) shall take office immediately upon their having taken and filed the official oath.

History: 1971 c. 304 s. 29 (1), (2)

120.44 Changing number or method of selection of school board members. (1) Within the limitations prescribed in s. 120.42, the number of members of a school board in a city school district or their method of selection, or both, may be changed by any of the following methods:

(a) By adoption of an ordinance by the common council and approval of the ordinance at a referendum of the electors of the city school district.

(b) By adoption of an ordinance initiated under s. 9.20.

(c) By adoption of a resolution by the electors of the city school district at a referendum initiated by a petition signed by 300 electors of the city school district.

(2) An ordinance or resolution under sub. (1) may provide for a plan under either par. (a) or (b) and the provisions thereof shall be set forth in the ordinance or resolution.

(a) The plan may provide that school board members shall be chosen at large at the spring election for terms of 3 years beginning the succeeding July 1. If the number of school board members is increased, the city clerk shall prepare

120.44 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

2312

an election plan under s. 120.02 (3) and, prior to the first election of such additional members, he shall publish notice of the plan as a class 1 notice, under ch. 985. They shall be nominated and elected as are other city officials.

(b) The plan may provide that a school board consisting of 3, 5, 7 or 9 members shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the common council or appointed by the common council, whichever method is provided in the ordinance or resolution.

120.45 Attached territory; elections. The electors residing in territory attached to a city for school purposes may vote on all school matters, including the borrowing of money for school purposes, which are voted upon by the electors residing in the city. Electors residing in such attached territory may vote at the polling place where they vote at state, municipal and judicial elections or at any other convenient polling place agreed upon by the city clerk and the clerk of the municipality whose electors are concerned. Such electors may initiate and sign petitions pertaining to city bonds for school purposes as provided in s. 67.05 (7) (b). When a school matter is to be voted upon, the city clerk shall ascertain from the clerks of the municipalities in which the attached territory lies the number of ballots each municipality will require and shall prepare and supply sufficient ballots for such purpose at the city's expense. Upon receipt of the election returns, the clerks of such municipalities shall certify to the city clerk the results of an election at which a school matter is voted upon, including the election of school board members.

120.46 School board election by classes.

(1) In a joint city school district, the school board may be elected by classes if the school district meets all of the following requirements:

(a) It contains a city of the 2nd class and territory of one or more adjacent cities and one village all of which was attached to the city for school purposes by an order of school district reorganization.

(b) Prior to such attachment, the school board consisted of 7 members elected at large.

(c) Following the attachment, the school board was enlarged to 9 members to provide representation of the village on the school board.

(2) Upon the call of the mayor of the city containing the largest equalized valuation in the joint city school district, the governing bodies of the cities and village shall meet jointly, under the chairmanship of such mayor and each municipality shall have the number of votes prescribed in s. 120.50 (2). Upon a majority vote, the joint meeting may divide the 9-member school board into 2 classes, as follows:

(a) One class shall consist of 7 members elected at large by the entire school district, who shall be residents of the city of the 2nd class or the territory of the adjacent cities.

(b) The other class shall consist of 2 members elected at large by the entire school district, who shall be residents of the village.

(3) The joint meeting shall designate which of the existing school board positions shall be placed into each class.

(4) After action by the joint meeting, the clerk of the city of the 2nd class shall prepare all subsequent election notices and ballots which shall indicate the classifications, the positions to be filled thereunder and the candidates therefor.

(5) The positions shall be filled by the candidates in each respective class who receive the largest plurality of votes from the school district at large.

(6) The election of school board members by classes under this section may be terminated at a joint meeting held in accordance with sub. (2). Thereafter, the school board shall be elected from the school district at large.

120.48 School board meetings. (1) The school board in a city school district shall hold regular monthly meetings at such times as it prescribes by rule. Special meetings may be held under rules adopted by the school board. The school board shall inform the public of its regular monthly meetings, either by publication of a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, with the specific exception that insertion thereof need not be at least one week before the meeting, or by other means which may include posting. All school board meetings shall be open to the public, except as provided in s. 66.77 and except that the public shall be excluded from a hearing before the school board on charges against an employe, if requested by the employe against whom the charges are preferred.

