

44. *Transfer of property to boards; property held in trust.*

*All the property, estate, effects, money, funds, claims, and State donations heretofore vested by law in the public school authorities, for the benefit of public schools are transferred to and vested in the boards of education, and their successors in office. Real and personal estate granted, conveyed, devised, or bequeathed for the use of any particular school or school system shall be held in trust by the board of education for the benefit of such school or school system.*

45. *Property held in trust.*

*Real and personal estate granted, conveyed, devised or bequeathed for the use of any particular school or school system shall be held in trust by the boards of education for the benefit of such school or school system, and such grants and bequests shall be exempt from all State and local taxes.*

46. *Certain money exempt from taxation.*

*Moneys invested in trust for the benefit of the public schools for any county or city shall be exempt from State, county and local taxes.*

47. *Construction of school buildings; acquisition and sale of school sites.*

*(a) School Grounds and Buildings.—The county boards of education are authorized and empowered, with the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools, to purchase or otherwise acquire, ~~or to sell or otherwise dispose of~~ grounds, school sites, or buildings; or to rent, repair, improve and construct school buildings or to approve contracts for so doing, provided that the plans conform to the bylaws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and are approved by the State Superintendent of Schools, as provided for in Section 26 of this Article. WHEN THE COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SHALL DETERMINE THAT GROUNDS, SCHOOL SITES, OR BUILDINGS ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, THEY SHALL BE TRANSFERRED BY THE COUNTY BOARDS TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR COUNTY COUNCIL AND MAY BE UTILIZED, SOLD, LEASED, OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF (EXCEPT BY GIFT) BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR COUNTY COUNCIL.*

*(b) Cooperation with planning agencies.—In those counties where there is a commission or agency having legal responsibility for county planning for land use, the county board of education shall ~~utilize the services of~~ CONSULT WITH such commission or agency and request its advice in the selection of land for school sites. Such site shall conform as far as practicable to development plans for land use in the county.*

*Whenever a county board of education shall have given preliminary approval of a school building site, the board, of its own motion, if it deems it desirable or upon written petition of not less than one hundred adult residents of the county or upon request from the county commissioners or county council, shall conduct a public hearing on not less than ten days' notice, published at least once in a newspaper*