

..Franklin..

# Public Schools

March 1,



1900



Report of the  
Board of Education  
Township of Franklin  
Essex Co., W. V.

..Franklin..

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Report of the  
**Board of Education**  
Township of Franklin  
Essex Co., N. J.

## Calendar.

Friday, June 15, 1900.... . . . .Second Term, 24 weeks, ends.

### SUMMER VACATION—ELEVEN WEEKS.

Tuesday, September 4, 1900.... . . . .First Term, 16 weeks, begins.

Friday, December 21, 1900.... . . . .First Term, 16 weeks, ends.

### WINTER VACATION—ELEVEN DAYS.

Wednesday, January 2, 1901.... . . . .Second Term, 24 weeks, begins.

Friday, June 16, 1901.... . . . .Second Term, 24 weeks, ends.

Tuesday evening, March 21, 1901.... . . . .Annual School Election.

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Park Hall is rented only for purposes approved by the Trustees. The charge for evening entertainments is \$10. This includes the services of the janitor, who must always be admitted, and whose directions concerning safety and good order must be obeyed. Applications should be made to the District Clerk.

EXPENSES.

Teachers' Salaries.....	\$9,710 25
Janitor's Salary.....	866 80
District Clerk.....	215 84
School Supplies.....	309 60
School Books.....	632 89
Building Supplies.....	121 52
Repairs and Improvements to Buildings.....	454 27
Printing .....	95 90
Incidentals .....	19 76
Census .....	60 90
Fuel .....	786 50
Water Rents.....	163 26
Repairs to Pianos.....	7 50
Freight and Expressage.....	33 72
Permanent Improvement.....	94 58
Library Books Purchased.....	149 63
Furniture .....	235 98
Insurance .....	29 23
Cesspools .....	12 00
Legal Expenses.....	5 00
Lectures .....	15 00
Cleaning .....	7 25
Balance with Acquackanonk Collector, written off....	11 60
Interest .....	1,861 88
Bond No. 9 Redeemed.....	1,000 00
Bonds Nos. 3 and 4 Redeemed.....	2,000 00
Balance on hand, Franklin Collector.....	8,259 96
Balance on hand, District Clerk.....	51 14
Balance on hand, People's Bank.....	8 58

\$27,220 54

$$\begin{array}{r} 62,62 \\ 39,22 \\ \hline 101,84 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 7,300 \\ 6,995 \\ \hline 14,295 \end{array}$$

## Balance Sheet.

### ASSETS.

A. H. Van Riper, Collector cash balance.....	\$8,259 96
District Clerk, cash balance.....	51 14
People's Bank, cash balance.....	8 58
Park School.....	29,313 33
Church Street School.....	6,000 00
Passaic Avenue School.....	4,000 00
Park Property.....	20,338 55
Furniture in Schools and Hall.....	4,035 27
Accounts due and unpaid:	
Township Committee.....	114 33
Park Hall Rents.....	42 00
Homestead Rents.....	29 00

\$72,192 16

### LIABILITIES.

Park Property Bonds.....	\$6,000 00
Park School Bonds.....	24,000 00
Church Street School Mortgage.....	2,800 00
Library, balance due appropriation.....	24 51
Surplus .....	39,367 65

\$72,192 16

### INSURANCE POLICIES.

Park Hall Building, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902.....	\$4,000 00
Park Hall Furniture, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902....	750 00
Homestead Building, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902....	3,000 00
Homestead Furniture, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902....	300 00
Passaic Ave. Building, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902..	3,700 00
Passaic Ave. Furniture, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902..	400 00
Church St. Building, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902....	4,500 00
Church St. Furniture, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902....	300 00
Park School Building, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1903..	28,000 00
Park School Furniture, Home Insurance Co., to May 20, 1902..	1,800 00
Franklin Ave. Furniture, Home Insurance Co., to Sept. 20, 1902.	150 00

\$46,900 00

# ANNUAL REPORT.

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Last Year an appropriation of \$11,000 was asked for by the Board of Education. This figure was named after a long and careful consideration of the needs of a growing system of public instruction. The people of the township appropriated \$8,000.

## RESULTS—I. INSUFFICIENT ACCOMMODATION.

With this sum and the additional State appropriation, the system has been kept intact, but has suffered serious hurt. Six years ago (1894), just before entering the new Park School, there were 322 children on the rolls. Today there are 650, or more than double the number. The only additional accommodation provided for the increase has been the opening of two rooms in the Homestead, one in the Park Hall and one in a store on Franklin avenue. These rooms are all in the nature of makeshifts, and ought not to be thought of as permanent. They are neither properly lighted nor ventilated. The Auditorium, likewise, never designed for recitation purposes, has been pressed into service, and is now being used for classrooms. As the only partition is a curtain suspended midway of the hall, recitations conducted in one part can be plainly heard in the other, to the confusion of both teachers and pupils. This same difficulty is experienced in the Homestead.

