

1. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE BOARD OF

EDUCATION RESPECTING THE INVESTIGATION.

Board of Education,  
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.,  
28th July, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

R.3193/16.

Sir,

The Board have now considered carefully the documents enclosed with the letter of July 5th signed by Mr. Clarke and Mr. Kinder, and have come to the conclusion that they must take an early opportunity of investigating upon the spot the circumstances in which the resignation of the Vice-Principal of the Leeds City Training College has been followed by the simultaneous resignation of nine other members of the College teaching staff.

The Board have not come to this decision without careful consideration. They are at all times reluctant to interfere with the discretion of Local Education Authorities and Governing Bodies in matters of internal administration, or in questions which may arise between them and teachers in their employment. These questions must ordinarily be left to the decision of the parties concerned, and the responsibility for any action which is taken must rest primarily with them. In the present case the resignations of the members of the staff have already taken effect, and it does not appear to the Board that there is any room for raising the question of reinstatement.

The Secretary of the  
Local Education Authority,  
Education Offices,  
Calverley Street,  
Leeds.

On the other hand so great a disturbance in an educational institution for men and women as is implied in this large number of simultaneous resignations is obviously a matter of concern to all who are interested in the work of the College; and this concern is increased rather than diminished by the fact that the resignations occurred without any previous suspicion on the part of the Governing Body that such a disturbance in the life of the College was imminent. The Board have themselves a responsibility both administrative and financial with regard to Training Colleges, in view of the predominantly National character of their work, even greater than that which they bear for the conduct of other educational institutions within their jurisdiction. They are bound by their Regulations to approve the provision made for the management and general arrangements of the College, and the appointments of the Principal, Vice-Principal and members of the staff. In view of the resignation of so large a section of the staff within three years of their appointment, the Board feel bound (especially in the case of an institution which has been provided and is maintained largely at the cost of the State) to satisfy themselves that the provision for management, and the conditions under which the teaching staff have to work, are thoroughly suitable and not in themselves likely to make a recurrence of the present situation at all probable.

The Board therefore propose to send three of their Officers (Mr. H. W. Orange, C.B., C.I.E., with Mr. F. H. Dale, C.B., Chief Inspector, and Miss A. E. Wark, H.M. Inspector) to Leeds to conduct an investigation into the system under which the Training College is controlled and managed, with special reference to the recent resignations of members of the staff. Their proceedings will be conducted in private, and their report will be considered by the Board before they give their definite approval to the

filling up of the posts vacated. The Board will be glad to know if August 15th and the one or two following days will be convenient for the investigation, and whether the Governing Body can provide suitable accommodation for the purpose. The persons attending the enquiry will be limited to members of the Governing Body, members and officers of the Local Authority, the Principal of the College, and the members of the teaching staff including those who have recently resigned. It may be necessary to invite certain of the students or ex-students of the College to give evidence at some stage of the proceedings.

The Board are confident that they may count upon the assistance of the Local Authority in carrying out the proposed investigation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. N. BRUCE.

I am requested to ask the Board to say what they desire the Committee to do in requiring the attendance of interested persons at the enquiry. It is proposed, if the Board agree, to invite the members of the Governing Body of the College, the members and officers of the Local Authority, the Principal of the College and such tutors and housekeepers as the Committee think necessary to call on their own behalf; leaving the Board to communicate with Miss Mariner and the tutors who have resigned.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) JAMES DEAN,

Secretary for Education.

The Secretary,  
Board of Education,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON, S.W.

Board Education Offices,  
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.,  
LEEDS, 1st, 1916.

1st August, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

Leeds City Training College.

R.3193/16.

Sir,

Sir, With reference to Mr. Graham's letter of the 1st instant,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bruce's letter of the 28th July, intimating that the Board propose to send three of their Officers to Leeds to conduct an investigation into the system under which the Training College is controlled and managed with special reference to the recent resignations of members of the staff. The dates suggested for the College investigation, namely, the 15th August and the one or two following days will be convenient to my Committee and suitable arrangements will be made for accommodating the enquiry.

I am requested to ask the Board to be good enough to say what they desire the Committee to do in requiring the attendance of interested persons at the enquiry. It is proposed, if the Board agree, to invite the members of the Governing Body of the College, the members and officers of the Local Authority, the Principal of the College and such tutors and housekeepers as the Committee think necessary to call on their own behalf; leaving the Board to communicate with Miss Mercier and the tutors who have resigned.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) JAMES GRAHAM,

Secretary for  
Education.

The Secretary,  
Board of Education,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON, S.W.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. H. BURN.

To the Local Education  
Authority,

LEEDS.

