

APPROVED

June 24, 2014

MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
18753-210 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Mary Ann Keeffe, President
Donice Jeter, Vice President
Nancy Dacek, Secretary
Nahid Khozeimeh
Jacqueline Phillips
David Naimon

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Election Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Election Director
Lisa Merino, Office Services Coordinator
Marjorie Roher, Management and Budget Specialist III
Janet Ross, Information Technology Manager

Guests:

Sheda Baker Gansler Lawyer
Dara Lavina Brown Lawyer

Convene the Board Meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

Ms. Keeffe called the Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 11:16 a.m.

Update of Election Day Activities

Ms. Jurgensen reported that the fire alarm went off at Precinct 09-08; however, no fire or smoke was detected and no one was displaced. She provided a list of precincts that reported issues with their Electronic Poll books (EPBs) at 7:00 a.m.

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- 07-07 - Westbrook Elementary School
- 07-09 - Lynbrook School Center
- 07-12 - Bethesda Library
- 07-21 - Chevy Chase United Methodist Church
- 07-22 - Bannockburn Elementary School
- 07-32 Chevy Chase Library
- 09-11 - Stedwick Elementary School
- 09-25 - Dr. Sally K. Ride Elementary School
- 10-11 - Pauline Bets Addie Tennis Center

Ms. Jurgensen reported that troubleshooting was done over the phone; however, an error message continually popped up on the EPBs. She contacted the Maryland State Board of Elections who stated that voters should use the Touch Screen Units if any poll books could be used. The Election Judges at the precincts listed above were asked to use the precinct register and begin issuing provisional ballots to voters if all of their Electronic poll books were down.

Mr. Naimon expressed concern with the potential of long lines if the EPB issue was not resolved and provisional ballots continued to be issued. Mr. Karpinski reported that he visited Precincts 07-07, 07-12, 07-21, and 07-32 and assured the Board there were no lines at the time of his visit at any of the polling places. He added that by 8:00 a.m. a work around had been devised – by using the precinct register a voter could be looked up in the EPB with their voter identification number and those voters with an eight digit voter ID number were able to be found in the poll books. Those with a ten digit number were not found and needed to vote by provisional ballot. Ms. Jurgensen reported that all the listed precincts received replacement poll books by 11:00 a.m. She added that on Monday night, as election judges prepared and set up for Election Day, they are to open all poll books and confirm functionality, networking, and identify any items needed – no calls were received Monday night regarding electronic poll book issues. Ms. Jurgensen stated that all the poll books were prepared and validated according to the SBE procedures.

Ms. Ross briefed the Board on the process and procedures used to prepare the Electronic poll books (EPB). She stated that after Early Voting occurred, the EPBs were prepared for the bulk update. Some issues were discovered on Saturday as they were prepared; Mr. Satterfield, from the Maryland State Board of Elections, was on-site to assist in resolving the issues. She stated that those issues that occurred on Saturday were not the same poll books identified above. After the database is loaded, staff verified every poll book by pulling up two voters in the poll book to ensure they are functioning; this occurred with no issues. The issue at the precincts occurred when a name was entered into the poll book and then crashed with an error code. When the calls were received reporting poll books crashing and an error code, Mrs. Ross contacted Brandon Molvi from the SBE and he stated the code indicated a corrupted database.

Ms. Khozeimeh had an issue at Precinct 07-24, where the EPBs and the printer had issues. After she switched cords around, the units worked for a while. She noted the connection was bad. Ms. Ross responded it may have been a faulty USB cord. Ms. Khozeimeh agreed.

Mr. Naimon provided a list of Precincts with issues; 07-16, 07-06, 07-18, 09-15, and 07-13. Ms. Keeffe inquired if the precincts named had poll book issues, Mr. Naimon could not verify if all or some of the precincts had EPB issues. Mrs. Khozeimeh indicated that she observed similar problems with EPBs at precincts on her route. Mr. Naimon expressed his concern that the Board

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of Elections was creating a situation where people did not have time to vote due to the EPB issue. Mr. Karpinski suggested that staff call all the polling places listed above for a status update. The Board also requested staff to provide how many voters left the precinct without voting (indicated they didn't have time). The Board requested the number of Provisionals issued for all the precincts provided by the Board members and identified by staff.

The Board discussed the potential of extending early voting by one hour.

Ms. Keefe provided a list of precincts with some poll books not working: 04-10, 04-18 and 5-10. She added that VIBBs were not working at Precinct 04-10 and 10-11.

The Board briefly discussed some concerns when visiting their Monday night rounds regarding unlocked polling rooms.