## 2. SUPPLIES.

The low appropriation has further hurt the schools, in that the books and supplies have not been adequate to the growing needs of the pupils. The buildings and grounds also could not be given adequate attention.

## 3. TEACHERS.

But the real efficiency of any system lies in the quality of the teaching force. The personality of the teacher is the all-important factor in education. Through lack of funds, two experienced teachers had to be released at the beginning of the school year, teachers wholly acceptable in their departments. Later in the year Miss Chase, our drawing teacher, who has served our schools faithfully, left us to take the responsible position of assistant supervisor of drawing in the Newark schools. Superintendent Gilbert, after looking far and wide for a teacher, finally came back to the Franklin schools to get just what he wanted.

However good new teachers may be, they are necessarily lacking in

experience; they do not know our children and our families, nor can they have that interest in our community which comes of longer residence among us. It is, therefore, the very wisest economy to make provision, through a gradual increase of salaries, for keeping those teachers who have been found successfully to meet the needs of the schools.

### PROGRESS.

In spite of drawbacks, however, the schools have been carried on with success. Teachers, both old and new, have served with conscience and fidelity, and have evidently worked with the sole aim of promoting the interests of the schools. With the exception of a certain feeling of unrest, due to the facts above recited, work has progressed favorably and steadily in all departments, and it is confidently expected that the expenses will be well within the appropriation.

### SALARIES.

But it will be readily seen that it is simply impossible to continue our present system without increased accommodations and the ability to hold teachers in continuous service. It may be interesting in this connection to quote from the last report of the County Superintendent. He says: "The average monthly salary paid to female teachers in the county is \$59.92. This, although larger than in any former year, is not enough when the exceptional qualifications of teachers are considered, the high cost of living, and the fact that in making up this average a considerable number of high-salaried, special and High School teachers are counted. It is not too much to expect that the average salary of primary and grammar school teachers in Essex County schools should be \$60 a month, and I confidently expect to see that figure reached before many years." The average salary paid to female teachers in Franklin is \$50.17. This makes our schools the prey of superintendents of surrounding towns, in all of which, at least in our immediate neighborhood, higher average salaries are paid, ranging from \$69.33 in Montclair to our own figure.

### RAPID GROWTH.

At the beginning of the school year, in September, it was found necessary to limit the attendance in each kindergarten to 30 and in each first primary room to 40. Even with this limitation, the present enrollment shows an increase of 36 over that of last year. Had no limit been placed, the increase would undoubtedly have been larger.

Owing to the crowded condition of the second year primary at the beginning of the year, a new room had to be opened and an additional teacher provided. This class is now in three sections, and numbers 112.

Our schools have been growing gradually, but steadily, for several years. Year after year new rooms have been opened and the teaching force enlarged, until from 322 pupils and 10 teachers, in 1894, there are 650 pupils and 20 teachers today.

The following shows the total enrollment since September, 1899:—

	Classes.	Pupils March, 1900.	Pupils March, 1899.
High School.....	3	29	36
Grammar School.....	5	141	116
Primary School.....	10	407	393
Kindergarten.....	2	73	69
		—	—
Total.....		650	614
Increase.....		36	

### STATE SUPERINTENDENT.

The following quotations from recent reports of the State Superintendent are instructive, as showing the drift of educational tendency:

"The rapid increase in the number of kindergarten schools during the past few years is greatly to our credit, and also excellent evidence of our educational progress. The purpose of the kindergarten is to direct the activities of the child into right lines, and to lay broad foundations for future development. In connection with agreeable play-work, he learns to count, to distinguish between numbers, to write them, to discriminate between larger and smaller parts, to unite parts into wholes, and thus, without instruction in mathematics, gains many of its concepts. The mission of the kindergarten is to put the child in touch with what is best worth his attention and thought, to strengthen his desire to know what is best for him to learn, and thus do away with improper incentives to study; to gently curb and counteract his wayward and rebellious tendencies before they have passed beyond control, and thus solve the problem of discipline; to stimulate and mould his moral nature, to fan into life the spark of divinity within, and thus insure his glorious unfolding."

