

53, [51.] At all meetings the majority of ratepayers of the District present shall elect from their number a Chairman to preside over the meeting, who shall decide all questions of order, and shall take the votes of qualified voters only, deciding according to the majority of votes, and shall give a casting vote in case of an equality of votes; the Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall act as Secretary of the meeting, and when there is no Secretary of the Board, or he is not present, the meeting shall elect a Secretary to the meeting; the minutes of the meeting shall be read to the meeting before its close, and shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and transmitted to the Trustees within ten days after the meeting; such minutes shall be preserved by the Trustees and be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any ratepayer.

[74. (1).] [71.] It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees, and they are hereby empowered—

(1). To provide School privileges free of charge for all children from five to twenty years of age, inclusive, who may be resident in the District, and, when authorized by the School meeting, improved School accommodation, as far as possible in accordance with the provisions of Section fifty-nine,* with power to admit to School privileges pupils from other Districts, and if the Trustees shall deem it necessary, they may exact from such pupils such reasonable tuition fees as may be sanctioned by the Inspector. Persons above twenty years of age who desire to attend School in the District in which they reside, shall have the right to do so free of charge, if there is sufficient School accommodation. Any person who may be assessed for District School rates in two or more Districts, shall have the right to send his children to the School of any District in which he may be assessed, or part of them to the School of one District, and part to the School of another District as last aforesaid. Any parent, master, or guardian, who pays District School rates in any District shall be entitled to send any child under his care, custody or control, to the School of such District.

75, [72.] It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees, and they are hereby empowered, to meet as soon as practicable after the annual election (or the appointment) of a Trustee or Trustees, and appoint a Secretary to the Corporation, who may be of their own number, and who shall forthwith give a Bond to Her Majesty, with two sureties, in a sum at least equal to that to be raised by the District during the year, for the faithful performance of the duties of his office, and the same shall be forthwith lodged by the Board of Trustees with the Clerk of the Peace for the County; and Trustees failing to take such Bond from their Secretary, such Bond should have been taken; and such Secretary shall keep the sum for which moneys of the Board, and in pursuance of the orders of the Board collect and disburse all when required to the Trustees the papers and moneys of the Corporation, including the records of the School meetings, and perform all other duties which the Board may prescribe in relation to their corporate affairs. The Secretary shall be entitled to receive five per cent. (except as hereinafter provided), for the support of the Schools of the District, excepting in cases where payment is made before demand or notice given by the Secretary, in which cases he shall be entitled to two and one-half per cent., and shall make a deduction to such persons on all sums collected by him or under his direction, (except as hereinafter provided), for the purchase or erection of a School house, or the purchase of School grounds, and any ratepayer paying his rates in respect of such last mentioned services before demand or notice, shall be entitled to the like deduction of two and one-half per cent. on the amount of his rates. The Secretary shall not be entitled to any percentage on the amount of the County fund apportioned to the District. Where the rates are collected in whole or in part by the Parish collector, as hereinafter provided, the Secretary shall be entitled to no commission on the rates collected by the Parish collector, unless the percentage received by the Parish collector is less than five per cent., when the Secretary may receive the difference between such percentage and five per cent. And where the rates in whole or in part are collected by the Parish collector, ratepayers shall have the right to the deduction as aforesaid for voluntary payment, and the School meeting may allow to the Secretary, in case of the collection by the Parish collector in whole or in part, such compensation for his services as Secretary as they may see fit, not exceeding five per cent. on the amount so collected by the Parish collector, and the same may be paid out of the District funds, or included in any District assessment.

79, [76.] It shall be the duty of every collector receiving said list and precept at or before the time that he is collecting other Parish rates, to collect such School rates at the same time and in the same manner as he shall collect the Parish rates, and pay the same over as directed; but if the Collector receives such list and precept at any other time, he may, if he shall so wish, proceed to such collection forthwith: the Parish Collector shall be entitled to the usual per centage allowed him for collecting Parish rates, not exceeding five per cent.

81. No action shall be brought against any School Trustee individually, or against the Trustees in their corporate capacity, or against the Secretary of the Trustees, for anything done by virtue of the office of Trustee or Secretary, unless within three months after the act committed, and upon one month's previous notice thereof in writing, and the action shall be tried in the County where the cause of action arose. The defendant in any such action may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence. If it appears that the defendant acted under the authority of this Chapter, or of any Act in amendment hereof, or of other Regulations made pursuant to the powers herein given, or that the cause arose in some other County, the jury shall give him a verdict.

83, [79.] It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees—

(1). To cause to be prepared and read, at the annual meeting, a Report for the year then ending, which Report shall, amongst other things, contain a statement of the educational condition of the District, and of its needs, and exhibit a full account of the receipt and ex-

* "Fifty-seven" of the Manual.