

**BOARD MEETING**  
**BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**JULY 18, 2024**

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections Office at 417 East Fayette Street, Baltimore MD 21202

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Scherod Barnes, Board President  
Terrence Threweatt Jr, Board Vice President

**ON PHONE**

Hope Williams, Board Member  
Maria Vismale, Board Member  
Sam Novey, Board Secretary

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Thomas Chapman

**STAFF**

Armstead B.C. Jones, Election Director  
Abigail Goldman, Deputy Election Director

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scherod Barnes, Board President at 4:00 pm and declared a quorum. Mr. Threweatt made a motion to approve the agenda and June minutes that was seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion passed.

Mr. Threweatt made a motion to approve the minutes of the ballot canvass. Ms. Vismale seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**BOARD PRESIDENT REMARKS**

Mr. Barnes asked board members to respond to an email from Ms. Stanley regarding the 2024 MAEO ballot. Mr. Barnes also asked board members to prepare to do the director's performance review at a special call meeting on July 24, 2024. Mr. Barnes shared that he had invited Chris Lohr-Beatty from SBE to give guidance to the board regarding the performance review at that meeting.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Jones said staff continues to finalize parts of the election. They are currently working on petitions. Mr. Jones shared that some staff are taking vacations.

Mr. Jones also shared that the warehouse staff has been organizing materials at the warehouse and getting the cabinets and supply bags ready for the general election. He also shared that Mr. Sam McAfee had come back up to check on the warehouse. With Mr. McAfee present, Mr. Jones also shared that staff would be getting scanners and other electronics charged and ready for election day.

Mr. Jones also shared that he continues to work with the Comptroller's office to complete the move to the new location. He commended the Comptroller's partnership. Ms. Goldman shared that the lease is now being reviewed by the Baltimore City Law department.

Mr. Jones shared an update on booking sites for election judges training.

Mr. Barnes asked about the response to the letter from the Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee. Mr. Jones said he had sent a response to the chairwoman. Mr. Jones shared an update on responses to the data requests from board members.

Mr. Jones shared that some voting locations would be changing for the general election to concerns about access for disabled voters at Mt Washington Elementary and the entrance at Cross Country Elementary School. Ms. Goldman shared the solutions had been proposed and that the board would be voting on them at the August meeting. Mr. Jones also reviewed other changes to polling places that would be voted on in August.

Mr. Jones shared that he could not comment on the issue with voters confusing sample ballots with real ballots because of ongoing litigation but confirmed the issue is being "worked on."

Mr. Jones shared his feeling that responsibility reaching out to voters in pre-trial detention is SBE's responsibility.

Mr. Jones shared that there is a backup system for election judges who don't show up - having people ready at the office to go out and serve. But in May there were not enough judges to have a backup supply of judges to go fill in. He confirmed that the board trained 2,100 judges for the May Primary and 600 did not show up. He shared his impression that the board and staff can not control if election judges do not show up. Mr. Jones and Ms. Goldman have been meeting with the judge department to try new strategies for recruitment of election judges.

Mr. Jones shared that he and Ms. Goldman are meeting with all department heads and staff to shore up operations ahead of the general election.

Mr. Barnes asked about when trainings would be scheduled. Mr. Jones shared that he and Ms. Goldman are working with the State Board of Elections to confirm trainings.

Mr. Novey asked whether the Board of Elections would be rehiring any of the 23 chief judges who did not show up in the primary. Mr. Jones said he had dismissed some but would be reviewing them on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Williams asked about whether it would be possible to schedule trainings for young people on the weekend outside of school hours. Ms. Goldman confirmed that there were trainings in the evening and that some of the training locations are not available on the weekend. Mr. Barnes shared that was something that staff could investigate. Ms. Goldman shared they would have a meeting with Baltimore Votes on Monday to discuss next steps.

Mr. Jones addressed a concern about having enough staff to answer the phones on election day. He shared his feeling that there is not enough space but there are 36 telephones at the main office and 10 at the warehouse and those phones are all being answered on election day. He also shared that the board uses a call center set up by the state.

Mr. Jones addressed a concern about the low turnout at the early vote center in south Baltimore. Ms. Goldman shared her plan to eventually move to the Cherry Hill Aquatic Center but for November they are staying with the same locations.

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL REMARKS**

Mr. Chapman shared updates on the petitions. He shared the Mr. Jones rejected the Renew Baltimore petition because of legality - this decision is now being challenged in court. Mr. Chapman also shared that the Baby Bonus petition had received enough certified signatures but that it had been challenged in court by Baltimore City. He shared that staff would continue to review signatures for the Renew Baltimore petition in case a court ruled that it was legal. Mr. Chapman also shared an update on the petition to create a Regional Transit Authority - they have been notified that they are short but they have on July 26, 2024 to turn in additional signatures. Mr. Chapman also shared that the Community Wealth Building Fund petition would not be going forward this year. Mr. Chapman shared that the new Harborplace related petition was also gathering signatures.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Barnes introduced James McLaughlin and Misti McKeen from Baltimore Votes who were present to represent the student poll worker program.

Mr. Barnes asked the board to entertain a presentation from James McLaughlin about Baltimore Votes at the August or September meeting. Mr. Threawatt made a motion to add Baltimore Votes to the August meeting. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Goldman shared that there would be polling places that need to change and these would be voted on at the August meeting.

- Mt Washington Upper school #221 1801 Sulgrave Avenue, to move back to Mt. Washington Lower School #221, 5800 Smith Avenue. Precinct: 27049
- Pennsylvania Branch Library, 1531 W North Avenue to move to Sandtown Winchester Academy 701 Gold Street. (Library is not handicapped accessible and cannot be made so. It's a historical building so its grandfathered in) (.4 miles) Precinct: 14005 and 15019
- James McHenry Recreation Center, 911 Hollins Street to move into the James McHenry School, 31 S Schroeder Street just for election day. Early Voting will still be in the Recreation center for this year. Precincts: 19002, 19003, 20002 and 18002
- Brooklyn Branch Library, 300 E Patapsco St. move into Marie Farring Elem School 300 Pontiac Street. (temporary move due to renovations) (.1 mile) Precincts: 25013, 25011 and 25012
- Herring Branch Library, 3801 Erdman Avenue move to Catholic High School, 2800 Edison Hwy. (temporary move due to renovations) (.4 miles) Precincts: 26019 and 08003
- Frederick Douglas #450, 2301 Gwynn Falls Pkwy. move to Robert W. Coleman Elem Sch #142 2400 Windsor Avenue, 21216 (.5 miles) (temporary move due to renovations) Precincts: 13007 and 15020
- Mary Rodman Rec Center, 3600 W. Mulberry Street move to Mary Rodman Elementary School #204, 3510 W. Mulberry Street. Right next door. (temporary move due to renovations) Precinct: 20006

Mr. Novey thanked the staff for responses to the board data request. He asked about the number of ballots that were rejected for incomplete application and the large proportion of those incomplete applications that came from Baltimore City statewide. Mr. Jones shared that they reiterate the importance of complete provisional ballot applications at provisional ballot trainings.

Mr. Barnes shared that board members had received results from the staff survey.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

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APPROVED AT THE AUGUST BOARD MEETING