

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES, 1907-1983**

RECORD GROUP 245

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Date completed: 5-12-98

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INTRODUCTION

Record Group 245, Tennessee State Board of Education, Minutes, 1907-1983, contains 105 bound volumes of minutes of board meetings from 1928 to 1983; one volume of regulations dated 1907; one card file index to minute books with references to minute books starting about 1911 and continuing to about 1959; one folder of documents pertaining to minutes of the State Board for Vocational Education; and 8 bound index volumes to minute books from 1922 to 1974. The total size of the collection is 24 cubic feet. This collection was transferred to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by the State Board of Education in 1997.

This record group was microfilmed and the originals disposed of according to Tennessee State RDA. There are no restrictions on the use of materials in this collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Record Group 245, Tennessee State Board of Education, Minutes, 1907-1983 contains minutes of the State Board of Education meetings. The minutes are found in 105 bound volumes beginning 1928 through 1983. Some volumes include an index within the individual volume. Additional indices are found in seven separate volumes beginning 1922 to 1974.

The page numbering system for volumes 1-98 of the minute books changes with volume number 39. Volumes 1 -38 uses a system of consecutive numbers for one year. Beginning in 1939, the page numbering system uses consecutive numbers that begin with page one each time the board met for the regular monthly meeting. This change is indicated by the asterisk in the column indicating page numbers.

This record group also includes a card file index that makes reference to minutes beginning about 1911 to 1959. However, the minutes for 1911 to 1927 are not in the holdings of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The card file also contains a listing of the names of board members from 1875 to 1959. Contained in the card file is a quote from the legislative act of April 8, 1875, Chapter 90, Section 13, establishing the State Board of Education and describing by law, it's duties with the effective date of March 23, 1875.

State Board of Education--Regulations, 1907-1938, begins with seven selected pages of minutes from 1933, 1937, and 1938, that are included in the bound volumes of minutes for those years. The remainder of the regulation book is an alphabetical index of regulations by topic beginning with a table of contents. Four regulation booklets were transferred to the Tennessee State Library collection. The booklets are *Laws & Regulations Governing Certification of Superintendents, Supervisors and Teachers*, 1933; *The Tennessee Educational Bulletin, Laws & Regulations Governing Certification*, Vol. XIV, No. 1, Jan. 1936; *The Tennessee Educational Bulletin*, Vol. XVI, No. 1, Feb. 1938; and *The Tennessee Educational Bulletin, Certification of Tennessee Teachers (Abridged)*, Vol. XVII, No. 4, Dec. 1939.

AGENCY HISTORY

The first public school law in Tennessee was passed in 1829 authorizing local taxes for the support of common schools. Although Tennessee's first constitution did not mention public education, the second state constitution, adopted in 1835, held that "knowledge, learning and virtue" were "essential to the preservation of republican institutions." This constitution charged the Tennessee General Assembly with the duty "in all future periods of this Government, to cherish literature and science."

The third state constitution, approved in 1870, placed upon the General Assembly the responsibility for providing a state public school system and of restoring the common school fund.

Tennessee's first state superintendent of public instruction, Colonel Robert H. McEwen, was appointed in 1836. In 1844, the General Assembly abolished the office of state superintendent. Until 1867, and from 1870 until 1872, the public schools were under the office of the state treasurer. The Public School Law of 1873 is regarded as the parent act of public education and provided the basic framework for Tennessee's system of public education. Information in the card file of this collection makes reference to the Act of 1875, Chapter 90, Section 13, establishing the State Board of Education, describing by law, its duties, and setting the effective date of March 23, 1875. The General Assembly authorized secondary schools in 1891. In 1899, a second enabling act authorized at least one high school to be established in every county. The General Education Act of 1901 provided revenue for the support of all levels of public education from elementary school through college. The act also provided for election of county school boards and provided the first percentage distribution of the school fund to all levels of public education.

In 1913, Tennessee became the first among the southern states to enact a compulsory school attendance law. In 1923, the legislature created the Tennessee Department of Education and the commissioner of education position. Dr. Jane Walters, appointed by Governor Don Sundquist, was the first woman to hold the office of Commissioner of Education.

