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REPORT

OF THE

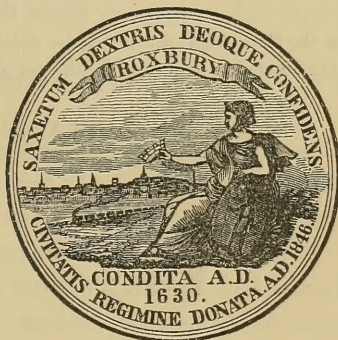
SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

IN RELATION TO

“OUT OF SCHOOL STUDY.”



FEBRUARY, 1855.

ROXBURY:
NORFOLK COUNTY JOURNAL PRESS.
1855.

CITY OF ROXBURY.

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, January 31, 1855.

Dr. Morse presented the petition of Clark I. Gorham, and others, asking the Board to consider the expediency of abolishing the practice of requiring lessons to be studied by the scholars in out-of-school hours ; which was referred to Messrs. Morse and Waldock.

February 28, 1855.

Dr. Waldock, from the Committee, submitted the following Report, which was read, accepted, and ordered to be printed for the use of the Committee and teachers.

JOSHUA SEAVER, Secretary.

R E P O R T .

THE Committee to whom was referred the petition relative to "Out-of-School Study," have to Report,—That, in order to learn, as far as possible, the facts in the case, and the views of the teachers on the subject, they addressed to the several principals of the High and Grammar Schools a note informing them of the preliminary action of the School Committee on the subject, and asking of each teacher such information in regard to his own school as it might be in his power to give, and any views on the whole subject which he might be disposed to communicate to the Committee.

From the replies of the teachers the following facts appear:—

1st. That in the High School for Boys one daily lesson is assigned for out-of-school study, requiring, on an average, from an hour and a quarter to an hour and a half of study for its preparation.

2d. That in the High School for Girls, at present, study at home to the amount of about two hours daily, on an average, is necessary for the accomplishment of the prescribed course of study.

3d. That in all the Grammar Schools lessons are assigned to the upper classes for "out-of-school study."

4th. That the practice of the assistant teachers in these schools is not uniform; some teachers requiring, and some not requiring, study at home.

5th. That in none of these schools would the lessons assigned expressly for study at home require, on an average, more than from thirty to sixty minutes' study for their preparation.

6th. That no teacher says that he has heard any complaint on this subject from parents or guardians, and none say that they have not.

7th. That the teachers of the Grammar Schools differ in opinion as to the importance or necessity of "out-of-school study," and its influence upon the health of scholars. One teacher says—"I advise home study in order that the scholar may be sure to have perfect lessons. I am of opinion that as a general thing boys are not likely to be driven to study too hard."

Another says—"I think there is but one opinion with the teachers in this school upon this subject, and that is, that scholars should be kept diligently at work during the time they are in school, without being required to perform much study out of school. This we lay down as a general proposition, though there may be many individual exceptions to it."

A third writes—"I consider the amount of 'out-of-school study' required of the pupils of the —— School, as not only not injurious to the physical well-being of the pupils, but that it conduces to the acquirement of habits of diligence and foresight, and tends to equalize the results of the varying capacities to a degree that no other method can."

8th. That no teacher recommends any special legislation on the subject by this Board.

In view of, and in connection with the above facts, your Committee are of opinion,—

That in all the schools the programme of daily study should be so arranged, and the pupils be kept so actively employed, that the lessons assigned for study in school

may be prepared in school, and not remain for preparation out of school;

That in the High School for Boys, and in the upper classes of the Grammar Schools for Boys, the amount of "out-of-school study" required of the pupils is not injurious to their health, and is wholesome in its influence upon their character and habits;

That in the High School for Girls a moderate amount of "out-of-school" labor may be necessary for the accomplishment of the prescribed course of study; but that it should be carefully limited, and that not more than one daily lesson or exercise should be left for preparation out of school;

That in the Grammar Schools for Girls no lessons ought to be assigned expressly for "out-of-school study."

They, therefore, submit the following order to that effect:

Ordered, That from and after the passage of this order, no lessons be assigned expressly to be prepared out of school, in the Grammar Schools for Girls.

For the Committee,

JAMES WALDOCK.

