

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MARCH 21, 2024

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections warehouse at 301 N. Franklintown Road, Baltimore MD 21223

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

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

ABSENT

Hope Williams, Board Member

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Thomas Chapman

STAFF

Abigail Goldman, Acting Election Director
Lisa Stanley, Acting Election Deputy Director

GUESTS

Autumn Grant, Democratic State Central Committee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scherod Barnes, Board President. Mr. Novey made a motion to approve the agenda that was seconded by Mr. Threweatt. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Threweatt made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 15, 2024, meeting which was seconded by Mr. Novey. The motion passed.

BOARD PRESIDENT REMARKS

Mr. Barnes shared that he spoke with Director Jones, and he is recovering at home from his surgery. Mr. Barnes also shared gratitude from the board with Acting Director Goldman and Acting Director Stanley and the whole staff for their commitment and dedication in preparing for early voting and election day.

Mr. Barnes also shared that he and Mr. Threweatt was able to do a walk through of the key election equipment with Sam McAfee. Mr. Barnes also thanked all the board

members who took part in Election Judge training and encouraged all who have not participated yet to do so. Mr. Barnes shared his feeling that it is imperative that board members have hands-on experience with what the frontline staff and judges are doing. Mr. Barnes encouraged board members to visit the office downtown and be visible and accessible to staff.

ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Goldman introduced Mr. Sam McAfee from McAfee Election Services and shared his long track record of great work in elections. Ms. Goldman shared that his contract had been approved by the board of estimates for both primary and general elections.

Mr. McAfee shared that he and his team have been getting the warehouse ready for election day. The ballot scanning machine will increase capacity to quickly read ballots.

Ms. Goldman shared that she and Ms. Stanley have implemented Department head meetings with staff, and these have been well received and improved the sense of team camaraderie.

Ms. Goldman shared that the elections information telephone line is now being answered by call center that is employed through the State Board of Elections.

New office and warehouse: Ms. Goldman shared that the Caton Avenue location is still possible but that another business is interested in renting it. Ms. Goldman has placed calls to the Comptroller's office and State Election Director's office to see if we can move it forward quickly.

Ms. Goldman also shared that she, Mr. Barnes, Ms. Stanley, and Mr. McAfee visited a potential site at Edmondson Village. She shared her feeling that the site was not acceptable (warehouse not on first floor, office separated from warehouse, etc).

Mr. Thre watt asked to be included in future site visits. He also asked about using closed schools and rec centers and Ms. Goldman clarified that these sites were usable with all the modifications that would have to be made.

Petitions: Ms. Goldman shared that the PEACE petition has been certified and that staff is going to start working on the Baby Bonus petition. Ms. Goldman shared that Renew Baltimore turned in their petitions and that she had appropriately set expectations with them about when those petitions would be processed.

Election Judge and Election Technician recruitment and training: Ms. Goldman shared that the Election Judge manual is completed and printed. She encouraged all board members to go to training and get their copy.

Ms. Goldman shared that the target number for Election Judges is 2,500. So far there are 2,237 potential and returning judges in the data base system. Out of that amount 414 have trained and 1,325 are scheduled for training. The Labor Commissioner for

Baltimore City has been sending an email blast out to city employees. Ms. Goldman also shared the flyer with a lot of community associations.

Ms. Stanley shared that they are still looking to recruit another 60 technicians and that they will be utilizing technicians from staffing agencies contracted by the State Board of Elections. She shared they would be scheduling training in the coming days and that they need to be able to drive the "blue boxes" back to the warehouse the night of the election.

Dropbox: Ms. Goldman shared that drop boxes and cameras would be going out to approved locations in the coming days and that staff would begin picking up from them on 3/28 and 3/29 and that ballots would begin hitting mailboxes the first week of April.

Central booking pick-up: Ms. Goldman shared that they picked up 12 mail-in ballot applications and 35 voter registrations from Baltimore City Central Booking.

Canvass: First day of canvass will begin April 22nd and Ms. Goldman clarified that they require a quorum of board members present to do the canvass. Mr. Barnes asked Ms. Goldman to send the board an email with the scheduling details for board members to do their part for the canvass.

Staff Vacation: Mr. Barnes asked about staff vacations around the election. Ms. Goldman clarified that she was not approving any staff vacation until the election except for religious holidays and exceptional circumstances.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REMARKS

Mr. Chapman had nothing to share at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barnes shared that he had talked to Mr. Chapman about updating the website to list him rather than Mr. Jones as the contact for members of the public wishing to speak at a board of elections meetings and asked the staff to update the website to list Mr. Barnes as the point of contact.

Ms. Goldman shared that the Clerk of Circuit Court needs to be scheduled to swear in board members for the canvass before 4/22. She was working to bring the clerk to the April 18, 2024 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved at the April 18, 2024 Board meeting