Public school laws were recodified in 1925. In 1947, the legislature levied the state's first retail sales tax and allotted 80 percent of the proceeds to the public schools. Findings of a 1957 survey of K-12 and higher education furnished the guidelines for education during the next two decades.

In 1984, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted Governor Lamar Alexander's Better Schools Program which brought Tennessee to the national forefront in education reform. The Education Improvement Act (EIA) passed in 1992 renewed the state's position of national leadership in education.

In 1996-97, through the ConnecTenn initiative, Tennessee became the first state to connect all of its elementary and secondary public schools to the resources of the Internet.

Today the chief state school officer is the commissioner of education. Appointed

by the governor, the commissioner serves as a member of the governor's cabinet and as executive officer of the Department of Education. Organizationally, the department carries out its mandate through an administrative staff and two major divisions: The Division of Finance, Accountability and Technology; and Division of Teaching and Learning. The State Board of Education is the governing and policy-making body for the state system of public elementary and secondary education. All members of the board are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly. The board is composed of nine members, one from each congressional district, plus a student member. The members serve a nine year term; the student member serves a one-year term. The board generates an annual report on student, teacher, and school performance, as well as providing the legislature and general public with information about the status of education in Tennessee. The executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is an *ex officio* , nonvoting member. Public higher education in Tennessee is coordinated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and consists of two systems; the University of Tennessee campuses, governed by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, and the state universities, community colleges, technical institutes and area vocational-technical schools, governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the General Assembly. The Board of Regents was created in 1972. State Area Vocational Technical Schools were transferred from the State Department of Education by the General Assembly in 1963 and were placed under the authority of the Tennessee Board of Regents as part of the State University and Community College System. In 1994, the name, State Area Vocational Technical Schools was changed to Tennessee Technology Centers.

Source: *Tennessee Blue Book, 1997-1998*. Page 146, 147, 151, 153, 158 and 167.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
INCLUDING STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION,
BOARD OF TRUST, ALVIN C. YORK AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Years</u>
1. Index to Minutes	1922-1939
2. Index to Minutes	1922-1939
3. Index to Minutes	1940-1943
4. Index to Minutes	1944
5. Index to Minutes	1945-1952
6. Index to Minutes	1953-1957
7. Index to Minutes	1958-1964
8. Index to Minutes	1965-1974
9. Index to Minutes--Card File	ca. 1911-1959

**MINUTES
TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. Minutes	1928	February - November	1-167
2. Minutes	1929	February - November	1-162
3. Minutes	1930	February - November	29-208
4. Minutes	1931	February - November	209-533
5. Minutes	1932	February - November	51-308
6. Minutes	1933	February - November	1-260
7. Minutes	1934	February - November	1-209
8. Minutes	1935	February - November	1-275
9. Minutes	1936	February - August	1-337
10. Minutes	1936	November	1-72
11. Minutes	1937	Feb. & Nov.	73-691
12. Minutes	1937	May & Aug.	191-499
13. Minutes	1938	Feb. & May	1-177
14. Minutes	1938	Aug. & Nov.	1-260
15. Minutes	1939	Feb., Aug., Oct., Nov.	1-466
16. Minutes	1939	May	81-200
17. Minutes	1940	Feb., June, July-Aug., Nov.	1-276
18. Minutes	1940	May	69-194
19. Minutes	1941	Jan.-Feb., Aug., Nov.	1-270
20. Minutes	1941	May	1-128
21. Minutes	1942	February - November	1-236
22. Minutes	1943	Feb., May, June	1-124
23. Minutes	1943	August & November	1-221