(2) Annually, the school board in a city school district shall elect a school board president and school board vice president from among its members and a school district clerk who need not be a member of the school board. The city treasurer shall be the school district treasurer.

(3) Annually, the school district clerk shall file the report required under s. 120.18.

(4) Except in school districts operating under ch. 119, the proceedings of a school board meeting in a city school district shall be published within 45 days after the meeting as a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, in a newspaper published in the city. If no newspaper is published in the city, the proceedings may be publicized as the school board directs. The publication of the proceedings shall include a

statement of each receipt and expenditure exceeding \$100 except salaries, which may be listed in the aggregate.

(5) Before the annual city budget is prepared, the governing body or, where applicable, the fiscal board under s. 120.50 of a city operating a school system under this subchapter may fix the amount of compensation of school board members for the ensuing year and until changed, which amount shall be included in the annual city school budget and tax.

120.49 School board powers and duties.

In a city school district the school board shall have the powers and be charged with the duties of the school board of a common school district, as far as the same are not otherwise provided for or limited by statute. The school board of a city school district may:

(1) **SCHOOLS AND COURSES.** Establish, organize and grade the high schools, elementary schools, night schools and kindergartens and prescribe the courses to be taught therein.

(2) **RULES.** Adopt rules for its meetings and deliberations and for the government of the schools, including rules pertaining to conduct and dress of pupils in order to maintain good decorum and favorable academic atmosphere, the faculty and other school board employes.

(3) **EMPLOYES.** (a) Employ a school district superintendent for a period of not more than 3 years, an assistant superintendent, principals and teachers.

(b) The school board may employ janitors and engineers and other needed help to care for the school buildings and other school property.

(c) The school board may fix the compensation and prescribe the duties of all persons employed or appointed by the school board.

(4) **PROPERTY AND BUDGET.** (a) Estimate the expenses of the schools and prepare a budget, purchase sites for school buildings or other school uses and construct buildings or additions thereto. Any action under this paragraph shall be submitted to the common council for approval or, where applicable, the fiscal board under s. 120.50. Deeds and leases taken shall be in the name of the city and the title to all school property shall vest in the city.

(b) The school board may select sites and employ architects and engineers for the preparation of plans and specifications for school buildings and adopt such plans and specifications.

(c) An agreement made by the school board under s. 120.13 (3) shall be approved by the common council or, where applicable, the fiscal board under s. 120.50.

(d) All money appropriated for school purposes shall be under the direction of and shall be expended by the school board.

(5) **EQUIPMENT.** Purchase and preserve necessary school equipment and apparatus.

(6) **INSURANCE.** Provide for accident insurance covering pupils in the school district. Such insurance shall not be paid from school district funds unless the expenditure is authorized by the common council or, where applicable, the fiscal board under s. 120.50.

(7) **TEXTBOOKS.** (a) Determine the textbooks to be used in the schools and keep a list of such books in the school board office. The school board shall not change such textbooks within 3 years of adoption, unless the school district furnishes free textbooks.

(b) The school board may purchase textbooks and fix the terms and conditions under which they are furnished to pupils, but no book may be used or permitted which tends to teach sectarian ideas.

(8) **UTILITIES.** Contract for the necessary fuel, light, water and supplies for the schools.

(9) **SCHOOL LUNCHEES.** Furnish school lunches to pupils at cost. School lunches may be furnished to needy pupils at such prices and on such conditions as the school board prescribes, but the fact that such lunches are furnished to some pupils at less than cost shall not be disclosed to others.

(10) **PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSES.** Establish and maintain classes for children under 4 years of age in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the school board. The school board may accept and receive federal funds for the operation of such classes and expend such funds in conformity with the purposes and requirements thereof. The school board may charge a reasonable fee for attendance at such classes in order to sustain the classes but may waive such fee or any portion thereof to any person who is unable to make such payment.

(11) **SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATION; FEE.** Pay the membership fee of the school board in an organization of school boards in this state, and the actual and necessary expenses of its representatives in annually attending a meeting of such organization.

