

gates, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, were to form a State Board of Education, the duties of which were to be prescribed by the General Assembly. There were to be School Commissioners in each county to be appointed by the State Board for a term of four years, to the number deemed necessary by the State Superintendent. The General Assembly at its first session under the new Constitution, was to provide a uniform system of schools, by which a free school was to be kept open in each school district for at least six months in each year. In case it failed to do this, the system reported by the State Superintendent was to become law, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to future alteration by the General Assembly. At each regular session of the Legislature, an annual tax of ten cents on the hundred dollars was to be levied throughout the state, the proceeds of which were to be distributed among the counties and the city of Baltimore in proportion to their respective population between the ages of five and twenty years. No additional local taxes were to be levied without the consent of the people affected. Further, there was to be an additional annual tax of five cents on the hundred dollars, the proceeds of which were to be invested until a permanent School Fund of six million dollars was formed, this Fund to remain inviolate, and the annual interest of it disbursed for educational purposes only.¹⁹⁸ As soon as this Fund was formed, the ten cent tax might be discontinued in whole or in part.

The Committee on Education had in mind two men for the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction—Libertus Van Bokkelen of Baltimore County and William H. Farquhar of Montgomery County, and it was privately agreed with Governor Bradford that he was to appoint either one of these men. The School Fund idea

¹⁹⁸ For school funds prior to 1865 see report of House Committee, House Journal, 1864, pp. 92-3.