



120 Academy Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608

609-392-7188 * www.trentonlib.org

Trenton Board of Education Collection

Circa 1874–2008

By Chris Loos

February 2024

Summary Information

Creator(s):

City of Trenton; Trenton Public Schools; Trenton Board of Education

Donor:

Unknown (found in collections); Betty Holland (donor); Angelia Ellis (donor)

Language of Materials:

English

Extent:

Approximately 10 linear feet

Location of Repository:

Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ
08608

Subjects:

Activity programs in education / Adult education--New Jersey / African American children--Education / African Americans--Civil rights--New Jersey--Trenton / Alternative education / At-risk youth--Education--United States / Basic education--New Jersey / Career education--New Jersey / Course catalogs / Educational facilities--New Jersey--Trenton / Municipal law--New Jersey / Public schools--New Jersey--Trenton / School discipline / School

facilities--New Jersey / Student activities / Trenton (N.J.)--History / Trenton (N.J.)--Politics and government / Vocational education--New Jersey--Trenton

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

No access restrictions.

Reference Number:

CITY—BOE

Preferred Citation:

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Trenton Board of Education Collection, Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ 08608

Scope/Content

This collection documents the Trenton Board of Education (also known as Trenton Public Schools) as an overarching entity that supervises all of the city's public schools. It includes annual reports dating back to the late 19th century, faculty and staff directories, curricula and course manuals, and some financial and administrative documents from the Board. The collection further contains reports and studies from the Trenton Board, the State of New Jersey, and external and independent researchers. Finally, it includes a small amount of items relating to student activities and services that span all of the city's public schools.

Archivist's Note: Like with all collections within the Trenton City Records, these items have been compiled from various locations within the Trentoniana Department and arranged *ad hoc*. The items in this collection cover *only* the public schools at-large; materials from private, charter, and parochial schools, as well as the individual public schools, may be found in separate collections. See also Trentoniana's items from the Trenton Committee on Unity (and affiliate/successor organizations), Trenton lawyer Robert Queen, and the case of *Hedgepeth and Williams v. Trenton Board of Education*.

Arrangement**Series I: Annual Reports (including Board manuals with reports) and Other Studies**

Box 1, unfolded: *Manual of the Board of Education of Trenton, New Jersey, Including the State School Law* (1874)

Unfolded: *The Public Schools of the City of Trenton, N. J., with Proceedings at the Dedication of the High School* (1875)

Unfolded: *Manual of the Board of Education of the City of Trenton, New Jersey* (1886)

Unfolded: Annual reports for 1888, 1891-1893, 1904, 1907-1910, **1902-1910**, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1917

Box 2, unfolded: Annual reports for 1918, **1919-1922**, **1923-1924**, 1925, **1925-1929**, **1915-1918**, **1919-1929**, **1930-1939**, **1929-1934**, **1935-1936**, **1936-1939**, 1940/41, 1942/43, **1940-1943**, **1943-1945**, **1945-1947**, 1949/50; 1950/51; 1951/52; 1952/53; 1953/54

*Archivist's Note: For the annual reports above, year ranges in **bold** indicate that those years' reports are contained in a single bound volume. Throughout this finding aid, years with a slash (e.g., 1950/51) indicate that one financial year spanned two calendar years.*

Box 3, Folder 1: Annual/Statistical Reports, 1939/40; 1962-1965

Unfolded: Annual Report, 1991/92

Unfolded: Annual Report, 1992/93

Folder 2: Annual Reports, 1992-1995; 2005

Folder 3: Statistical and Demographic Surveys/Reports (internal)

Folder 4: Other Internal Reports

Folder 5: External Reports

Unfolded: *Age-Grade Study, Trenton, N. J.* (Roscoe West Master's thesis, 1923)

Unfolded: *Public Secondary Education in the City of Trenton, N.J., before 1900* (Thomas A. Spitz Doctoral practicum, 1940)

Unfolded: *Chronicle of the Trenton, New Jersey Public School System from 1972-1977: A Study in Conflict* (Frederick C. Edwards dissertation, 1979)

Box 4, Unfolded: *Integration Problems in Certain Schools in Mercer County, New Jersey* (Florence A. Symons Higgs Master's thesis, 1951)

Unfolded: *A Case Study of Desegregation in the Public Schools of Trenton, New Jersey* (Roland H. Daniels Doctoral thesis, 1959)

Unfolded: *School Desegregation: A Study of the Decision-Making Process in the Trenton Public Schools 1955-1979* (Jack Washington dissertation, 1983)

Folder 1: Reports/Bulletins from the State of New Jersey

Unfolded: *Trenton Task Force Report: A Study of the Structure and Operating Procedures of the School District Central Administration, With Recommendations for Improvement* (1981)

Box 5, Folder 1: Documents from *In the Matter of the Board of Education of the City of Trenton* (1979-1981)

Series II: Profiles and Histories of Trenton Schools

Box 5, Folder 2: Profiles/Histories of Trenton Schools

Unfolded: *History of the Public Schools of the City of Trenton, N. J.* (typed copy of lost manuscript by Edward S. Ellis, 1876)

Unfolded: *Trenton's Public School System* (bound photocopies of articles from the *Daily True American*, 1893)

Folder 3: Other Lists and Maps of Trenton Schools

Box OS1, unfolded: "Restore-Renew-Rediscover Your Historic Neighborhood School" binder (Trenton Landmarks Commission, 2001)

Series III: Board of Education administrative, financial, and planning

Box 6, Folder 1: Board of Education Rules and Regulations (1892; 1902; 1905; 1915; 1959)

Folder 2: Profiles/Lists of Board Members

Folder 3: Addresses before Board of Education (from Superintendents and others)

Folder 4: Correspondence re: Appointments to Board (*see also Box OSI, Folder 1*)

Folder 5: School Board elections--Publicity and ephemera;
Correspondence

Folder 6: Other correspondence (complaints and suggestions; school safety; standardized tests; misc.)