120.50 Fiscal board. (1) Whenever an order of school district reorganization under s. 117.02 or 117.03 affecting a city school district becomes effective, the aldermen, town chairman and village president of the municipalities affected by the reorganization shall determine by the voting method prescribed in sub. (2), whether to:

(a) Abolish the city school district and create a common school district or a unified school

120.50 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

2314

district containing the territory of the city school district. If a determination is made under this paragraph, the city clerk shall transmit a certified copy of the determination to the state superintendent who shall make an order in accordance therewith and file it as provided in s. 117.01 (2) (c).

(b) Continue as a city school district with the fiscal control of the school district exercised by a fiscal board constituted under sub. (2).

(2) The fiscal board shall exercise fiscal control of the city school district in the following manner:

(a) Each town chairman and village president shall have one vote for each full \$200,000 of equalized valuation and remaining major fraction thereof of the school district within his town or village, but in no case shall a town chairman or village president have less than one vote.

(b) Each mayor of a city having territory which lies within a city school district operated by another city shall have one vote for each full \$200,000 of equalized valuation and remaining major fraction thereof of the school district within his city, but in no case shall the mayor have less than one vote.

(c) The aldermen of the city operating the city school district shall have one vote for each full \$200,000 of equalized valuation and remaining major fraction thereof of the school district within the city. Each alderman present at a meeting of the fiscal board shall have the number of votes determined by dividing the total number of votes to which the aldermen are entitled by the total number of aldermen present at such meeting.

(3) The fiscal board shall have the power to approve the school budget, to levy the general property tax for school purposes and to exercise all other fiscal controls over the city school district which were exercised by the common council prior to the establishment of the fiscal board.

(4) (a) Not less than 48 hours prior to a meeting of the fiscal board, the city clerk shall notify in writing each alderman, town chairman, village president and mayor under sub. (2) (b) of the time and place of the meeting.

(b) If a town chairman, village president or mayor under sub. (2) (b) is temporarily incapacitated by illness or accident or will be absent from the school district at the time of the meeting of the fiscal board, he shall so notify the town board, village board or common council which then may appoint and certify in writing to the city clerk at the meeting of the fiscal board a suitable person to attend the meeting and to vote in the place of the town chairman, village president or mayor under sub. (2) (b).

(5) By the adoption of a resolution effective at the end of a school fiscal year, the fiscal board may abolish the city school district and fiscal board and create a common school district or a unified school district containing the territory of the city school district. The city clerk shall transmit a certified copy of such resolution to the state superintendent who shall make an order in accordance therewith and file it as provided in s. 117.01 (2) (c).

(6) An action under sub. (1) or (5) affecting a city school district whose territory contains a village is not effective until approved by the village board.

120.51 Tax levy. (1) Annually, on or before September 30, the school board in a city school district shall make an estimate of the expenses of the public schools for the ensuing year and the amount which must be raised by city taxation and shall certify the estimate to the city clerk who shall submit the estimate to the common council at its next meeting. The common council shall consider such estimate and, by resolution, shall determine and levy the amount to be raised by city taxation for school purposes for the ensuing year. Such amount shall be included in the annual city budget and shall be called the "City School Tax".

(2) In a city school district having a fiscal board, the city clerk shall submit the school board estimate made under sub. (1) to the fiscal board at its next meeting. The fiscal board shall consider the estimate and, by resolution, shall determine and levy the amount to be raised by taxation for school purposes for the ensuing year.

120.52 Special tax levy; attached territory. (1) When all or part of the territory of a common school district, union high school district or unified school district is attached to a city school district and the net excess of noncapital assets over the net noncapital liabilities allocable to such attached territory under s. 66.03 (2c), as of the effective date of the attachment, is not equal to the attached territory's proportionate share of the cost of operation and maintenance of the reorganized city school district for the period between the effective date of the attachment and January 1 next succeeding such date, the school board of the reorganized city school district shall forthwith determine and certify to the city clerk an amount of a special tax to be assessed and entered against the territory, describing it, attached to the city school district. The amount determined and certified, as of the effective date of the attachment, shall be the sum of:

(a) The excess, if any, of the noncapital liabilities over the noncapital assets of the attached territory; and

(b) The amount by which the noncapital assets of the attached territory is less than the proportionate share of the operation and maintenance tax that such attached territory would bear for cost of operation and maintenance if it had been a part of the city school district at the time of the approval of the last city school district budget computed for the period of time between the effective date of the attachment and the next succeeding January 1.

