

Section 8. School district trustees. The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

Convention Notes:

New provision which guarantees control of schools to local boards. Deletes requirement in 1889 constitution that elections for school district officers must be separate from state and county elections.

Transcripts:

(Delegate Heliker proposes an amendment "The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a school board.") Vol. VI, at 2046.

Delegate Heliker: Mr. Chairman, not being a member of the Education Committee, although I am vitally interested in the subjects considered by that committee for the same reason that all of us are, of course, plus the fact that I am myself a teacher, but not being a member of the committee, I have become aware of the problems that the committee has considered only as its report has approached the debate stage and as it has come on the floor and been debated. *And I became aware—that is, acutely aware, although I was generally aware before, I suppose, if I thought about it much—that there is grounds for concern of—concerning the autonomy of the local control*, the local school boards, as financing of the schools gravitates toward the state more and more and as we see in the future the increasing likelihood that it--there will be a continuation of that trend.

And the fear has been expressed here on--in this committee, when we were discussing these matters previously, that the local school boards would lose autonomy as they lost their control over the funds, if they do. *Now, this committee has not provided, I notice, for autonomy in the Constitution for local school boards*, although that autonomy is provided in the statutes which make the local school boards bodies corporate. *At the same time, however, the committee proposal in Section 11 provides for autonomy to a certain extent for the Board of Regents, which they propose to establish as a constitutional board. And I feel, therefore, that we should give constitutional recognition and status to the local boards to--first of all, to allay the fears which have been expressed, which I think are well founded, concerning the preservation of local autonomy; and secondly, to give parallel treatment to the governing boards of the public schools, as well as the public universities and colleges.* Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Vol. VI, at 2046.

Delegate Champoux: Mr. President, fellow delegates. I also have felt that there is quite a bit of fear on the part of many delegates here, and no matter what we say, perhaps they'd still have that fear that the local school districts are going to lose some control and some power. And if you'll note in my remarks to the--when we get to 9, 10 and 11, *you will note that we have even eliminated the word "control" in the new Public Board of Education, where it is in the old Constitution, and only use the word "supervise". By this amendment the intent is shown*, I think, that this delegate--*this body does want local control to remain with the local school districts*, and I heartily support it. Vol. VI, at 2046-2047.

(amendment adopted on voice vote)

Section 9. Boards of education. (3) (a) *There is a board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system* and such other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law. Other duties of the board shall be provided by law.

Transcripts:

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The longest-serving member of the State Board of Education, Maury Richards--many of you know him--sent us a letter, and I quote: "Please give every consideration to a two board system. Frankly, even the most capable, dedicated board member finds it impossible to do justice to the total assignment." Numerous studies have shown that we need this. *The fear has been expressed that a separate board for public education might usurp the powers of local boards.* There is no reason to be concerned about such a policy possibility--however, since the powers granted the state board would be almost identical to those now granted, *and what we have just done is to guarantee the control by the local board at the local level. Indeed, the committee has actually deleted the word "control" from the powers and granted--now granted the board, so that the new section reads: "exercise general supervision over the public school system.*

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Delegate Champoux: And I'm going to be brief, sir. Very briefly, if you look at this section compared with the old section, *you'll find out that we've eliminated the word "control"*. Now, we did this to alleviate any fears that the local boards might have. *This indicates, in our mind, that the local boards should stay in control of education at the local level.* And we've indicated this also by passing the section, last Friday, which gives them control over local education.