

# THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

BETTERMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSES

OFFICE OF FIELD SECRETARY

MRS. CHARLES D. McIVER

GREENSBORO, N. C.

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### Our Aim.

11 Pt. Rev

To gain the co-operation of every man,  
woman and child in each community ~~in helping~~  
to secure the best teacher for the school; ~~to~~  
have the best house and grounds; ~~to~~ have each  
child in school every day of the school term;  
~~to~~ make that term longer and to improve the  
entire school environment.

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Work to be Done.

In order to realize our aim we must first gain the sympathy and receive the endorsement of the school officials who are the appointed guardians of the interests of the schools.

This can easily be done by showing a willingness to work for the schools, without criticizing the officials for things that have not been done. None of us have done all we might have done. Then work along the following lines:

I.

The Citizen.

II. The Teacher.

V. The Library.

III. The Pupils.

VI. The Grounds.

~~IV~~ The School House VII. Entertainments.

I. The Citizen:—Arrange for public meetings to discuss the needs of the school and community. See that these meetings are well advertised and well reported in the newspapers. Adopt plans for a personal canvass in order to secure members and funds. Have a working-bee. Ask men, women and children to gather on a given day bringing brooms, mops, soap, buckets, shovels, hoes, rakes, a wagon and any other implements necessary. Appoint two Captains and let them direct a pitched battle, each side trying to see how much work can be accomplished toward putting house and grounds in perfect order before school opens.

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If possible the teacher should be present to direct.

II The Teacher: Get the best teacher: Pay the best salary. Help to secure a good home for the teacher. Give encouragement and show appreciation. Confer with the teacher concerning any plans being formed. Do not criticize the teacher in the presence of children. No teacher would criticize a parent to the child. If the teacher is not giving satisfaction, be straightforward and fair. Go talk it over with the teacher. Most teachers are giving much more service than they are paid for, but get a good teacher and pay the teacher well.

III The Pupils: See that a correct school census is taken and get every child in school every day unless prevented by illness. If it is hard or impossible for some to get school books, provide in some way for them. If children are kept at home because of illness of parents, if not contagious, notify church or benevolent societies so that the children may be relieved and be in school. Encourage all and be on the alert to find special ability along any line, aiding such to develop. Commend good work and faithfulness. Arrange to have wraps, overshoes and umbrellas collected and carried to the school by one or more persons if bad weather comes after children have gone to school. In the country, one wagon or hack can bring all the children of the neighborhood in bad weather, the families taking it turn about in doing this or all join in employing one person to do it. This would prevent many bad colds, save

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#3.

doctors' bills, and in some cases, save lives. Have children been taught how to care for their bodies; first, to clean, then use properly, exercise and nourish the body which is "the temple of the Holy Ghost." Ask some good doctor or nurse to give a talk on this subject. We expect to get out a separate bulletin giving rules regarding the diet, care of eyes, teeth and general health, also rules regarding epidemics.

IV. The School House: Before school opens, clean up, walls, windows, furniture, floors; clean and plastico, paint and polish, as if you were expecting distinguished guests. You are "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." See that the seating is proper. The lighting and ventilation as good as can be secured in that building. See that the light comes over the left shoulder and from the rear. That shades roll down instead of up. Windows lower instead or raise, and always have fresh air in the room. See that desks and benches fit the children who use them. If stoves are used, see that they are cleaned, polished, and kept so, and water always on the stove when there is fire in it. Have neat receptacles for waste and these emptied every day. A good covered water cooler for drinking water and a slop jar or bucket for waste. Wash basins, soap, towels and mirror. Encourage each child to get and use a pocket comb. Wherever possible, have a dressing room. If this is impossible, have a screened corner in room or hall. A cupboard or closet for brooms, mops, dust cloths, and pans--

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#4.

and school materials, such as chalk, ink, etc. After every thing is clean, then adorn by hanging a few good pictures framed in plain wood mouldings. Have cut flowers and grasses if the faded ones are removed at once and the vases kept clean. Also a few well cared for pot plants if they have saucers under them to prevent the wood work being damaged by the moisture. Window boxes filled with wild flowers, bulbs and vines from the woods are always a delight. Lend the school for a season any thing you enjoy in your own home--- a picture, book, piece of statuary, curio or anything you wish to share with friends.