(2) The city clerk to whom such tax was certified shall forthwith certify such tax to the clerk of each municipality in which such specially taxed territory lies and the municipal clerk shall assess and enter such special tax on the tax roll as other taxes are assessed and entered. The amount of the special tax shall be computed on the basis of the ratio of the equalized valuation of the attached territory to the total equalized valuation of the reorganized city school district. This subsection does not affect the apportionment of assets and liabilities under s. 66.03.

120.53 Taxation of attached territory. (1)

All property attached to a city for school purposes shall be taxed for such purposes the same as property within the city. The equalized valuation of the property of each municipality lying within the city school district shall be the equalized valuation certified under s. 121.06 (2).

(2) Annually, the city clerk shall ascertain the total taxes levied for city school district purposes and shall apportion to property attached for school purposes its proportionate share thereof, based upon the equalized valuation of all property subject to such taxes within the city school district. Such proportionate amount shall be certified to the clerk of each municipality having territory attached to the city for school purposes and such amount shall be entered on the tax roll, collected and returned in accordance with s. 120.17 (8).

120.54 Disbursements. In a city school district, the city clerk shall keep separate accounts of all money raised and apportioned for city school purposes and such money shall be disbursed in accordance with this section and s. 66.042. The school board shall present to the city clerk a certified bill, voucher or schedule, signed by the school board president and school district clerk, giving the name of the claimant and the amount and nature of each claim. Upon such certification, the city clerk shall issue proper

orders to the city treasurer, who shall pay them from the proper funds.

120.55 Construction work. (1) In a city school district the construction of school buildings shall be let by the school board to the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with s. 62.15, and for that purpose the school board shall possess the powers conferred by s. 62.15 on the board of public works.

(2) In a city school district the alteration or repair of school buildings or other construction work, the estimated cost of which exceeds \$1,000, may be done under either par. (a) or (b).

(a) The work may be let by the school board to the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with s. 62.15, and for that purpose the school board shall possess the powers conferred by s. 62.15 on the board of public works.

(b) Upon the passage of an ordinance under s. 62.15 the work may be done directly by the school board without submitting it to bids.

120.56 Sinking fund. (1) A city school district may establish a sinking fund for the purpose of financing the construction of school buildings. All money raised by taxation pursuant to this authorization shall be deposited by the city treasurer in a separate fund, designated a sinking fund, to be used to finance the construction of school buildings. Such money shall not be used for any other purpose, except as provided in s. 67.11 (1), nor shall it be transferred to any other fund unless either so authorized by adoption of a resolution by a three-fourths vote of the school board members and the adoption of a resolution by the common council approving the school board resolution or, where applicable, so authorized by a three-fourths vote of the fiscal board under s. 120.50.

(2) In the case of a joint city school district, the proceeds from sale of school property shall be deposited in the sinking fund authorized by sub. (1) to be used and expended as provided in sub. (1).

120.57 Technical, collegiate and evening programs. (1) Upon the adoption of a

resolution by the common council and approval of the resolution by the electors of the city, the common council may establish a technical school or college as a school of the city school district. The resolution shall be submitted to the electors in substantially the same manner as other school matters are submitted. The resolution shall provide for the organization of such school or college and shall confer the management and control of the school or college on the school board of the city school district. The resolution

120.57 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

may be amended or repealed by a resolution submitted and approved in the same manner.

(2) The common council or the school board of a city school district may establish evening and part-time college classes. The common council may appropriate money to maintain such classes and may accept and use donations therefor.

(3) In a city school district having a fiscal board under s. 120.50, any action taken under sub. (1) or (2) shall be by the fiscal board in lieu of the common council.

120.58 Transfer of property. (1) (a) All school property, except vocational school property, of a city or city school district operating under this subchapter and located in a unified school district at the time of the creation of the unified school district, and all school property of a city or city school district which abolishes the city school district and creates a common or unified school district shall be sold by such city or city school district to the unified or common school district at a price equal to the principal amount of the then outstanding obligations of such city issued for school purposes.

