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November 8, 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
Mike Subin

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

https://youtu.be/XVaMDA_Nybl

Convene the Board Meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

Mr. Shalleck called the Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 11:51 a.m.

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Selection of Polling Places

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

Update on Election Day Activities

Ms. Jurgensen reported that all precincts opened on time. She added that there were some technical issues with the DS200 (ballot scanner); no scanners needed to be replaced as the issues were resolved at the polling places. She added that a few poll books were replaced during the Election Judge briefing on Monday night.

Mr. Karpinski stated that local media had contacted the Board regarding a rowdy sign holder at Precinct 04-27, Meadow Hall Elementary. Upon his arrival, everything was calm and the sign holder was outside the electioneering boundary. Mr. Karpinski added that Precinct 05-04, Riderwood Village, is under new management and they have expressed concern with electioneers sitting in the building, as it does not abide by their no solicitation policy. This has not been an issue in the past. For this election, they have agreed to cooperate and have them sit inside; however, it will need to be reviewed further for future elections.

*** The Board members recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. ***

*** The Board members returned from recess at 12:40 p.m. ***

During the lunch recess, Ms. Rivera-Oven requested that additional voting booths and ballot secrecy sleeves be delivered to Clarksburg High School to ease the lines. Per Ms. Jurgensen, additional booths will also be sent to Meadow Hall Elementary School.

Mr. Vincent presented the following - Precinct 07-26, Friendship Heights Village Center, had a long line of 200+ voters at 7:30 a.m., they also had a Chief Judge that did not show up. All other precincts he visited had moderate lines. Precinct 07-11, Somerset Elementary School, the ADA door was propped open and he questioned whether the polling place was ADA compliant. Mr. Karpinski will follow up. Mr. Vincent reported that some precincts had issues with phones during his Monday night visit and he called BOE to notify them of the issue.

Ms. Phillips presented the following - Precinct 13-34, Kensington Town Hall, had an Election Judge and future vote student that did not show up. Precinct 13-38, Kensington Parkwood Elementary School, had abundant parking in the rear of the building; however, it was closed off by a gate. Ms. Phillips suggested that staff should consider using the additional parking in the future. Precinct 13-03, Temple Emanuel, an election judge suggested that two VOP closers be used. The precinct had Elections Judges note that the ballots were difficult to tear from the perforated pad.

Mrs. Khozeimeh presented the following - Precinct 10-12, Bells Mill Elementary School, had an election judge that did not show up. Precinct 07-23, Walt Whitman High School, had a long line at the DS200 (scanner).

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Mr. Shalleck presented the following – Precinct 13-53, Sligo Middle School, had 150 voters in an hour and it quickly cleared up. Mr. Shalleck noted that Leisure World was staffed very well and ran very smooth.

Ms. Keeffe presented the following – she stated that she had brought some issues to Ms. Jurgensen's attention throughout the morning and they were resolved quickly. Precinct 04-33/04-08, Garrett Park Elementary School, had a long line but no other issues. Precinct 04-02, Julius West Middle School, had insufficient staff to handle the crowd; she assisted at the ballot table for over an hour, as an election judge did not show up. During her Monday night visit, she noticed that ADA plates were not working at Garrett Park and Richard Montgomery High School. At Wootton High School, the handicap plate was removed completely. The Election Judges were considering placing a future vote student to hold the door open. Ms. Jurgensen noted that handicapped push plates are being phased out, as they compromise student security. Instead, the schools now use handles on doors with timed closures to make them ADA compliant. Mr. Karpinski noted that various Montgomery County buildings, including schools, underwent an extensive ADA compliance review.

Mr. Naimon presented the following - Precinct 13-68, Takoma Park Recreation Center, he thanked staff for managing the parking and signage better as it was helpful, but parking issues are still a problem. The precinct also experienced long lines at the DS200 (ballot scanner) (in excess of an hour's wait) and was short staffed, while another nearby precinct (at Highland Park Elementary School) had a large number of staff. Ms. Jurgensen noted that it's incumbent upon the Chief Judge to notify BOE the night before Election Day or at 6am on the morning of Election Day that they are short staffed. Mr. Naimon received several compliments on the use of two scanners. Board members agreed that it was one of the best decisions the Board made.

Mrs. Rivera-Oven presented the following – Precinct 02-02, Kingsview Middle School, had five election judges that did not show up for the Monday night meeting. Mrs. Rivera-Oven commended Roamer Kenneth Knopp, as he was very helpful. Precinct 02-06, Clarksburg High School, seemed short staffed, although there were no reports of "no-shows." The precinct had major parking issues, voters parked behind one another in threes leaving the middle car trapped. The handicapped signage was insufficient; several voters complained about the lack of visual handicapped signage. Mrs. Rivera-Oven forwarded some electioneering boundary line complaints to Mr. Karpinski during the morning.

Mr. Vincent inquired if Chief Judges have the discretion to make the electioneering boundary line 25 to 100 feet. Mr. Karpinski responded that the Board members set the boundary lines; although at times, if there is a discrepancy in the boundary, the Chief Judge has the discretion to call BOE with their recommendations.

Mr. Karpinski asked that the Board members remind Chief Judges to provide the postings by Party. Several complaints have been received that the Judges are not posting them properly. Ms. McLaughlin noted that it is more difficult to run Party postings at consolidated precincts and that the Chief Judge tool kit does provide directions on how to run the report. Mr. Naimon reported that complaints were received by a citizen that Precinct 13-71, Inter-Faith Chapel, is posting the reports inside the interior door instead of outside for the public to see.

The Board members briefly discussed the call in process for the Monday night visit.

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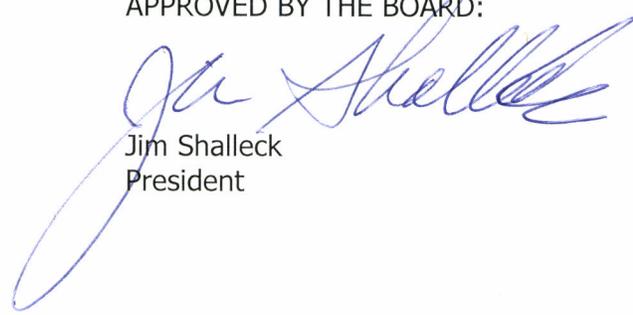
Adjournment

With no further business, Ms. Khozeimeh moved to adjourn the regular session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa Merino
Office Services Coordinator

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:


Jim Shalleck
President