

More About Control Of Local Schools

With local communities becoming more and more responsible for their own schools it is important that every person know about education. What are bilingual programs, open classrooms, nongraded schools? What does a special education teacher do? Should teachers have tenure?

These are a few of the questions which will be explored in a series of articles to be published periodically in *Lundia Times*.

Under the present system, each school under State Operated Schools has a local advisory board. This board has very limited powers, and its real usefulness is dependent upon who is running the local school. Some principals and superintendents let the advisory board make many decisions. Some ask the advisory board very little.

One power the advisory board does have is to approve the school calendar. Under current policy, this must be done by the board. The teacher or principal cannot do it alone.

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Local Schools : The Limits Of Advisory Board Powers

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The teacher or principal decides what days he would like to have school. He must schedule 180 class days, and there are 5 paid holidays and three teacher work days. The board has to okay the schedule. If it is not satisfactory to the board, it must be changed.

If there are changes in the calendar during the year, the board must approve them. Closures, in particular, must be approved. Only in extreme emergency - a fire, or furnace failure - can the school be closed before the board approves.

Sometimes local boards are asked to help decide what will be the teachers. But the law does not require the board's approval on these things. It is

up to the superintendent or principal.

In the present system, the local community takes pot luck. If they are lucky, a head teacher or administrator will be hired for them who will ask them everything. (One teacher on the Yukon River even asked his

advisory board if they approved his keeping a dog team, off school property, for his son.) If the community is unlucky, the local board will have no real power at all.

In any case, the advisory board has no control over how school money is spent.