(b) The unified school district or common school district may issue bonds or promissory notes pursuant to ch. 67 to pay the cost of purchasing such school property. The city shall deposit the proceeds of the sale of the school property in the sinking fund or funds created for the payment of its obligations issued for school purposes. The indebtedness of the city for the purpose of computing its legal debt limit shall be deemed to be reduced by the amount of such deposit. The municipal treasurer shall invest these sinking fund moneys in the name of the city in accordance with s. 66.04 (2). Bonds and notes issued by school districts for the purposes of this section are not subject to referendum. The purchase agreement shall include an irrevocable clause providing that the school district shall pay annually to the city a sum of money equal to the amount by which the interest received by the city on account of the investment under s. 66.04 (2) is less than the amount of interest paid by the city on the bonds of the city for school purposes other than vocational schools.

(2) With the approval of the common council of the city affected, a unified or common school district required to purchase school property under this section may pay the purchase price by issuing and delivering directly to the city one or more general obligation promissory notes of the school district pursuant to the provisions, including an irrevocable tax levy, of s. 67.12 (12), but no right to a referendum exists on the school board resolution directing the issuance of such notes and the 10-year limitation of time for payment is not applicable to such notes. Such

notes shall mature and be payable at such times, in such amounts and at such a rate of interest as will amortize and pay when due the principal and interest on the then outstanding obligations of the city issued for school purposes. Upon execution and delivery to the city, all such notes shall be held and considered as an authorized investment, under s. 66.04 (2), of the sinking fund created for payment of the city obligations issued for school purposes and shall be offset against city indebtedness in computing the city's legal debt limit to the same extent as other authorized investments of the sinking fund. Such notes may be sold and hypothecated. If the offset against any city's indebtedness under this subsection is determined to be invalid in any respect, such city immediately may require the school district issuing promissory notes under this subsection to the city to comply with sub. (1).

(1) A city which issued multipurpose bonds cannot, by attributing repayments of principal to the items other than school purposes so as to create a larger liability under this section. The repayments must be apportioned to the various purposes in proportion to the amounts borrowed for each purpose. *Kenosha v. Unified School Dist. No. 1*, 55 W (2d) 642, 201 NW (2d) 66

120.61 Use of school buildings and grounds for civic purposes.

(1) Boards of school directors in cities of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd class may, on their own initiative, and shall, upon petition as provided in sub. (2), establish and maintain for children and adult persons, in the school buildings and on the school grounds under the custody and management of such boards, evening schools, vacation schools, reading rooms, library stations, debating clubs, gymnasiums, public playgrounds, public baths and similar activities and accommodations to be determined by such boards; and may cooperate, by agreement, with other commissioners or boards having the custody and management in such cities of public parks, libraries, museums and public buildings and grounds of whatever sort, to provide the equipment, supervision, instruction and oversight necessary to carry on such public educational and recreational activities in and upon such other buildings and grounds.

(2) Upon the filing of a petition with the city clerk, signed by not less than 10% of the number of voters voting at the last school or other election in such city, the question of exercising the powers granted for any of the purposes specified in sub. (1) shall be submitted to the electors of the school district at the next election of any sort held therein, and if a majority of the votes cast upon such question shall be in the affirmative, the board of school directors shall exercise said powers in accordance with said petition, pursuant to this section.

(3) The board shall report to the common council at or before its first meeting in September of each year in cities of the 2nd and 3rd class, and at or before its 2nd regular meeting in October of each year in cities of the 1st class, the amount of money required during the next fiscal year for the support of such activities and thereupon, subject to sub. (5), the common council shall levy and collect a special tax in the manner that other taxes are levied and collected, equal to the amount of money so required; but said tax shall not in any one year exceed the maximum mill tax rate prescribed for the school extension fund in s. 65.07, for all the activities conducted in said city pursuant to this section, and said tax shall not be used or appropriated, directly or indirectly, for any other purpose.

(4) All moneys received by or raised in such city for the purposes mentioned in this section shall be paid over to the city treasurer, to be disbursed by him, in the manner that other funds at the disposal of such board of school directors in such city are disbursed.

