

APPROVED

April 26, 2016

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

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Jim Shalleck, President
Nahid Khozeimeh, Vice President
Mary Ann Keeffe, Secretary
Alexander Vincent
David Naimon
Jacqueline Phillips
Graciela Rivera-Oven

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
Jessica White, Voter Services Manager

Guests:

Nancy Farrar

Audio of the minutes can be found at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/C2Uj6GIX-X0>

Convene the Board Meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

Mr. Shalleck called the Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 11:13 a.m.

Selection of Polling Places

The Board members randomly picked twenty-five concealed 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.

Update of Election Day Activities

Mr. Vincent presented the following issues with Precinct 13-05, Silver Spring Library (polling place located on third floor). There was a line going to the street at 7:00 a.m. and polls did not open on time because the elevator did not operate until 7:15 a.m. Mr. Vincent stated that in addition to the elevator being inoperable until 7:15 a.m., the only scanner in the precinct went down. All ballots were placed in the bypass tray until a replacement scanner was delivered to the polling place. Mr. Vincent said this is a cautionary tale about having only one scanner in the precinct.

Mr. Vincent stated that at Precinct 07-11, Somerset Elementary School, one of the two scanners went down.

Mr. Vincent stated that during his Monday night route he noticed judges were experiencing difficulty setting up the polling places. Also, at Precinct 09-35, Gaithersburg Elementary School, a Chief Judge dropped out at the last minute creating additional nervousness.

Ms. Keefe stated that at Precinct 04-11/04-25, Ritchie Park Elementary School, one of the two scanners went down.

Ms. Keefe also noticed that during her Monday night route judges were taking much longer than in the past to complete their set-up.

Ms. Phillips stated that she experienced no difficulty with the judges, several had completed their set-up promptly and efficiently. Mrs. Rivera-Oven also experienced the same during her route.

Mr. Shalleck stated that he encountered several sharp, experienced, and confident Chief Judges during his route and was impressed by their knowledge. Mr. Shalleck's route was Olney based.

Several Board members noted that during their Monday night visit several precincts only had one Chief Judge.

*** Mr. Naimon called in via telephone. ***

The Board members inquired what the process would be if a scanner would go down and there are no replacements available. Ms. Jurgensen stated that the State Board of Elections would be contacted regarding additional procedures to be followed. She added that this would be one reason why more than one scanner needs to be placed at each polling place.

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Ms. Phillips stated that during her Monday night visit to Precinct 10-10, River Falls Swim Club, an issue regarding judges not being able to contact the Board of Elections via the phone occurred. Ms. Jurgensen noted an issue did occur with telephones and she promptly contacted the Director of the Department of Technology to resolve the issue. Ms. Jurgensen stated that she has requested that the Department of Technology respond in writing by Thursday regarding what occurred with the phones.

Mr. Naimon stated that he was at Precinct 13-25, Viers Mill Elementary School, resolving an electioneering boundary issue and an issue that a completed ballot was accidentally given to a voter. He stated the voter began marking the ballot and noticed that it was the wrong one. The voter returned to the ballot distribution table, the election judge then issued another ballot to the voter and placed the marked ballot down and it was quickly picked up by another judge. The marked ballot had been distributed because, instead of spoiling the ballot promptly, the election judge wanted to provide the voter a new ballot and lost track of the marked ballot. Mr. Naimon stated that the error only occurred once and asked that the election judges promptly write spoil on the ballot and place it in the spoiled ballots envelope to prevent further issues.

Mr. Naimon stated that, during his Monday night visit, several precincts only had one Chief Judge and several had electioneering boundary issues. He stated the roamer, Al Cooper, handled an electioneering boundary correction very well. He stated some electioneering zones are placed as indicated on the map; but sometimes the voters are using other entrances (back doors) to enter the polling place. He suggested that the maps be updated for the General Election to address any potential issues. Mr. Naimon inquired how much information is provided in the election judge training on electioneering boundaries. Ms. Jurgensen responded that the Maryland guidelines for distance and safety are included and the judges are told to follow them and are provided with schematics for each polling place. She noted that the electioneering boundaries are typically located at the main entrance since it is identified as the ADA entrance. Ms. Jurgensen stated that Chief Judges are asked to mark up the maps recommending any changes.

Ms. Keeffe noted that Precinct 04-31, Walter Johnson High School, also had the same issue of the electioneering boundaries being marked for a different entrance than the cafeteria entrance used by the voters.

Mr. Naimon said he visited Sligo Middle School, where the parking lot is right next to the cafeteria where the polling place is, but only the bus lane is next to the front entrance, where the electioneering zone was marked on the map.

