

Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2024
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members:

David A. Naimon, President (virtual)
Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President (virtual)
Amoretta M. (Amie) Hoeber, Secretary (virtual)
Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member (virtual)
Diane Nash Dillon, Board Member (virtual)
Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member (virtual)
Alexander C. Vincent, Substitute Member (virtual)

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski (virtual)

In Person Staff Attendance:

Boris Brajkovic, Director
Janet Ross, Acting Deputy Director
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist
Chris Rzeszut, Operations Manager
Charles (Chuck) Williams, Budget Specialist
Mindy Williams, Operations Manager
Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator and Public Information Officer

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:
[January 22, 2024](#)

Convene Board Meeting (00:07)

Mr. Naimon called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 3:03 p.m.

Present were Mr. Naimon, Mr. Koroma, Ms. Dillon, Ms. Delao and Mr. Vincent. Ms. Anyiam was expected to join the meeting shortly. Ms. Hoeber could not attend due to jury duty.

Board Presidents Remarks (00:45)

Mr. Naimon expressed his appreciation and acknowledged the recent departure from the Board of Elections (BOE) of former Deputy Election Director, Alysoun McLaughlin, who had served in that position since 2012. He stated that she was a fountain of knowledge on election issues and was very responsive to our legislators in Annapolis when there were questions about bills. She is an expert in the field of elections, having worked for the Pew Foundation and the DC Board of Elections earlier in her career. He also announced that as a recognized expert, she will be a speaker at the upcoming program of the federal Election Assistance Commission.

Mr. Naimon stated that the Board is meeting today, on the fourth Monday due to the observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday on Monday, January 15. February's meeting will also be held on the fourth Monday due to the observance of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 19. The regular schedule of Board meetings on the third Monday in the month will resume in March. Mr.

Naimon also added that the Board might need to change the date of its June meeting due to the certification date for the State Board of Elections (SBE).

Mr. Naimon thanked the Board for scheduling their attendance for the 2024 Primary Canvass.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda (06:38)

Mr. Karpinski requested that Bylaws be removed from Old Business, as he did not have information to report.

Mr. Karpinski requested that a closed executive session be held at the end of the meeting, pursuant to section 3-305 (b), to discuss a matter that involves the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter that is not related to public business.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions/Attendance at Fundraisers (08:00)

The Board members did not report any campaign contributions or attendance at fundraisers.

Public Comments (08:19)

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report (11:01)

Mr. Brajkovic presented his report, which can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon congratulated Mr. Brajkovic on the various communication efforts for elections and the precinct maps that will be displayed at polling places.

Mr. Naimon inquired if maps will be available to the public. Mr. Brajkovic responded that all precinct maps are currently available on the BOE website. He added that the precinct maps that will be displayed at polling places will have instructions on the texting service to help voters determine if they are at the correct polling place.

Ms. Delao and Mr. Vincent inquired what, if any, additional cost would be incurred if the Board purchased the sorter machine once the lease agreement is done. Mr. Brajkovic responded that further research needs to be done on how the department would purchase and maintain equipment.

Board Attorney Report (34:14)

Mr. Karpinski reported that he has reached out to Cliff Royalty, Montgomery County Attorney's Office, to review the MOU for the early voting sites involving the Montgomery County Government locations. He added that Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Williams, Operations Manager, have visited Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department to review parking complaints/concerns and an action plan to address their concerns was proposed.

He added that he has contacted the City of Gaithersburg regarding an MOU for the Activity Center at Bohrer Park and no response has been provided yet.

Mr. Karpinski reported that he will be meeting with Stephanie Williams, General Counsel to the Montgomery County Public Schools, to finalize the MOU for drop boxes and the availability of video footage.

In addition, he will be working with Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Williams to address the same issues for Montgomery College.

He hopes to have all information finalized by the February Board meeting.

Old Business (36:31)

No old business was discussed.

Website (36:40)

Mr. Brajkovic presented a statistical report on BOE's website usage in December. The full statistical report can be found [here](#).

Legislation Update (38:20)

Mr. Brajkovic presented election-related bills introduced for the 2024 Legislative session as of January 19, 2024. The list of presented and reviewed Bills can be found [here](#).

Mr. Koroma asked Mr. Brajkovic to clarify Same Day Voter Registration. Mr. Brajkovic responded that during Early Voting, citizens have an option to register to vote on the same day and already registered voters may update their residential address. Residential address updates are available during Early Voting as each Early Voting Center has all ballot styles available on site. While the Same Day Registration is available on Election Day, residential addresses cannot be updated on Election Day.