Folder 7: Board of Education newsletters/press (circa 1938-1994) (*see also Box OSI, Folder 2*)

Folder 8: Board of Education miscellaneous docs (resolution; meeting agenda; misc. ephemera)

Unfoldered: *Trenton Master Plan for Educational Facilities* (1979)

Folder 9: Planning--Other reports (buildings; curricula)

Box 7: Angie Ellis papers

Archivist's Note: The documents in Box 7 were found alone in a page box labeled "Trenton Bd of Educ Files 88-95." I have kept the original order from this box (aside from adding a few acid-free folders), but have otherwise only minimally processed the items. The files remain grouped by Board member. Based on a cursory look, it seems to include the papers of Board secretary Angelia "Angie" Ellis, covering Board of Education members from 1988-1995. The papers include receipts and other financial documents, appointment letters and other correspondence, and the Board members' oaths of office. They also include a cassette tape (with transcript) and other documents related to alleged physical and verbal abuse by the principal of the Gregory School. Board members represented here include Marlene Lao-Collins, Alexander Brown, Judith Sands, Kelly Mooring, Ana Montero, and Patricia K. Perez.

Box 8, Folder 1: *Study of the Trenton Public Schools Business Functions* (1977)

Unfoldered: *Magnet Schools Assistance Program* grant application (1986)

Folder 2: Other financial reports/breakdowns

Folder 3: Budgets (1961/62, 1963/64, 1986/87, 1993/94) (*see also Box OSI, Folder 3*)

Folder 4: Other budgets/financial documents (publicity, miscellaneous correspondence, etc.)

Box OS1, Folder 1: Scrapbook (?) pages with clippings and ephemera related to Superintendent Jean Franklin Emmons (circa 1977-1978)

Folder 2: “Trenton’s Educational News” (Spring 1985 issue)

Folder 3: Oversized budget on newsprint (1986)

Series IV: School Personnel

Box 8, Folder 5: Public School directories, 1922-1930

Folder 6: Public School directories, 1930-1940 (missing 1933-1935 and 1936/37)

Box 9, Folders 1-6: Public School directories, 1940-1970 (including directory of Mercer County Schools, 1942/43)

Box 10, Folder 1: Public School directories, 1970-1973; 1977/78

Folder 2: Additional directories/lists of personnel (1844-1876; 1962; 2000/01; 2003/04)

Folder 3: Personnel regulations and salary schedules (1922-1924); chain of command/hierarchy diagrams (circa 1970); agreements with unions (circa 1990s)

Folder 4: Personnel correspondence (including complaints); miscellaneous ephemera

Series V: Curricula/Courses of Study and other Educational Materials

Box 2, Unfolded: *Manual of Instruction and Course of Study for the Public Schools of Trenton, N. J.* (1901)

Unfolded: *Public Schools, Trenton, New Jersey Curriculum Yearbook, Elementary Division* (1925)

Unfolded: *Course of Study Reference Index, By Grades, Elementary Division* (1926)

Box 10, Folder 5: General Curricula and Learning Standards

Unfolded: *A Tentative Guide for Teaching Educable Classes* (1961)

Folder 6: Curricula/Course descriptions--Alternate and Continuing Education (Day Vocational Program; Summer School; Daylight/Twilight School)

Folder 7: Curricula/Courses of Study--Special Education (circa 1924)

Box 11, Folder 1: Courses of Study--Arithmetic/Mathematics

Folder 2: Curricula/Course descriptions--Business; Civics

Folder 3: Courses of Study--Geography (and some Earth Sciences)

Folder 4: History; Home Economics; Hygiene

Folder 5: Industrial and Fine Arts; Music

Folder 6: Language Arts (English, Spelling, Reading, Writing, etc.), Part I

Box 12, Folder 1: Language Arts, Part II

Folder 2: Sciences

Archivist's Note: All the Courses of Study in Boxes 11 and 12 circa 1920s-1930s.

Box OS1, Folder 4: Public Evening Schools poster with courses offered (1930)

Series VI: Students

Box 12, Folder 3: School Calendars (circa 1990s)

Folder 4: Student Rights and Responsibilities (1970s); Student-Parent Handbooks (2006-2008)

Folder 5: Discipline and Punishment; Attendance Guidelines; Related Protocols (circa 1980s-1990s)

Folder 6: "Guidelines for Developing Equal Educational Opportunity" (1969)

Folder 7: Free/Reduced Lunch Program ephemera and correspondence

Folder 8: Other social services (Includes "Follow-Through" Program; Drug/Alcohol assistance; After-School/Weekend Programs, etc.)

Folder 9: Awards for Students From BoE, Mayor

Folder 10: District-Wide Events and Programs (*see also Box OSI*)

Folder 11: Miscellaneous ephemera (use of school buildings/grounds; kindergarten registration)

Box OS1, Unfolded: Scrapbook of clippings, photos, correspondence,
ephemera, etc. from “Intergenerational Pen-Pal Program”
(1984)