

APPROVED

January 26, 2009

**MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland**

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Jerrold Garson, President
John Sullivan, Vice President
Nancy Dacek, Secretary
Nahid Khozeimeh
Rosalyn Pelles
Lucia Nazarian

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Director
Sara Harris, Deputy Election Director
Leslie Hatch, Election Judge Coordinator
Betty Ann Lucey, Registration Manager
Jerry Quarshie, Information Technology Technician
Marjorie Roher, Administrative Specialist
Renee Adams, Election Aide

Guests:

Dr. Thomas Jones
Holly Joseph, Save Our Votes
Mary Kiraly

Convene Meeting and Declare Quorum Present

Acting Board President Mr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. and declared a quorum present. Mr. Sullivan discussed Mr. Statland's wonderful contribution to the Board and thanked him for his positive leadership. Mr. Sullivan announced that Ms. Pelles became a full Board member due to the vacancy on the Board.

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan to nominate Mr. Garson as President. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pelles.

A motion was made by Ms. Dacek to nominate Ms. Pelles as President. Ms. Pelles declined the nomination.

There were no other nominations. Mr. Garson was elected President of the Board by a unanimous vote.

Approval of October 20, 2008, and December 11, 2008, Minutes

Minutes from the October 20, 2008, and December 11, 2008, meetings were distributed for review. A motion was made by Mrs. Dacek to approve the October 20, 2008, minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dacek to approve the December 11, 2008, minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Khozeimeh and carried unanimously.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Ms. Jurgensen stated that the Board of Canvassers needed to receive Absentee Ballots, and there would be an addition of an Executive Session. She noted that Mr. Karpinski will not be present at the Board meeting. Mrs. Dacek requested a discussion on a farewell to Mr. Statland under Old Business.

Election Director Status Reports

Budget

Ms. Jurgensen stated that even though temporary employees were dismissed, the deficit remains at \$1.3 million. Ms. Roher reported that additional reductions have been requested from the FY10 Operating Budget and noted that she will report on them during Executive Session. Mrs. Dacek asked Ms. Roher if she can review an overtime spreadsheet for the past 3 years and Ms. Roher responded that it would be available at the next meeting.

Voter Registration

Ms. Jurgensen reported that the confirmation process has begun with staff receiving over 100 containers of returned sample ballots. She stated that overseas voter's address updates are being added to the voter registration data base. Ms. Jurgensen announced that all provisional ballot applications were processed and voter notification cards have been mailed. She noted that supplemental changes submitted at the precinct on Election Day are about 60% complete and are expected to be completed by the next Board meeting. Ms. Jurgensen announced that a manual for Absentee procedures is in process. She stated that Board priorities have been sent to SBE regarding necessary changes needed to improve the functionality of the MDVoters voter registration database for upcoming JAD sessions.

State Board of Elections

Ms. Jurgensen reported that the pre-bid conference for the voting system RFP was held on Friday and noted that Mr. Garson attended along with the following vendors: ES&S, Premier, Hart-Inter-Civic (Sequoia), and Avante. She stated that she had provided the estimated schedule for the upcoming Election Cycle from the RFP in the packet.

Ms. Jurgensen stated that staff will be working on the State questionnaire regarding the last election. She noted that it will be reviewed this month with the Lessons Learned document for submission to SBE by Friday, January 30, 2009, as requested.

Ms. Jurgensen stated that the Polling Place Support Program Document needs to be submitted by Friday. She added that she sent the document in the advance packet and noted that it is used to confirm that the training for compliance is understood by the election judges. The Board discussed syncing and adding poll books. Mr. Quarshie stated that there is a limit of 7 poll books which may be linked together. Ms. Pelles addressed Ms. Hatch about teaming on pollbooks and Ms. Hatch explained that getting the right two people with the same combination of both speed and accuracies would be very productive on Election Day.

Facility Issues

Ms. Roher announced that the Twinbrook facility is experiencing the usual HVAC issues and noted that a dead rodent has also been discovered in Registration.

Ms. Roher reported that the Gaithersburg Facility architectural plans have been reviewed and two minor revisions requested. She noted that build-out estimates should be received by February 13th. She stated that existing modular furniture will not be able to be reconfigured as necessary and that additional parts are not available. Ms. Roher is working on estimating replacement costs with Douron Corporate Furniture. She noted that several scenarios being explored ranging from total replacement to replacement of work surfaces and overheads with relocation of existing file cabinets. Ms. Roher stated that she met with John Ford regarding the actual move today, setting the beginning move date of June 22 with the anticipation that it will take approximately 3 weeks to move the entire office. She noted that she and Margaret and will meet to determine the order of the move and details will be provided to the staff within the week.