Outreach (53:25)

Dr. Zelaya reported that outreach has been moving slowly since the holidays but is gaining momentum. He reported that January 30 is the 2024 National Help America Vote Day and numerous outreach events will be held throughout the county.

Outreach events will be commencing at High Schools starting next week.

Outreach calendars for January and February were shared with the Board in advance and were posted to the website.

Media Committee (58:00)

Dr. Zelaya presented the 2024 Presidential Primary and General Elections media budget proposal. He stated that the Board's Media Committee (Ms. Anyiam and Ms. Hoerber) met to discuss the proposal and reviewed options to expand engagement with French language media. The proposal can be found [here](#).

Dr. Zelaya reported that additional funds could not be procured to expand this fiscal year's media proposal. He proposed to the Committee that if additional funds are procured before the General Election, an expanded media campaign proposal would be submitted for review and approval.

Dr. Zelaya shared that he has worked with some of the media outlets since 2018 and they have agreed to have the same media coverage at the same cost, as well as some vendors providing media gratis.

Ms. Anyiam thanked Dr. Zelaya for all his work on compiling information and the work that he has done to leverage relationships over the years to get the most out of the budget. She stated her intention to continue to be an advocate for the Board and continue to get funds to support the community engagements needed for the Board of Elections.

Mr. Naimon thanked Dr. Zelaya and commended his efforts with free media.

Ms. Delao asked how funds are allocated and distributed to media outlets. Dr. Zelaya responded that the penetration with radio is larger than it is for print media. He recommends more digital Google usage as those ads can be translated into different languages, like Amharic, French, Farsi, Simplified or Traditional Chinese. In addition, the Google ads option has added value because it allows for isolating/targeting locations, so you don't advertise in Fairfax County, Virginia, for example.

Ms. Anyiam inquired if streaming platforms have been explored. Dr. Zelaya responded that he had obtained quotes long ago and the cost was very high. Dr. Zelaya agreed to look into the option again.

Mr. Naimon asked for a motion to approve the Media Committee's recommendation. Ms. Anyiam moved to accept the 2024 Presidential Primary and General Elections media budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nash Dillon and approved unanimously.

New Business (01:22:03)

"No Electioneering" Zones for Early Voting Centers

Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Williams presented a proposal for "no electioneering" boundaries for the 2024 election cycle at early voting centers. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included "no electioneering" boundaries for the Early Voting sites, reflecting boundaries approved for the 2022 election cycle. Information is available on the BOE website for public review and comments.

Mr. Brajkovic stated that Staff received a proposal from the Captain of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department that would aim at avoiding or minimizing interference by electioneers or voters with the operation of the fire station.

Mr. Brajkovic also presented a "no electioneering" zone in the garage at the Wheaton Early Voting Center that was in place for the 2022 election cycle.

The Board discussed both issues and agreed that Mr. Naimon and Mr. Karpinski would visit Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department and Wheaton Library and Recreation Community Center to better assess the "no electioneering" boundaries.

The Board agreed to have a vote on proposed "no electioneering" boundaries at the February Board meeting.

2024 Election Cycle Polling Places "No Electioneering" Zones (01:55:58)

Mr. Brajkovic reviewed the memo stating the legal requirements for non-electioneering zones. Five newly listed polling places will have boundaries according to the legal requirements. The memo can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon encouraged the public, political campaigns, and party central committees to provide recommendations on the "no electioneering" zones. Comments should be received by the Tuesday after Presidents' Day (February 19), which is one (1) week prior to the February 26 Board meeting.

Action Items (2:01:07)

The Board President and Board Attorney will visit the Wheaton Recreation Center and the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Naimon stated that it would be helpful to have photographs of what the "no electioneering" zones were at early voting sites with ballot drop boxes installed. Ms. Williams will provide information.

Approval of Minutes (02:05:27)

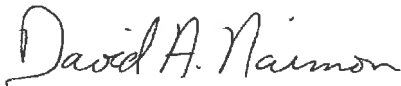
Ms. Dillon moved to accept the November 20, 2023 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koroma and approved unanimously.

Mr. Naimon moved to accept the December 18, 2023 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and approved unanimously.

Mr. Koroma moved to go into a closed Executive Session at 5:13 p.m. to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business. Ms. Dillon seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the public meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Approved by the Board



David A. Naimon
Board President