

Public Outreach Event

April 9, 2014

APPROVED

In attendance were Board Members Ms. Keeffe, Mrs. Jeter, Mrs. Dacek, Mrs. Khozeimeh, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Naimon; Board Staff Ms. Jurgensen, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Caro, Ms. Jones, Ms. Merino, Mrs. Rzeszut, and Mr. Zelaya; and Legal Counsel, Kevin Karpinski. Also in attendance were Ms. Herrera with the Department of Technology Services, student volunteers and parents: Maya Paul, Jhasper Paul, Adwin Paul, Pahola Martinez, and Nancy Melara. The following is a summary of discussions during the meeting.

Ms. Keeffe thanked the public for their attendance and introduced the Board members, staff, student volunteers, and parents. She briefed the public on the Board of Elections' activity and the upcoming election. She stated that Board members would briefly discuss items with an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments.

Ms. Keeffe provided information on Voter Registration; she stated the deadline for party affiliation change and voter registration is June 3, 2014. She provided three options to vote, on Election Day, during Early Voting, and by Mail. She added that Vote by Mail, previously known as Absentee Voting, is a great opportunity to vote.

Ms. Keeffe asked if there were any questions to begin with and one of the attendees stated that he prefers to vote by mail and enjoys the opportunity he has to vote at his leisure with no need to wait in line; he asked for further information. Mrs. Jeter summarized information noting the deadline to request an absentee ballot is June 17, 2014. She stated there are several ways to request an application - in person, by mail, fax, or on-line - and noted the absentee ballot must be date stamped or delivered to the Board of Elections by June 24, 2014.

An attendee asked for a comparison of vote by mail requests four years ago in the Primary versus the expectation of vote by mail requests this election with the additional early voting sites. Ms. Jurgensen stated that she did not readily have the numbers available; however, results from past elections can be found on the Montgomery County Board of Elections website. She invited the attendee to view the information on the website or purchase a CD with all registered voter information from the office. The attendee asked what Ms. Jurgensen's predictions for early voting and vote by mail were. She responded that in the past voter turnout predictions were made; however, with the introduction of Early Voting and Vote by Mail, it is no longer possible due to the multiple voting options. She added that her goal would be to have 20-25% vote by mail, 30-45% vote during Early Voting, and the balance to vote on Election Day. She noted it is a challenge to have voters vote prior to Election Day. Four years ago an estimated 2.7% of voters cast their ballot during Early Voting, and in 2012 an estimated 22% voted during Early Voting.