Again, in speaking of the High School, he says: "The youth who pass from our schools today come in contact with a greater mental alertness, encounter sharper competition and enter upon far larger responsibilities than the graduates of former years. Whoever asserts that the educational advantages offered him in his youth are good enough for his children, and are all he is willing to pay for, is quite as lacking in discernment as in paternal interest and solicitude, and the community in which such educational views prevail has much need to be delivered from itself. The parent who is thus wedded to the 'good old times' will, in after years, not only find his children relegated to the humble walks of life, but even here given a subordinate place, because brought into competition with intelligent labor. Well-directed liberality is always the largest economy. Schools are far cheaper than almshouses and reformatories. The only sure basis of industrial growth, of social and moral advancement, of permanent order and security, is the intelligence of the people. It is neither right nor wise to fix a narrow and arbitrary limit of advancement for the children of the masses. Any pupil of average ability can complete the usual primary and grammar school studies by the time he is fourteen years of age. What shall then be done with him? He lacks the acquired judgment and the mental and physical development required to engage in the world's work, and is not offered further inducement to continue in school. Manifestly, it is the duty of the State so to broaden and strengthen our public school sys-



tem as to adapt it to the needs of our youth and the requirements of the times."

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

One of our most faithful teachers, Miss Gertrude Broadbent, whose efficient service it is a pleasure to mention, has been obliged, by reason of ill-health, to request a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year. It is very much to be hoped that she may be able to resume her duties in the fall.

#### LIBRARY.

Through the work of grammar and high school pupils and the liberality of our people, the library has steadily grown, until now it numbers 1,250 volumes.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The Board of Education assume that it is the wish of the citizens to maintain our present school system intact, and to provide for its rapid growth, both by furnishing healthful accommodations for the pupils and by getting and keeping teachers of tried fidelity. At the same time, the Board recognize that they are the trustees of the people's interests and the children's rights. It is the people who must maintain the schools; it is the people on whom the burden of taxation must fall. In order that that burden may be as light as possible, it is recommended that the school bonds, three of which are maturing annually, be extended for a term of ten years, so that for that period interest only, and not principal, will have to be paid.

2. It is further recommended that four rooms now being used for school purposes, two in the Homestead, one in Park Hall and one in the store on Franklin avenue, be abandoned, as entirely inadequate to the needs of an up-to-date school system. Besides the four classes thus to be provided for, it is known that at least three new class rooms will be absolutely required. The children for whom these rooms will be needed are all in the primary grades, for whom the distances now traveled are altogether too great, especially in the winter months. It is, therefore, wise to place the additional rooms where they will be most convenient for those who will use them, leaving the rooms in the Park school for the older scholars. In other words, bring the primary rooms nearer to the children. Your Board, therefore, recommend that the township authorize the new Board to make an addition of four rooms to the Passaic avenue building; a similar addition of four rooms to the Church street building; to purchase a site at some eligible point north of Vreeland avenue, and to erect thereon a four-room building. It will be remembered that seven of these rooms will be needed at once.

3. To cover the cost of these improvements, and to cancel the mortgage of \$2,800 on the Church street building, it is respectfully recommended that the township be bonded to the amount of \$25,000, the bonds to mature at some convenient future date.

4. It is further recommended that the four school buildings thus to constitute our school system be called after representative American statesmen, generals or literary men. Such names will be a constant ob-

ject lesson in patriotism, and will foster a feeling of pride in the pupils for their own school.

#### THE APPROPRIATION.

The budget for the ensuing school year is submitted with this report, and commended to the respectful consideration of the people. In accordance with this budget, the Board recommend the appropriation by the citizens for the support of the schools for the ensuing year of the sum of \$10,750.



## Budget, 1900-1901.

Teachers, Present List.....	\$10,900 00	
Teachers, Proposed Increase Salaries.....	900 00	
Three Additional Teachers.....	1,350 00	
		\$13,150 00
Janitor, Present Salary.....	900 00	
Janitor, Proposed Increase.....	300 00	
		1,200 00
District Clerk.....		300 00
School Books.....		750 00
School Supplies.....		300 00
Building Supplies.....		150 00
Alterations and Repairs to Buildings.....		1,200 00
Printing.....		100 00
Incidentals.....		25 00
School Census.....		70 00
Fuel.....		900 00
Putting Water in Town Hall.....		100 00
Water Rent.....		175 00
Freight and Expressage.....		50 00
Cleaning Cisterns.....		25 00
Electric Lights.....		25 00
Furniture.....		300 00
Legal Advice.....		25 00
Tuning Pianos.....		20 00
Rent of School Room.....		300 00
		\$19,165 00
Cash on Hand.....	\$8,319 00	
Rent from Post Office to Oct. 1.....	144 00	
Rent from Township Committee.....	114 00	
Rent from Franklin Building and Loan.....	40 00	
		\$8,617 00
Expense to Oct. 1, Teachers and Janitor....	\$7,260 00	
Expense, Interest May 1, 1900.....	750 00	
Expense, Interest July 1, 1900.....	84 00	
Miscellaneous Bills, about.....	400 00	
		\$8,494 00
		\$123 00
		\$19,042 00
Probable Income 1900-1901:—		
From State.....	\$8,000 00	
Franklin Building and Loan.....	40 00	
Township Committee.....	200 00	
		8,240 00
		\$10,802 00
Appropriation asked for.....		\$10,750 00