Ms. Khozeimeh stated that Precinct 07-03, Clara Barton Community Center, is in need of a payroll sheet. She indicated that Precinct 07-07, Westbrook Elementary School, had insufficient "vote here" signage, as the entrance to the school differs from the location of the polling place. She added that overall things went well.

Ms. Phillips stated that 7-19, North Bethesda Middle School, had 39 people in line. At some other locations, the voters did not have to wait long to cast their votes. She added that signage should be placed to retrieve pens, as many voters have walked off with them.

Ms. Keeffe noted that she saw several spoiled ballots in those precincts that had Congressional District 6 ballots due to over votes for Democratic National Convention Delegate.

*** Mr. Naimon arrived in person at the meeting. ***

Mrs. Rivera-Oven stated that she experienced bad flow in the polling places. She requested that set-up/flow be revisited for the General Election. Ms. Rivera-Oven suggested that judges not be used for the General Election as they were identified in the past as not being up to par to serve.

*** The Board members took a brief break for lunch at 12:07 p.m. ***

*** The Board members returned to the meeting at 12:18 p.m. ***

Mrs. Khozeimeh suggested that a sign be placed over the scanner so it can be easily located.

Ms. Phillips stated that, in her opinion, election judges were better trained and there was less confusion than there had been in the past.

Mr. Naimon and Ms. Keeffe noted there was much confusion from election judges, starting with the places that didn't have the requisite number of chief judges, and especially with electioneering lines.

Mr. Karpinski stated that he visited Precinct 04-26/04-40, Rocking Horse Road Center, where both scanners were down, one due to low register paper, and the other due to a voter putting a ballot in at an odd angle and jamming the scanner. The judge did not realize that the ballots could be placed in the ballot box, and so voters had to wait.

The Board discussed the need to have a minimum of two scanners at each polling place to prevent issues.

Mr. Naimon requested that electioneering boundaries be made available to Board members upon arriving at polling places with boundary issues. Mr. Karpinski recommended that once a precinct is identified staff will email the boundary outline to the Board member.

All the Board members agreed that the overall process went well.

Mrs. Rivera-Oven noted that Precinct 02-08, Clarksburg Elementary, continues to have an issue with the handicap accessible door malfunctioning. Ms. Rivera-Oven stated that she could assist if ICB is involved.

Mr. Naimon stated that the directional signage (for each turn) for the relocation of Precinct 13-58, Knights of Columbus to Flora M. Singer Elementary School was great!

Mr. Naimon stated that Precinct 13-47, Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, has only 4 to 5 spaces allocated for voters; he indicated that parking is an issue, although a lot of people

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walk. He complimented the judge for bringing chairs for handicapped persons to use outside if they needed to stop on their way from the parking lot to the building.

May Board Meeting

The Board members discussed the need to meet as the Board of Canvassers to certify the election. It was determined that the Board members would meet once the canvass and the audit is completed and will give reasonable notice to the public.

Late Absentee Ballots

Mr. Karpinski reported that a campaign mailed absentee ballot applications to voters for them to return directly to the Board of Elections, using the campaign's postage account. However, there were insufficient funds in the account to have the applications mailed. The United States Postal Service held the envelopes until the account was paid, subsequently causing them to arrive at the Board of Elections late. He stated that staff called, emailed, or sent a letter to the voters notifying them of the other options they had to vote. The campaign requested a list of those names whose application was received late and it was provided.

****Ms. Phillips left the meeting at 12:56 p.m. ***

Canvass

The Board members reviewed the canvass schedule. Mr. Karpinski briefly reviewed the canvass process.

Mr. Karpinski suggested that Senator Madaleno be invited during the Canvass to see the process.

Future Meetings

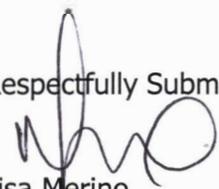
- A. May 16, 2016 - Board Meeting
- B. June 20, 2016 - Board Meeting
- C. June 20, 2016 - Board Meeting
- D. June 20, 2016 - Board Meeting
- E. July 18, 2016 - Board Meeting
- F. August 15, 2016 - Board Meeting (Tentative)
- G. September 19, 2016 - Board Meeting

STANDARD

Adjournment

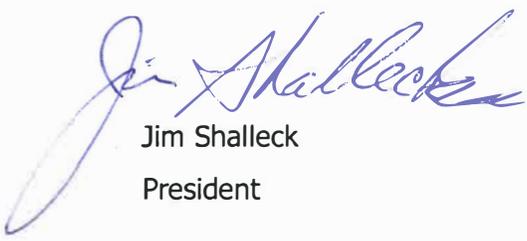
With no further business, Ms. Khozeimeh moved to adjourn the regular session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Keefe and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Merino
Office Services Coordinator

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:



Jim Shalleck
President