

district or sub-district, or by publishing such notice in any newspaper published in any such town, village, city, school district or sub-district, ten days prior to the time set for holding such meeting. In the case of a sub-district the meeting may be called by the clerk thereof. The vote shall be taken by ballot and canvassed according to the statutes for conducting elections in such municipality, those ballots in favor being written or printed "for high school," those opposed, "against high school." If the resolution be adopted such town, district, sub-district, village or city shall constitute a high school district. But this section shall not apply to high schools already established.

3. No action heretofore taken by any town, village, city, school district or sub-district in voting to form a high school or joint high school shall be invalid by reason of any defect in the form of notice given or the time such notice shall have been given, posted or published; but all steps heretofore taken by any town, village, city, school district or sub-district in forming a high school or joint high school are hereby validated, and declared to conform to law.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved May 28, 1909.

No. 526, S.]

[Published May 31, 1909.

CHAPTER 218.

AN ACT to create section 1379—31gm, and to amend sections 1379—16 and 1379—31m of the statutes, permitting new parties to be added in drainage proceedings and giving the court power to permit amendments to petitions and reports.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate, and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. There is added to the statutes a new section to read: Section 1379—31gm. Any person owning land contiguous to the boundaries of any drainage district may at any time make application to the court to have said land included in the said drainage district, and the court may, after due notice of said application, make an order adding said land to the said district with like force and effect as if the same had been added by the original petition or any report of the commissioners.

SECTION 2. Sections 1379—16 and 1379—31m of the statutes are amended to read: Section 1379—16. 1. Within ten days after said commissioners shall be appointed and qualified they shall meet and organize by electing one of their number secre-

tary, and as soon as may be thereafter, they shall personally examine the lands in said district and make a preliminary report to the court, which report shall state:

(1) Whether said proposed work is necessary, or would be of utility in carrying out the purposes of the petition.

(2) Whether the proposed work would promote the public health.

(3) Whether the proposed work would promote the public welfare.

(4) Whether the total benefits from said proposed work will exceed the cost thereof together with the damages resulting therefrom; and in arriving at this they shall include all benefits and all damages resulting therefrom, both within and without said district.

(5) Said commissioners shall in said report fix as near as may be and report to the court the boundaries of said proposed drainage district. Said boundaries shall not be so changed from those in the petition described as to deprive the court of jurisdiction by reason of not having on the petition the required number of signers owning land within said changed boundaries.

2. Any adult person owning land within the district proposed by the original petition, or within the district as changed or enlarged by either the first or the second report of the commissioners, may, at any time, file in court a request to be joined as petitioners, and the court may, by order, permit such persons to be joined as petitioners with like force and effect as if they had signed the original petition; and thereafter such owners, so brought in, shall be counted as original petitioners for all purposes. The original petition and any other petition filed may be signed by the owner or by any agent authorized in writing to sign said owner's name.

3. If said proposed work, as in the petition described, is not best suited to carry out the purposes of the petition, the commissioners shall consider and base their report upon the one best suited to carry out those purposes and propose to the court the one by them considered.

Section 1379—31m. 1. The court shall at all times have supervision of said commissioners, and may at any time require them to make a report on any matter or matters connected with their duties as commissioners, and after due hearing may remove from office any or all of said commissioners for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office or for other good cause. The court or presiding judge may at any time require the commissioners to give new bonds to the clerk of the court and may fix the

amount thereof, and said bonds shall be submitted to the court or the presiding judge thereof for approval.

2. *The court shall at all times have supervision over all matters pertaining to drainage districts and may make such orders with respect to all matters pertaining to the carrying on of the work of said district as shall be for the best interest of the said district, and for that purpose may at any time permit or require, as the circumstances may demand, the bringing in of new parties upon such terms as shall be just, with like force and effect as if they were original parties to the said proceedings; and the court shall have an equitable supervision over all matters pertaining to drainage district proceedings with like force and effect as if the said proceeding were a case in equity.*

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved May 28, 1909.

No. 469, S.]

[Published May 31, 1909.

CHAPTER 219.

AN ACT to amend section 186, 4167, and 4168 of the statutes, relating to public lands and evidence.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 186 of the statutes is amended to read: Section 186. Said commissioners shall keep their office in the capitol. They shall conveniently arrange and preserve therein all records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field notes, plats, and other papers pertaining to the public lands heretofore, now, or hereafter owned by the state, including all such as have been or shall be received from the United States or any officer thereof. They may perfect such records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field notes, plats, and other papers when incomplete, and cause fair copies thereof to be made when from injury, loss, use, or accident it shall become necessary; and any such copy when certified by the chief clerk of the land office under his hand and the official seal of said office to have been made for any of the causes herein specified, and to be a correct copy thereof, shall have the same force and effect in all courts and places as the original; and any copy from said original records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field notes, plats, or other papers, or from any record or paper required by law to be kept in their office, or any copy from said certified copy thereof, when certified by