

Schools, Expenses of Teachers and Trustees, Attending Convention—Board of School Trustees, Power to Allow Expenses of Teachers at Convention.

A board of school trustees has no authority to pay their own or the expenses of teachers in attendance at state conventions.

November 26, 1920.

Mr. C. S. Hefferlin, Chairman,
Board of County Commissioners,
Livingston, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of 23rd inst., asking if high school trustees and city and county school district trustees have a lawful right to pay the railroad fare, or the railroad fare and other expenses of the teachers of their districts attending the meeting at Billings of the State Teachers association.

The only mention in our school laws of the State Teachers' association is found in Subdivision 22 of Section 508, Chapter 76, Session Laws 1913, Page 234, which authorizes boards of school trustees to close at their discretion during the annual session of the State Teachers' association, and to allow the teachers to attend the same without loss of salary.

Our school laws enumerate specifically the various purposes for which school moneys may be used by county superintendents and school trustees, but fail to include therein any provision for the payment of the expenses of teachers in attending meetings of any kind, while Section 2004 of Chapter 76, Session Laws 1913, Page 282, as amended by Chapter 196, Session Laws 1919, Page 441, provides that county superintendents and school trustees shall use school moneys for the various purposes authorized and provided in such act, and for no other purpose. In the absence of any provision authorizing the payment of the expenses incurred in attending such a meeting, Section 2004 as amended would seem to absolutely prohibit such payment.

Respectfully,

S. C. FORD,

Attorney General.