Ms. Roher announced she will be arranging meetings at the new facility for several groups of individuals; any Board members who have not been up to the site yet and who want to visit it should let her know so that she can arrange for you to be included in one of the additional visits. She noted once construction begins visits will need to be limited due to liability risks. Ms. Pelles expressed interest in visiting the new facility and Ms. Roher said she will contact her as soon as she has a date.

Board Attorney Report

Mr. Karpinski was in trial and unable to attend the meeting.

Old Business

Ms. Jurgensen reported that the Lessons Learned from 2008 Election will be compiled and expected to be delivered to the Board by the March meeting.

Appreciation Dinner for Samuel Statland

Ms. Dacek discussed having a farewell appreciation dinner for Mr. Statland for his service to the Board of Elections. She also stated that she wanted to give him a crystal eagle with plaque as a token of appreciation.

New Business

State Legislature

Mrs. Harris briefed the Board on a MAEO briefing with Linda Lamone and stated that the Board is welcome to contact her for further information. Mr. Garson distributed and discussed handouts concerning Legislative Bills MC 931-09 and Senate Bill 197. Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Dacek stated that Bill MC 931-09 is unclear and raises concern. Mrs. Dacek moved that the Board provide a statement that expresses apprehension that the bill does not specify whether it is addressing Montgomery County or Takoma Park and who should pay for modifications. Ms. Jurgensen stated that she will draft a statement by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dacek to express concern to the Montgomery County Council and Maryland State Legislature regarding Bill No. 931-09 entitled: Montgomery County-Voting System-Requirement. Among the concerns expressed by the Montgomery County Board of Elections are:

- Who will pay for this modification? Currently there is one voting system that is used state-wide for all Federal, State, and County elections as well as 99% of the municipalities in the State of Maryland. The cost of any modification should be borne by the jurisdiction requesting it and should not be an obligation of the local jurisdiction or the State Board of Elections.
- Will this method of voting be utilized for all voters in Montgomery County or just those residing in Takoma Park?
- Will the modification be made to all equipment in Montgomery County or just to that equipment utilized in Precincts within Takoma Park city limits?

- The current voting system is state-wide to ensure uniform voting standards throughout Maryland; Montgomery County recommends the current standard to establish a uniform state-wide voting system.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and carried unanimously.

*** Mrs. Khozeimeh left meeting at 3:58 p.m. ***

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Senate Bill 197 is too vague about voting hours, days, scheduling, and needs guidance on the number of polling sites. Ms. Pelles explained how important it is to have maximum availability for people to vote including weekends. Mrs. Harris stated that timely update of voter registration data is a challenge and Mr. Garson suggested that there should be another venue such as a shopping mall to allow for voter registration to occur with set hours.

Board of Canvassers

The Board reviewed a late absentee ballot and rejected it due to untimely receipt.

Report on the Executive Session

At 4:08 p.m. the Board met in Executive Session pursuant to State Government Article, Sections 10-508(a)(13), to discuss minutes from previous Executive Sessions and FY10 Operating Budget.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections met in closed session on this date. The following members of the Board and staff were in attendance: Jerrold Garson, John Sullivan, Nancy Dacek, Nahid Khozeimeh, Lucia Nazarian, Rosalyn Pelles, Margaret A. Jurgensen, Sara Harris, Marjorie Roher, and Renee Adams.

Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Roher distributed minutes from the October 20, 2008, and December 11, 2008, Executive Sessions for review.

FY10 Operating Budget

Ms. Roher discussed the FY10 Budget with the Board.

There were no other items discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene in regular session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pelles and carried unanimously, with the Board reconvening in regular session at 4:23 p.m.

Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Dacek to approve the Executive Minutes from the October 20, 2008, meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garson and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Pelles to approve the Executive Minutes from the December 11, 2008, meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and carried unanimously.

Future Meetings

- A. February 23, 2009
- B. March 16, 2009
- C. April 20, 2009
- D. May 18, 2009
- E. June 15, 2009
- F. July 20, 2009
- G. September 21, 2009
- H. October 19, 2009
- I. November 16, 2009
- J. December 14, 2008

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pelles and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Roher

Marjorie M. Roher
Administrative Specialist

APPROVED

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

Jerrold S. Garson

Jerrold S. Garson
Board President