

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

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections office at 417 E. Fayette, Street, Baltimore MD 21202

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Scherod Barnes, Board President  
Terrence Threweatt Jr, Board Vice President  
Hope Williams, Board Member  
Maria Vismale, Board Member  
Sam Novey, Board Secretary

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Thomas Chapman

**STAFF**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scherod Barnes, Board President.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Vismale made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 20, 2023 meeting which was seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion passed.

**BOARD PRESIDENT REMARKS**

Ms. Barnes congratulated Mr. Threweatt on the recent birth of his daughter. Mr. Barnes apologized to board members who were offended by comments made at the December 20 meeting.

**ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. Goldman shared that the state board of elections approved our bylaws but had some revisions to the assignment of duties.

Ms. Goldman shared a draft of a letter to state legislators regarding voting in detention centers in Baltimore. Election staff reported that no materials were picked up from dropboxes at the Baltimore City detention center in 2023. In 2022, there were more materials picked up from the dropboxes.

Ms. Goldman shared a calendar with board members that includes both the state board of elections events and events hosted by the city board of elections such as election judge training.

Ms. Goldman prepared the board to vote in February on polling place changes and shared a list of proposed changes. Ms. Goldman clarified that there are 296 precincts but many are co-located at the same sites.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Vismale asked about whether voting would return to Northwestern High School. Ms. Goldman shared that in past years when voting occurred there when the school was not in use maintaining security of equipment was a challenge.

Mr. Barnes asked about updates on the move. Ms. Goldman shared that the Department of General Services sent over the plans. DGS has said they have concerns about \$2.8 million for the buildout. Mr. Jones shared his feeling that the cost was too high for the build out.

Mr. Jones said he has been fighting for a new building for 14 years. Ms. Vismale asked if it would be helpful to testify and lobby on behalf of the move but Ms. Goldman share her perspective that this would not be helpful at this time.

Ms. Williams asked if there would be a media release about recruitment of election judges. Mr. Jones said that the public is made aware of election judge recruitment and that a media release is sent out. Ms. Williams asked when the release was going out ahead of the february meetings. Mr. Jones said the release would be going out before the February meeting.

Mr. Jones reiterated that he needs to see copies of the email newsletter from the board before it goes out. Mr. Novey said he would send drafts of newsletters about early vote locations and election judge recruitment.

Ms. Goldman encouraged board members to promote to the public that people sign up for the notification list for polling place changes.

Mr. Novey made a motion to approve the revised board duties document from the state board. Mr. Barnes seconded. The motion passed and all board members shared the document.

Ms. Williams clarified the process for the board sending questions for written questions to the election director. Each board member sends their questions individually to the secretary at least 10 days before the next board meeting. The secretary will collect them and send them to the director and deputy director for written response ahead of the next scheduled meeting.

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL REMARKS**

Mr. Chapman shared that the financial disclosure system is available for board members to make their disclosures. They are required to do that by April 30, 2024.

### **LIST OF PROPOSED POLLING PLACE CHANGES**

#### **009-015**

OLD: Dawson Safe Haven Teen Center, 1400 E Federal Street, 21213

**NEW: School #250 Bernard Harris Sr Elementary School, 1400 N Caroline Street, 21213**

Distance: .2 mile

**Reason: Closed**

#### **027-004**

OLD: Harford Center for Senior Citizens 4920 Harford Road, 21214

**NEW: Engine House #42, 4522 Harford Road, 21214**

Distance: .5 mile

**Reason: Closed for renovations**

#### **027-061, 027-062, 027-066, 027-063, 027-065**

OLD: Cross Country @ Northwestern and Northwestern 6900 Park Heights Avenue, 21215 High School

**NEW: School #247 Cross Country Elementary School, 6100 Cross Country Blvd, 21215**

Distance: 1.2 miles

**Reason: Northwestern will be vacant until new school moves in and Cross Country is going back to its old building.**

#### **006-002, 006-003, 006-004**

OLD: School #27 – Rodgers Commodore Elementary, 100 N Chester Street, 21231 School

**NEW: School #83 Wm Paca Elementary School, 200 N. Lakewood Avenue 21224**

Distance: .5 mile

**Reason: School Closed**

#### **027-049**

OLD: School #221 Mt Washington Lower School, 5800 Smith Avenue, 21209

**NEW: School #221 Mt Washington Upper School, 1801 Sulgrave Avenue, 21209**

Distance: .3 mile

**Reason: School building sold back to church**

#### **025-010**

OLD: School #422 New Era Academy, 2700 Seamon Avenue, 21225

**NEW: School #159 Cherry Hill Elementary School, 801 Bridgeview Road, 21225**

Distance: .5 mile

**Reason: School Closed**

**020-002, 019-002, 019-003**

OLD: School #4 Steuart Hill Academy, 30 S Gilmore St, 21223

**NEW: James McHenry Recreation Center, 911 Hollins Street, 21223**

Distance: .6 mile

**Reason: School Closed**

**014-004**

OLD: School #11 Eutaw Marshburn Elementary, 1624 Eutaw Place, 21217

**NEW: Unity Hall, 1505 Eutaw Place, 21217**

Distance: .1 mile

**Reason: School Closed**

**020-005, 020-007, 020-008**

OLD: Hilton Recreation Center, 2950 Phelps Lane, 21229

**NEW: Green Street Academy, 125 N Hilton Street, 21229**

Distance: .3 mile

**Reason: Rec center sold to Boys and Girls club of America and extensive renovations are being done and will not be able to use.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. Novey. The motion passed.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Threweatt to enter closed session under § 3-305(b)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vismale and passed unanimously. (See the attached Closing Statement.) Present during the closed session were all five Board members (Ms. Williams was not present for the vote to enter closed session but arrived shortly after the closed session began), along with Mr. Jones and Mr. Chapman. During the closed session, the Board discussed Mr. Jones's annual performance evaluation with Mr. Jones and approved the evaluation for submission to the State Board of Elections. The Board then returned to open session.

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THE BOARD APPROVED THESE MINUTES AT THEIR FEBRUARY 16, 2024 MEETING.