

File No. 14053

Baltimore, February 27, 1912.

Hon. S. S. Field,  
City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:

65 In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, enclosing a letter addressed to you from Mr. John H. Roche, Secretary to the Board of School Commissioners, containing an inquiry as to whether the Inspector of Buildings, or the Supervisor of School Buildings, has jurisdiction in the matter of installing a vacuum cleaning apparatus in school buildings, to defray the cost of which an appropriation is contained in the Ordinance of Estimates for 1912, I beg to state that I wrote to Mr. Roche for definite information in reference to the method of installing and operating said cleaners, to which he replied as follows: "The apparatus needed in these old buildings is what is termed 'portable' that is, can be carried easily from one part of the building to another and is not fixed in position. No piping will be used, but, where there has not already been installed electric current, it will be necessary to supply this for motive power. Of course, you will understand that in installing vacuum cleaning apparatus in new buildings, the pumps, piping, &c., are all fixed permanently in position, but in the case of these old buildings, the only apparatus that we can use is of the type known as portable."

From the above letter it would seem that in some instances it will be necessary to wire the building for the purpose of furnishing electric current, and in others it will probably be necessary to alter existing electrical wiring and appliance.

Section 89 of the Charter prescribes the duties of the Inspector of Buildings as head of the Fourth sub-department of Public Improvements, said duties "shall be the superintendence of the construction and repairing of all buildings built by the City unless otherwise provided by Ordinance". Under this section it is the duty of the Inspector of Buildings to make all repairs to school buildings. The Charter does not expressly confer upon the Supervisor of School Buildings any power to make such repairs and in view of the fact that this power is expressly conferred upon the Inspector of Buildings there cannot be any implied power in the Supervisor of School Buildings to