

FARMERS HIGH SCHOOL OF PENNSYLVANIA INCORPORATED

Act of Feb. 22, 1855, P.L. 46, No. 50

Cl. 24

AN ACT

To incorporate the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania.

Section 1. Incorporation; name

That there be and is hereby erected and established, at the place which shall be designated by the authority and as hereinafter provided, an institution for the education of youth in the various branches of science, learning and practical agriculture, as they are connected with each other, by the name, style and title of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 1.

Section 2. Management by board of trustees

The said institution shall be under the management and government of a board of trustees, of whom there shall be thirteen, and seven of whom shall be a quorum, competent to perform the duties hereinafter authorized and required. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 2.

Section 3. Membership of board of trustees; name and style of board; power of board to take and dispose of property

The Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, the President of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, and the principal of the institution, shall each be ex officio a member of the board of trustees, which said trustees, and their successors in office, are hereby elected and declared to be a body politic and corporate in law, with perpetual succession, by the name, style and title of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, by which name and title the said trustees, and their successors, shall be able and capable in law to take by gift, grant, sale or conveyance, by bequest, devise or otherwise, any estate in any lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods, chattels or effects, and at pleasure to alien or otherwise dispose of the same to and for the uses and purposes of the said institution: provided, however, that the annual income of the said State, so held, shall at no time exceed twenty-five thousand dollars; and the said corporation shall by the same name have power to sue and be sued, and generally to do and transact all and every business touching or concerning the premises, or which shall be necessarily incidental thereto, and to hold, enjoy and exercise all such powers, authorities and jurisdiction as are customary in the colleges within this Commonwealth. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 3.

Section 4. Seal

The same trustees shall cause to be made a seal, with such devices as they may think proper, and by and with which all the deeds, diplomas, certificates and acts of the institution shall be authenticated, and they may at their pleasure alter the same. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 4.

Section 5. First meeting of trustees; term of office; election to choose successors

At the first meeting of the board of trustees, the nine names

who are not ex officio members, shall by themselves and by lot be divided into three classes, of three each, numbered one, two, and three; the appointment hereby made of class number one shall terminate on the first Monday of October, 1856, number two on the first Monday of October, 1857, and number three on the first Monday of October, 1858; and upon the termination of the office of such directors, to-wit: on the first Monday of October in every year, an election shall be held at the institution to supply their place, and such election shall be determined by the votes of the members of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, and the votes of three representatives duly chosen by each county agricultural society in this Commonwealth, which shall have been organized at least three months preceding the time of election, and it shall be the duty of the said board of trustees to appoint two of their number as judges to hold the said election, to receive and count the votes, and return the same to the board of trustees, with their certificate of the number of votes cast, and for whom, whereupon the said board shall determine who have received the highest number of votes, and who are thereby elected. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 5.

Section 6. Powers and duties of trustees in general

On the second thursday of june after the passage of this act, the board of trustees who are hereby appointed, shall meet at Harrisburg, and proceed to the organization of the institution, and selection of the most eligible site within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for its location, where they shall purchase or obtain by gift, grant or otherwise, a tract of land containing at least two hundred acres, and not exceeding two thousand acres, upon which they shall procure such improvements and alterations to be made, as will make it an institution properly adapted to the instruction of youth in the art of farming, according to the meaning and design of this act; they shall select and choose a principal for the said institution, who with such scientific attainments and capacity, to teach as the board shall deem necessary, shall be a good practical farmer., he with such other persons as shall from time to time be employed as teachers, shall compose the faculty, under whose control the immediate management of the institution, and the instruction of all the youth committed to its care, shall be subject however to the revision and all orders of the board of trustees; there shall be a quarterly meeting of the board of trustees at the institution, and as much oftener as shall be necessary, and they shall determine; the board shall have power to pass all such by-laws, ordinances and rules as the good government of the institution shall require, and therein to prescribe what shall be taught to and what labor performed by the pupils, and generally to do and perform all such administrative acts as are usually performed by and within the appropriate duty of a board of trustees, and shall by a secretary of their appointment, keep a minute of the proceedings and action of the board. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 6.

Section 7. Employment of teachers in addition to principal; cultivation of farm by pupils

It shall be the duty of the board of trustees as soon and as

often as the exigencies of the institution shall require, in addition to the principal, to employ such other professors, teachers or tutors, as shall be qualified to impart to pupils under their charge a knowledge of the English language, grammar, geography, history, mathematics, chemistry and such other branches of the natural and exact sciences as will conduce to the proper education of a farmer; the pupils shall themselves, at such proper times and seasons as shall be prescribed by the board of trustees, perform all the labor necessary in the cultivation of the farm, and shall thus be instructed and taught all things necessary to be known by a farmer, it being the design and intention of this act to establish an institution in which youth may be so educated as to fit them for the occupation of a farmer. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 7.

Section 8. Election and duties of treasurer

The board of trustees shall annually elect a treasurer who shall receive and disburse the funds of the institution, and perform such other duties as shall be required of him, and from whom they shall take such security for the faithful performance of his duty as necessity shall require; and it shall be the duty of the said board of trustees, annually, on or before the first of December, to make out a full and detailed account of the operations of the institution for the preceding year, and an account of all its receipts and disbursements, and report the same to the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, who shall embody said report in the annual report which by existing laws the said society is bound to make and transmit to the Legislature, on or before the first Monday of January, of each and every year. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 8.

Section 9. Appropriations from State Agricultural Society

It shall be lawful for the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society to appropriate out of their funds to the object of this act, a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars, whenever the same shall be required, and to make such further appropriation, annually, out of their funds, as will aid in the prosecution of this object, and it shall be the duty and privilege of the said society, at such times as they shall deem expedient by their committees, officers or otherwise, to visit the said institution and examine into the details of its management. 1855, Feb. 22, P.L. 46, Sec. 9.