(5) The tax provided for in sub. (3) shall not be levied or collected until after the question of the levy and collection of such tax shall have been submitted to the qualified school electors of such city pursuant to law, at some regular or special election, and shall have been favorably voted by a majority of those voting upon such question at such election. After a favorable vote on such question, as provided above, such tax shall be levied and collected annually until the voters of the school district of such city shall, by majority vote, order the discontinuance thereof. The question of such discontinuance shall be submitted in the manner the question of authorizing the levy and collection of the said tax is required by law to be submitted.

(6) The board may receive and expend for the purposes of this section any sums of money appropriated by the common council of such city for such purposes, and the common council may appropriate from the general or a similar fund to said board such sums of money as said council deems expedient for the purposes of this section.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the board from granting the use of school property to religious organizations under s. 120.13 (19).

History: 1971 c. 152s 31; 1973 c. 290.

SUBCHAPTER III

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

120.70 Applicability. This subchapter applies to unified school districts.

120.71 Establishment; powers of school district. (1) A unified school district may be established in accordance with ss. 117.04, 117.07 or 120.50 (1) (a) or (5). Upon the establishment of a unified school district, all school districts from which it was formed shall thereupon cease to exist, and all property, assets, claims, contracts, liabilities and obligations of such school districts, except those of a city or city school district operating under subch. II, shall thereupon become the property, assets, claims, contracts, liabilities and obligations of the unified school district.

(2) A unified school district is a body corporate with the power to sue and be sued, to levy and collect taxes, to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to do all other things reasonable for the performance of its functions in operating a system of public education.

120.72 Composition of school board. The school board of a unified school district shall be composed of 5, 7 or 9 members as designated in the order of school district reorganization creating the unified school district. The number of school board members may be changed in accordance with s. 120.02 (1). A plan of apportionment of school board members may be adopted in accordance with s. 120.02 (2).

120.73 Election of school board members. (1) (a) School board members in a unified school district shall be electors of the school district and shall be elected at large by a plurality vote of the electors of the school district. School board members shall be elected under s. 120.06 at the spring election.

(b) The regular terms of school board members shall be for 3 years. School board members elected for regular or unexpired terms shall take office, provided they have taken and filed the official oath, on the July 1 next following the election. Elections to fill unexpired terms shall be held simultaneously with the elections for regular terms, the regular terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the highest number of votes and the unexpired terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the next highest number of votes.

(c) All vacancies shall be filled by appointment, in accordance with s. 17.26 (1). An election to fill the unexpired term shall be held at the next spring election. The appointee shall serve only until the July 1 when the person elected to the unexpired term takes office and has qualified.

(2) The order of school district reorganization creating a unified school district shall designate the date of the first election of school

120.73 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

2318

board members, which shall be subsequent to the effective date of such order. At least 35 days prior to the date of the election, the clerk of the most populous city, village or town lying wholly or partially within the school district shall publish a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, stating the date of the election and the requirements for filing declarations of candidacy. At least 20 days prior to the election, any qualified elector may file with such clerk a written declaration of candidacy for the school board stating that he is a qualified elector. The terms of school board members for the first election shall be determined under s. 120.02 (3) (a) 3 and (b).

120.74 School board meetings. (1) Annually, the school board shall elect a school board president, school board vice president, school district clerk and school district treasurer from among its members and a school board secretary who need not be a member of the school board.

(2) The school board shall meet at least once each month and at other times upon the call of the school board president or upon the filing of a request with the school district clerk signed by a majority of the school board members.

(3) Each school board member may be paid an amount fixed by the school board not

exceeding \$10 for each school board meeting he actually attends.

(4) Proceedings of the school board shall be published in accordance with s. 120.48 (4).

120.75 School board powers and duties.

The public schools of a unified school district shall be under the management, control and supervision of a school board. The school board shall have the powers and duties under ss. 120.12 to 120.17, 120.19 to 120.22 and 120.58, including the power to make rules pertaining to conduct and dress of pupils in order to maintain good decorum and a favorable academic atmosphere. No annual meeting shall be held in a unified school district but the school board shall have the powers of the annual meeting under s. 120.10. Annually, the school district clerk shall file the report required under s. 120.18. The school board shall employ a school district administrator under s. 118.24. The school board shall not, in the name of the school district, issue bonds or incur other indebtedness without approval of the electors of the school district in any instance where the school board of a common school district is not authorized to do so.