

Whereas, We feel that it is highly important to the school interest of our state that every grade of certificate should be uniform and transferable throughout the State; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the teachers of Alachua county, do respectfully ask of our representatives and senator that they do earnestly use every honest effort at the next session of the legislature to have our present school law so amended as to provide for a State, instead of a County, Grading Committee.

Resolved, That the said Committee shall be composed of twelve, twenty-four or some multiple of twelve, of the most competent teachers of the State, and that the said Committee shall be appointed by the State Board of Education.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each member of the legislature of our county and to the senator of our district, and that a copy be sent to State Superintendent Sheats, and also that a copy be published with the minutes of our meeting.

WILLIAM M. HOLLOWAY,
County Superintendent.

BAKER COUNTY

In compliance with your request, I will make a short statement regarding the schools of Baker county, from July 1st, 1896, to July 1st, 1898.

New Buildings.--The school buildings destroyed by the storm of 1896 have been replaced with new and more comfortable ones, by expending the money apportioned for building purposes, instead of having the schools taught. By so doing we have a fairly good frame building in almost every district.

Growth.--The total attendance in this county has greatly increased. There are now forty-five schools established, five of which are for colored children. Had the School Board adhered to the three-mile limit, the number of schools would be fewer. To the contrary, five new schools have been established.

Character of Teachers.--We have but four resident teachers in the county. While the uniform examination has reduced the number of our teachers, it has raised the standard of scholarship.

We endeavor to give our resident teachers almost steady employment, that they may make teaching a profession, and live by it. You see by the above statement that we have to import the larger number of our teachers, but we have been (with few exceptions) successful in getting good, enthusiastic teachers. It has been a little difficult the past year to secure teachers to supply the demand, at the time needed.

Sub-Districts.--We have one sub-district, comprising three schools. The money accruing from this special tax is being expended in lengthening the term, and in improving buildings.

Attendance.--The average attendance was not as good as we would like, but think my report will show an increase over that of previous years. We believe our schools have made a step forward, and we will endeavor to keep them on the upward move. There is much yet to be done, but lack of school revenue is one