V. Library: Get one. If you have one, add to it. See that it is cared for. See that all books are well selected, well printed and well bound. Have an unabridged dictionary and encyclopedia, and teach pupils to use books of reference. If you can not purchase at once, ask some one to lend. Have a book committee. Give a book reception. Of course have a book-case and a librarian. See that the librarian does her duty. Send to State or County Superintendent of Public Instruction for pamphlet containing list of books, library law and directions as to how to get aid from State and County in securing a rural library. Send to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the North Carolina Department for valuable publications. Get a list <sup>or</sup> free distribution. The Audubon Society through its Secretary, Mr. T. Gilbert

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#5.

Pearson, has promised to give us fifteen Bird Libraries, composed of beautiful books on Birds and each library is worth more than ten dollars. They will be given <sup>as prizes</sup> to the fifteen counties reporting the best work done in the study of birds. The school in the county doing the best work gets the library.

Any school in the State which will raise five dollars toward the purchase of one of these libraries can get one by addressing Miss Mary Taylor Moore, School Secretary Audubon Society, Greensboro, N. C.

VI. Grounds: Get sufficient ground for ample play grounds for both girls and boys. Clean up. Have a plan for the grounds showing buildings, walks, drives, trees, shrubs, vines and flowers. Work to it. Grade. Drain. Make walks of gravel or concrete. Sow grass. Plant native trees, shrubs, vines, bulbs, etc. Do not dock your trees but trim properly. If earth has washed away from roots, re-cover. If there is a fine tree with the body split and the top in good condition, fill the crack with mortar. Have a grounds committee. See that outbuildings are screened by evergreen shrubs and vines and kept clean. See that proper toilet paper is provided. Do not allow the use of newspapers or other waste. See that a box full of fresh earth or lime is kept and the children taught to cover each stool with a shovel full. These simple rules are many times broken, and much suffering results. Have the entire premises enclosed by a hedge or hedge row. In most

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#6.

places the hedge row or continuous row of trees, shrubs and vines surrounding the grounds is easily secured and is far more beautiful than the formal clipped hedge and requires much less attention. See that the water is pure. If a well or cistern is used, clean and cover. If a spring is used, clean and ditch so that no surface water enters. If infection is suspected, have <sup>water</sup> it analysed at once by the State Board of Health.

VII. Entertainments: First, Purely Social. Invite all patrons and other citizens to visit the school at some special time providing some entertainment. A musicale, a play or tableau, a lecture, or just to visit the school and have a social cup of tea. Appoint committees to arrange for these. Second: To exhibit work. Ask that the best work be kept and exhibited at special times and keep that work to be used in a school exhibit at County and State Fairs. Have drills in marching and singing. Make banners to be used on any public occasion. Third: To raise money: Give box party or picnic. Ask each woman and girl to prepare and place in a box enough lunch for two, placing her name on a slip of paper inside the box before it is wrapped up; then have all boxes sold for a fixed price or auctioned with the understanding that the purchaser must ask the person whose name is inside to share it. Have lectures and charge an admission fee or take up a collection. Give stereopticon lectures, or entertainments, plays,

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fairs, suppers, picnics and any other kind of wholesome pleasure and profit giving entertainment that can be devised, but always giving value received. Invite strangers to visit our schools. Teach the school how to receive guests with dignity, courtesy and cordiality. The gentle manners and good breeding of our children, the cleanliness of our homes, our streets and our public buildings make the best possible impression of ourselves on "the stranger within our gates."