

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
JULY 16, 2020
301 N FRANKLINTOWN ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21223

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was in person.

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Joyce Smith, Vice President
Tamara Purnell, Member
Arlene Fisher, Member
Philip a'Becket, Member

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Alan Dunklow

STAFF

Armstead B. Crawley Jones, Sr., Election Director
Abigail Goldman, Deputy Director

VISITORS

Emily Opilo, Baltimore Sun
Samuel Novey, Baltimore Votes

ABSENT

Bruce Luchansky, President

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 P.m. by Ms. Joyce Smith, Board Vice-President. A declaration of quorum was present.

The Board and staff stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

There are no additions to the agenda. The agenda is approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Canvass minutes of the Special General Election and Primary Election.

Ms. Goldman presented to the Board the Canvas minutes for the Special General Election. Ms. Purnell made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. a'Becket seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Ms. Goldman presented to the Board the Canvas minutes for the Primary 2020 Election. Ms. Purnell made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. a'Becket seconded the motion. Motion passes.

ELECTION DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. Jones directed the Board that in their folders are two letters that MAEO has written about the election memberships thoughts on moving forward for the upcoming election. We asked for early voting, additional vote centers and an all-mail election.

In response to these letters SBE received a letter from Governor Hogan mandating all 296 polling places and all 7 early voting sites are to open and mail out absentee ballot applications to all voters.

All LBE's feel it's a basic set up for failure. We will be running two elections at the same time. We have limited staffing, election judges and technicians and it's a recipe for failure.

We are in the process of asking the Governor to reconsider his decision. In addition, County and City executives wrote a letter to the Governor about their concerns on his decision.

Mr. Jones stated that we have reached out to the polling places and judges and we have had many of the locations not allowing us in the facilities and judges not feeling comfortable working. Ms. Goldman is leading a process to contact these locations and persons via a online questionnaire and those who did not have an email will be called by staff and their information recorded.

Drop Boxes- Currently we are not planning to add drop boxes because the cost for security on them. The cost for the primary was \$71,000. We are looking to put the security out on bid for the November election.

Hearing - The City Council was concerned about the cost of mailing out the applications to all voters. Ms. Lamone said the cost will be close to 5 million dollars and then the counties/city get charged their portion. She also said they will be doing a publicity campaign to make sure voters are updating their address. They also have a plan with the MVA to those whose address are not to updated and see if they have a more current addresses then we have.

Precinct level results - In order to get the precinct level results that the elected officials are demanding we will have 296 ballot styles. 1 ballot style per precinct that we have.

Mr. Jones said we are looking for bigger locations for early voting and asked the Board of suggestions:

Ms. Smith suggested sorority halls

Ms. Fisher suggested idea of using shopping locations

Mr. a'Becket suggested putting up tents, M and T stadium, Convention center, B and O Building, Fifth Regiment Armory and IOTA Center.

The Board brought up questions about the Ballots being mailed timely. Mr. Jones said unfortunately not all printers can do ballot printing or mailing.

Ms. Smith suggested the Board reach out to the Central Committees requesting them to help find election judges.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

NONE

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT:

Regional Transportation petition – The State Board rejected their June 26 and July 8th complaint. There is not action required by this Board.

NAACP- sent a letter about their concerns of the June 2020 election. Mr. Dunklow is working with Mr. Jones on a response to them. He hopes the letter will go out tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS:

None


NEW BUSINESS:

MAEO Convention – The convention in Ocean City, Maryland has been cancelled this year and we will holding a virtual one.

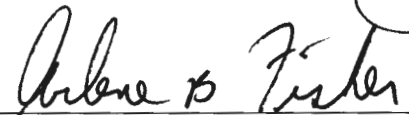
NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2020.

Ms. Arlene Fisher made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Phil a'Becket. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



President 9/17/20
Date



Secretary 9-17-20
Date