<u>Description</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Pages</u>
24. Minutes	1945	Feb., Mar., Aug., Nov.	1-185
25. Minutes	1945	May	1-79
26. Minutes	1946	Feb., Aug., Nov.	1-263
27. Minutes	1946	May	3-97
28. Minutes	1947	Feb., Apr., Aug., Nov.	1-289
29. Minutes	1947	May	99-179
30. Minutes	1948	February - December	1-237
31. Minutes	1949	February - November	1-191
32. Minutes	1950	February & May	1-195
33. Minutes	1950	August - November	1-125
34. Minutes	1951	February - November	1-137
35. Minutes	1952	February - November	1-147
36. Minutes	1953	February - November	1-165
37. Minutes	1954	February - November	*
38. Minutes	1955	February - November	*
39. Minutes	1956	Feb., Aug., Nov.	*
40. Minutes	1956	May	*
41. Minutes	1957	Jan., Feb., Mar., May	*
42. Minutes	1957	August	*
43. Minutes	1958	Feb., May	*
44. Minutes	1958	Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec.	*
45. Minutes	1959	Feb., Mar., May	*
46. Minutes	1959	June, Aug., Nov.	*
47. Minutes	1960	Feb. Mar., May, Aug.	*
48. Minutes	1960	Nov., Dec.	*
49. Minutes	1961	Feb., May	*
50. Minutes	1961	Aug., Nov.	*
51. Minutes	1962	Feb., Apr., May	*
52. Minutes	1962	Aug., Oct., Nov.	*
53. Minutes	1963	Feb., Mar., may	*
54. Minutes	1963	Aug., Nov.	*
55. Minutes	1964	Feb., May	*
56. Minutes	1964	Aug., Nov.	*
57. Minutes	1965	Feb., May, June	*
58. Minutes	1965	Aug., Sept., Nov.	*
59. Minutes	1966	Feb., May	*
60. Minutes	1966	Aug., Nov., Dec.	*
61. Minutes	1967	Feb., May, June	*
62. Minutes	1967	Aug., Nov.	*
63. Minutes	1968	Feb., Mar., May	*

Description	Year	Months	Pages
64. Minutes	1968	Aug., Oct., Nov., Dec.	*
65. Minutes	1969	Feb., Apr., May, June	*
66. Minutes	1969	Aug., Nov.	*
67. Minutes	1970	Feb., Mar., May	*
68. Minutes	1970	July, Aug., Oct. - Dec.	*
69. Minutes	1971	Jan., Feb., May	*
70. Minutes	1971	June - Aug. Oct. - Dec.	*
71. Minutes	1972	Jan. - Mar., May	*
72. Minutes	1972	May, June, Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec.	*
73. Minutes	1973	Jan. - Nov.	*
74. Minutes	1974	Jan. - Dec.	*
75. Minutes	1975	Jan. - Aug.	*
76. Minutes	1975	Sept. - Nov.	*
77. Minutes	1976	Jan. - May	*
78. Minutes	1976	June - Nov.	*
79. Minutes	1977	Jan. - June	*
80. Minutes	1977	Aug. - Nov.	*
81. Minutes	1978	Jan. - May	*
82. Minutes	1978	June - Nov.	*
83. Minutes	1979	Jan. - May	*
84. Minutes	1979	June - Nov.	*
85. Minutes	1980	June - Aug.	*
86. Minutes	1980	Sept. - Nov.	*
87. Minutes	1981	Jan. - Apr.	*
88. Minutes	1981	May - June	*
89. Minutes	1981	July - Aug.	*
90. Minutes	1981	Sept. - Nov.	*
91. Minutes	1982	June - Mar.	*
92. Minutes	1982	May - June	*
93. Minutes	1982	Aug. - Nov.	*
94. Minutes	1983	Jan. - May	*
95. Minutes	1983	June - Sept.	*
96. Minutes	1983	Oct. - Dec.	*

STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Description	Year	Pages
1. Minutes	1936-1939	1-243
2. Minutes	November, 1937, 1939, 1949	Loose records
3. Minutes	1940-1942	1-288
4. Minutes	1943-1945	1-144

BOARD OF TRUST, ALVIN C. YORK AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE

Description	Year	Pages
1. Minutes	1927-1936	1-283
2. Minutes	1937-1942	1-238
3. Minutes	1943-1946	1-126

State Board of Education--Regulations

1907-1938