Jan. 4, 1860

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Jan. 4, 1860, the day the Missouri General Assembly acted to incorporate the St. Joseph Board of Public Education, the first such board to be formed in our state.

The act is one of many that were put forth by lawmakers during the formative years of a relatively new state. Rules were suspended in the Missouri House of Representatives on Dec. 2, 1859, to quickly pass the measure and send it to the upper chamber. The bill was signed by the governor on Jan. 4, 1860.

The Legislature provided the path for the first board election, in February of 1860. The six members would join a president. The first board then established a one-fifth of one-cent property tax. The first teachers were then hired in April, earning $50 per month. St. Joseph’s first public schools then opened on April 21, 1860. The system didn’t last long, as their schools would close in May 1861, because of the Civil War, and would reopen three years later.

But, it all started on Jan. 4, 1860, the date marking legislative approval to establish the St. Joseph Board of Education, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *A History of Education in Missouri* and Missouri Senate Journal)