

XLVII. In case the said Board shall order a new election of Trustees, a day, hour and place shall be named in such order for that purpose, and a copy thereof shall be posted on the schoolhouse of the District, at least six days before the day so named, and the inhabitants, who shall thereupon assemble, shall then and there elect the necessary number of Trustees, who, on being confirmed by the Board of Education, shall be deemed to be in office until the first day of July next, after the date of such election, or until some new election duly authorized shall take place.

XLVIII. In all cases when it may be necessary to prove the appointment of Trustees appointed by virtue of the Laws heretofore in force, or hereafter to be appointed by virtue of this Act, in any Court of Law or Equity, or before any Court, tribunal, or persons whatsoever, a certificate stating the facts of such appointment, signed by the Secretary of the Board of Education, shall be good and sufficient *prima facie* evidence of such appointment in all matters and questions touching the School District or the School, respecting which such appointment shall have been made, or in any manner in which such appointments shall come in question.

XLIX. Every Board of Trustees of School Districts, appointed under, or by virtue of the Laws heretofore in force, or to be appointed under this Act, shall keep a book or record in which their proceedings shall be entered, and the minutes of each appointment hereafter to be made of Trustees in any District after their election as aforesaid, and their names shall be entered and signed by the chairman of the meeting of inhabitants at which such Trustees shall have been elected. In such book or record, which shall afterwards be so kept by the Trustees as aforesaid, and when so signed, such appointment shall be held and be deemed to be good and valid, and minutes of future meetings and proceedings, elections and re-elections, shall be entered therein signed by any three of the Trustees for the time being, and the particulars of all assessments made by any such Trustees, shall be also duly entered and signed by any three of them, and the said book or register shall be open to the inspection of all resident householders of the District, and the School Visitor of the County, and if any such assessment shall not be paid by any party liable to pay the same within ten days after a demand thereof made upon, or at the residence of the

debtor, by one of the Trustees, or some party authorized by a majority of said Trustees in writing, to collect the same, and produced to the debtor, then and in every such case, the said Trustees or any one or more of them, or such other person as the majority of them may appoint, and in the name of any one or more of the said Trustees, may sue the debtor before any Court for the recovery of small debts, or Justice of the Peace, by summons or otherwise, under such regulations as may at the time be by law prescribed for the recovery of small debts. And it shall be lawful at the hearing of such cases for the defendant, if he shall see fit, to plead the inequality of the rate, provided he give notice of his intention so to do in writing, to the Trustee or Trustees, or other person in whose name the summons shall have been taken out, within twenty-four hours after the serving of the same; and if he shall so plead, then it shall be lawful for the said Court for the recovery of small debts, or Justice of the Peace before whom the summons shall be returnable, to hear such evidence as may be adduced by either party, and to vary the amount of rate, and make an order for such amount of payment as justice may require. Provided nevertheless, that if the defendant making such plea, shall have at any time theretofore acquiesced in the justice or equality of such rate, by having on occasion of any former assessment, paid his proportion or quota thereto, or any part thereof at a similar rate or proportion, then such Small Debt Court or Justice of the Peace, shall not permit the same to be heard, or any evidence connected therewith to be adduced, but shall order the reasonable costs incurred by the plaintiff or plaintiffs, to be paid by the defendant.

L. The book or record to be kept by the Trustees of the several school districts constituted under the several laws heretofore in force,—or this act—and signed by the persons and in manner mentioned, and set forth in the last preceding section, shall be good and *prima facie* evidence of the truth of all statements, minutes, matters, and things therein contained and set forth in any Court of Law or Equity, or before any Court tribunal, or persons whatsoever, whether such statements, minutes, matters, or things, shall relate to meetings of the inhabitants, the appointment or election of Trustees, or re-elections thereof; assessments upon the Inhabitants, or other proceedings whatsoever of such Trustees, and of the regularity and correctness of all acts,