Ms. Keefe acknowledged the two visitors, Ms. Baker, an attorney for Doug Gansler campaign, and Ms. Lavin, an attorney for the Anthony Brown campaign.

The Board further discussed the EPB issue and the possibility of extending hours. The conversation to extend the hours was put on hold until an update of the polling places was provided.

*** Brief pause for lunch***

Mr. Naimon inquired why the Montgomery County Public School security force was deployed on Election Day. Ms. Jeter responded that the MCPS security stated they were there to protect the students from the voters; however, no students were in the building. Ms. Jurgensen responded that the Montgomery County Public School system decided to place security in various polling places due to summer school activities to protect voters and students.

Mrs. Jeter stated another site had problems with phones not working or assigned incorrectly. Some judges had problems opening the voting units, pliers were needed. At White Oak Middle school, she noticed that nine voting units were on a cart and one was loose, security cable was tied and not locked, machine units were incorrectly labeled and the judges relabeled the cards on the machine and the phone set did not work at all. She added that Springbrook had one touch screen unit down.

Ms. Roher stated that Precinct 13-04, Takoma Park Middle School, reported no running water. She contacted Community Use of Public Facilities who was in contact with the school and was informed there is water available; however, the pressure is low. WSSC has been contacted to establish the water pressure.

The Board was provided an update on information requested. Ms. Jurgensen reported that all polling places are up and running.

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Ms. Keeffe suggested that a media release be distributed enforcing the hours of Election Day, and stating that as long as voters are in line by eight o'clock they may still vote. The media release needs to include that there were some technical issues during early morning voting in some Montgomery County polling places and that the issues were resolved and all are currently functioning with no lines. Ms. Keeffe confirmed that staff will look into why the issue with poll books occurred.

Ms. Jeter made a motion to not extend Election Day hours and release a media statement addressing the hours to vote and the opportunity to vote, as short lines are expected. The motion was seconded by Ms. Khozeimeh and passed unanimously. Ms. Keeffe and Ms. Roher will prepare a statement to be released. Ms. Jurgensen stated that the State Board of Elections has agreed to release any statements on behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Mrs. Jeter, Mrs. Rivera-Oven, and Mr. Karpinski stated that their site maps were incorrect. Ms. Jeter and Mrs. Rivera-Oven noted that no location was provided to indicate the electioneering boundary and that handicap parking was designated along the fire lane.

Selection of Polling Place

The Board members randomly picked seven precincts from a basket to be audited prior to certification. The selected precincts will be in possession of the Board Attorney and revealed at 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Rivera-Oven reported that the encoder for Precinct 09-31 was not working and at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church handicap access was not available. Gaithersburg High School changed their entrance and exit.

Mr. Karpinski suggested that for the General Election, selected staff have the ability to use the HOV lane to access precincts when resolving issues and delivering emergency equipment. He will discuss the issue further with Mr. Subin.

The Board will revisit the sites presented by Ms. Jurgensen.

Future Meetings

- A. June 26, 2014 - Absentee I Canvass Begins 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- B. July 2, 2014 - Provisional Canvass Begins 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- C. July 7, 2014 - Absentee II Canvass Begins 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- D. July 17, 2014 - Certification/Audit
- E. July 21, 2014 - 2:30 p.m.
- F. August 18, 2014 - 2:30 p.m. - *Tentative*
- G. September 15, 2014 - 2:30 p.m.
- H. October 20, 2014 - 2:00 p.m. with Early Voting Cage Supply Check

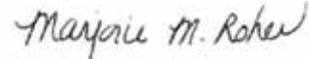
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- I. October 23, 2014 - First Day of Early Voting
- J. October 30, 2014 - Last Day of Early Voting
- K. November 4, 2014 - Election Day
- L. November 6, 2014 - Absentee I Canvass Begins 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- M. November 12, 2014 - Provisional Canvass Begins 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- N. November 14, 2014 - Absentee II Canvass Begins 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- O. November 17, 2014 – *Tentative*
- P. November 25, 2014 – Certification/Audit (TBD)
- Q. December 15, 2014 – 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business, Ms. Khozeimeh moved to adjourn the regular session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rivera-Oven and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

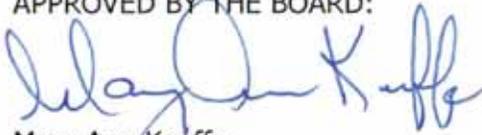
Respectfully Submitted,



Marjorie M. Roher

Management & Budget Specialist III

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:



Mary Ann Keeffe
President