Board of Education,  
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.,  
7th August, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

R. 3961/16.  
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Sir,

With reference to Mr. Graham's letter of the 1st instant, I am directed to say that in the opinion of the Board it is desirable that the number of persons attending the inquiry should be as far as possible limited. They consider, however, that the following persons should attend throughout the proceedings:-

1. The members of the Governing Body of the College.
2. Such members of the Local Education Authority as may desire to be present.
3. The Secretary of the Local Education Authority.
4. The Principal of the College.
5. Miss Mercier and the tutors who have resigned.

The following should, in the Board's opinion, attend only for the purpose of giving evidence:-

6. Such persons, including officials of the Authority, housekeepers of the College, and past or present students of the College, as may be called upon to give evidence upon questions arising during the inquiry.

The Board are themselves communicating with Miss Mercier and those of the College tutors who have resigned. They will be obliged if the Authority will notify the persons mentioned in 1, 2, 3 and 4 above and will also make the necessary arrangements for the attendance of such persons mentioned in 6 above as they may desire to call to give evidence on their behalf.

To the Local Education  
Authority,

LEEDS.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) W. N. BRUCE.

Education Offices,  
Board Calverley Street,  
LEEDS,  
8th August, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

R. 3961/16.

Sir,

I have placed Mr. Bruce's letter of the 7th instant before Alderman Kinder, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Alderman W. H. Clarke, the Chairman of the Education Committee.

They wish me at once to submit to you that in their opinion the objects of the enquiry will be best served by the tutors in the Committee's employ and the housekeepers being allowed to be present (if they so wish) throughout the enquiry. It would be considered by the remaining tutors and housekeepers to be inequitable that those, who in their opinion have been disloyal, should be present whilst they themselves, who at least know as much of the working of the College, should be excluded.

I am, therefore, directed to request that the tutors and housekeepers now in the Committee's service should be present throughout, if they so desire.

Moreover, the Board will appreciate the position that if anything is shown to require amendment the tutors and housekeepers who are to carry on the work should have the opportunity of hearing any suggestions or reasons for alteration.

The Chairman desires me to say that he has been approached on behalf of the Press of Leeds and district with regard to an official précis of the proceedings being issued by or with the consent of the Board's Representatives in order to prevent unauthorised and incorrect reports being published. It is represented that if the whole Press knew that a short official account of each day's proceedings was being issued they would not trouble to get anything further and the objects of the enquiry would be best served by an accurate short statement being issued. The Press suggest that if this course is agreed to it might properly be circulated through the Press Association.

I shall be glad to know the Board's views on this matter.

Arrangements have been made for the enquiry to be held in the Council Chamber of the Leeds Town Hall. I shall be glad if the Board will kindly inform me by an early post of the hour at which it is proposed to commence the enquiry.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) JAMES GRAHAM,  
Secretary for  
Education.

The Secretary,  
Board of Education,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON, S.W.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE BOARD OF

EDUCATION RESPECTING THE Board of Education,

Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.,

9th August, 1916.

Board of Education,  
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.,  
28th July, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

R. 4107/16.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Graham's letter of the 8th instant, I am directed to say that it does not appear to the Board that the housekeepers can be regarded as principal parties to the Inquiry, as are the tutors. In these circumstances, while the Board will raise no objection to the presence, throughout the proceedings, of the tutorial staff, they consider that the housekeepers should only be allowed to be present on the same footing as persons attending to give evidence.

The Board will instruct their officers who conduct the Inquiry as regards the issuing of a short notice to the Press with regard to the daily proceedings at the Inquiry.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. N. BRUCE.

To the  
Local Education Authority,  
Leeds.

The Secretary of the  
Local Education Authority,  
Education Office,  
Calverley Street,  
Leeds.

C O P Y.

EDUCATION OFFICES,  
Calverley Street,  
Leeds.

10th August, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

R. 4107/16.

Sir,

I have consulted Mr. Alderman Clarke and Mr. Alderman Kinder on the subject of Mr. Bruce's letter of the 9th. They instruct me to say that they are afraid Mr. Bruce is under some misapprehension as to the status of the Housekeepers employed at the College. They occupy the position, and perform the duties of Matrons; being ladies of good birth and breeding and well qualified to "mother" the girls.

Having regard to these facts, I am to ask that the Board will allow their attendance throughout the enquiry, particularly as Mr. Kinder when last he saw the President of the Board was informed that no person interested would be excluded. Moreover, my Committee as a whole are of opinion that the Housekeepers will be able to give the Board's representatives material assistance in the enquiry if allowed to hear the allegations which are made.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) JAMES GRAHAM,

The Secretary,  
Board of Education,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON. S.W.

Secretary for  
Education.