

APPROVED

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 18, 2022**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom**

**In Attendance Virtually:**

**Board Members:**

Nahid Khozeimeh, President  
Diane Nash Dillon, Vice President  
David A. Naimon, Secretary  
Amoretta Hoerber  
Dr. Elisse W. Barnes  
Alexander Vincent  
Alan Banov

**Board Attorney:**

Kevin Karpinski

**Staff:**

Alysoun McLaughlin, Acting Director  
Janet Ross, Acting Deputy Director  
Boris Brajkovic, Voter Services Manager  
Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager  
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist

Audio video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/BRmczc9XgPs>

**[0:10] Convene Board Meeting and Declare Quorum Present**

Mrs. Khozeimeh convened the meeting.

**President Remarks**

Mrs. Khozeimeh had no remarks.

**Campaign Contributions**

No contributions were made.

**Additional Comments**

Mr. Naimon noted that he wanted to discuss the Zoom changes regarding public comments and how the rules would be carried out. Mrs. Khozeimeh stated that she would like that discussion to be added to New Business.

**[4:10] Message from Senator Cheryl Kagan**

Senator Kagan thanked the Board and Staff for their service and allowing her to speak. Senator Kagan reviewed the three Senate Emergency Bills that were passed this year - - (1) SB158 regarding the 50/50 cost split between the State and counties and codifying it; (2) Senate Bill 101, regarding recounts and

clarifying when the Board of Elections has to pay when an individual requests a recount; and (3) Senate Bill 163 regarding beginning the canvassing before Election Day. The last Bill clarified that canvassing may begin 8 business days before early voting. Tabulation will not be allowed this year. Senator Kagan clarified that the 8 days of advance is authorized, but not mandated; therefore, actions from county to county will vary. It also addressed "curing," meaning when a voter neglects to sign the oath on their ballot envelope, resulting in their vote not counting. If the ballot arrives within the 10 days after Election Day, the voter has the opportunity to sign the oath.

## **Public Comments**

No one asked to address the Board in advance.

### **[20:39] Message from Alyson McLaughlin, Acting Director**

Ms. McLaughlin clarified the current procedure for addressing the Board in advance. Ms. McLaughlin stated that the correct way to address the Board would be to go onto the Board of Elections' website, under the MEETINGS tab and click on the hyperlink that continues with instructions on how to address the Board at the time of the meeting. The link brings you to a Public Participation Sign-Up Form, which provides the staff information about who is wishing to address the Board, as well as their choice of providing a written comment.

### **[22:35] Acting Director's Report**

Ms. McLaughlin's Acting Director report can be found, [here](#).

Mr. Naimon asked for clarification about how many permanent vote-by-mail applications have been submitted. It was stated that the number was about 40,000.

Dr. Barnes asked for clarification about how many election judge recruits have signed up in comparison to previous years. Ms. McLaughlin noted that it is tricky to track because the Election date has changed.

Mrs. Ross clarified that all the numbers are down in comparison to previous years.

Dr. Barnes asked if the budget is affected, given the date change for the Election.

Mrs. McLaughlin stated that there would be no change and they would liquidate purchase orders and create new ones.

### **[38:43] Board Attorney's Report**

Mr. Karpinski noted that they were close to finalizing MOUs for Early Voting and drop boxes, as well as analyzing the potential changes of Early Voting locations. Mr. Karpinski is working with staff to determine what MCPS schools are going to be unavailable due to construction and the primary date change. Mr. Karpinski did not have enough information to provide to the Board about the potential conflicts. Mr. Karpinski planned to provide more information on the matter at the Friday meeting. Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Rzeszut planned to meet with the City of Gaithersburg to discuss if Early Voting can occur at Bohrer Park.

### **[40:46] New Business**

Mr. Naimon addressed his concerns about the potential conflicts with the City of Gaithersburg during Early Voting.

Mr. Karpinski noted that there are conflicts, and they are determining what can be done to move certain activities into other locations.

Ms. Rzeszut mentioned that there is a tentative meeting this week to discuss the logistics and determine if the gym can still be occupied in the Activity Center for early voting.

Mr. Naimon mentioned that he, Dr. Barnes, and Mrs. McLaughlin visited the Silver Spring Civic Center

and brainstormed about a few options regarding Early Voting set-up on the second level of the Civic building for the first four days of early voting and using the Great Hall for the last four days. He noted the second option would be to hold Early Voting in an open retail space on the first floor in a building across the street from the Civic Center, which Dr. Barnes noticed on their visit.

Mrs. Rzsezut noted that they would look into those possible solutions.

Mr. Karpinski added that he would like to be given the contact information for the landlord for the retail space.

#### **[49:34] Rules for Public Participation**

Mr. Naiman stated that he had concerns about the Board's rules for public participation. He acknowledged that, under the Board's bylaws, the President has the discretion to call on individuals in the meeting to address the Board who have or have not signed up prior to the meeting time. Mr. Naiman asked if this appears visible to Mrs. Merino-Dean if an individual signs up to address the Board a minute before the public comments have been shared.

Ms. McLaughlin responded that she could and that the staff would receive an alert if an individual signed up to address the Board once the meeting has started, but before the public comments section of the meeting. Responding to a question by Mr. Naiman, she added that if someone signed up after the meeting began, Mrs. Merino-Dean would learn about it and notify the Board President.

Mrs. Khozeimeh stated that for a long time the procedure was for the public to sign up to speak at meetings in advance. She said that she did not like it when former President Jim Shalleck allowed speakers to take the floor during the meeting and that this has become disorderly.

Mr. Naiman pointed out that with the new Zoom platform the Board is using, there is no chat box and no raised-hand feature, for people to request to speak. He also requested that the Board place the Public Participation Form in the message box on the home page so it can be seen by individuals before the time of the next scheduled meeting. Mrs. Merino-Dean pointed out that individuals who are in the "Attendees" room can raise their hands and this can be seen by looking at the Attendees list. Ms. McLaughlin said that staff would look at this feature and see what could be done to make it clear to the public.

Mr. Banov mentioned that he is in favor of having a chat box and found it helpful when it was used by the staff and the Board.

Dr. Barnes was in agreement with Mr. Banov and advocated restoration of the chat box. Ms. Dillon said that she had no solid opinion on the chat box, but she believed the chat to be overwhelming at times to the extent that the staff had to be pulled away to respond to the overflow of messages in the chat.

Mr. Naiman added that the staff should identify themselves when speaking and ensure that the names and speakers line up with the profile name via Zoom.

Mr. Karpinski noted that the Board should consider implementing the chat, on the condition that it would be used appropriately and regulated, rather than used for criticism about Board Members.

#### **[1:07:39] Old Business - Redistricting**

Ms. McLaughlin stated that further recommendations were going to be provided to the Board on Friday in advance to the finalized votes on Monday. She added that the map changes would be posted to the main page.

#### **[1:10:20] Action Items**

Ms. McLaughlin shared that she will:

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- provide information about the web-delivery ballot break down and what percent are permanent versus those that are one-time only requests
- provide a comparison in numbers regarding the status of Election Judge Recruitment
- create changes to the Board of Elections' website to make it visible what map changes have been updated as well as the Public Comments Sign up
- evaluate the procedure for the "raise hand" feature via Zoom and using the chat box under controlled conditions
- determine what space is going to be utilized for the Silver Spring Early Voting
- provide an updated status report regarding the conference with the City of Gaithersburg (meeting on Wednesday) and an upcoming tour of Gaithersburg High School.

**[1:13:13] Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the following meeting minutes as amended: February 28, 2022, seconded by Mr. Naimon, and unanimously passed by the Board.

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the following meeting minutes as amended: March 7, 2022, seconded by Mr. Banov, and unanimously passed by the Board.

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the following meeting minutes as amended: March 14, 2022, seconded by Mr. Banov, and unanimously passed by the Board.

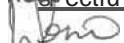
Ms. Dillon moved to accept the following meeting minutes as amended: March 21, 2022, seconded by Mr. Banov, and unanimously passed by the Board.

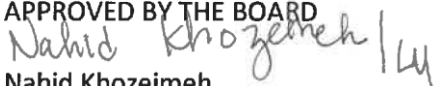
**[1:14:43:] Future Meetings**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022, with a special meeting scheduled for April 22, 2022. On April 25th, 2022, the Board will vote on precinct changes occasioned by the various redistrictings.

**1:15:05 [End of Meeting]**

Ms. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully \_\_\_\_\_ itted by  
  
Lis Merino-Dean  
Administrative Specialist

APPROVED BY THE BOARD  
  
Nahid Khozeimeh  
Board President