

Howard County Board of Elections
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway
Columbia, MD 21045
February 25, 2008

Present:

Ann M. Balcerzak, President
Raymond M. Rankin, Democratic Member
Donna K. Thewes, Republican Member
Charles M. Coles, Jr., Republican Substitute Member
Democratic Substitute Member - Vacant
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Counsel

Staff: Guy Mickley, Deputy Director

Absent: Betty L. Nordaas, Director

Visitors: None

Ms. Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. All members were present, constituting a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of January 28 2008:

Ms. Balcerzak asked if the Board had any additions or corrections to Minutes. Following corrections, motion to approve was made by Ms. Thewes, seconded by Mr. Rankin and unanimously approved.

Requests for Additions or Changes to Agenda: None

Correspondence: Board Secretary shared an email received from Julie Knorr, Patapsco Middle School student, thanking her for interview/materials re: Women Suffrage prior to 1920, for a team history assignment.

President's Report:

- Represented the Board at Memorial Service for Cradelia Birdsong, noted voting activist
- Acknowledged and thanked Board Secretary for her efforts. Another request has been received, that Ms. Nordaas has also referred.
- Evaluation of Board Secretary was addressed, as well as review of Board Counsel's Contract. It was mutually agreed upon that Ms. Dixon would be evaluated in May, followed review of Atty. Molinaro's Contract, in June.

Director's Report- (Deputy Director) - Election 2008 Primary Recap:

1. Rovers found very few Polling place issues, Monday, and Polling place schematics were used correctly. Placement of a few VIBS units to be addressed for General Election (GE).
 2. All Polling places opened on time Tuesday, with enough Judges to cover last minute cancellations/illnesses.
 3. Most judges exhibited great accuracy, however remedial action will be taken to ensure a smooth running "provision judge" process for GE.
 4. Poll book freezing throughout the State was traced to a State log file. Judges and/or Rovers were able to reboot most of them; any machines demonstrating major problems were documented and will be returned to Premier to be fixed/replaced.
 5. Issues, raised at River Hill location, will be addressed with the HC School Board and the Director Ms. Nordaas. Board Member, Donna Thewes expressed an interest in participating.
 6. Office staff addressed general issues, and no voters were denied the right to cast their vote. *(The President, and all attendees, gave kudos to entire staff for their individual/collective, dedicated/professional, and bipartisan services).*
 7. The newly establish Regional "PC Card drop-off" Centers demonstrated improved efficiency. Absentee and provisional canvassing was completed Friday, February 22, 2008. Absentee rejection letters to be mailed this week of February 25th.
 8. The Primary night and the 100% LAN test and procedure for unit memory cards, yielded same results. *(Board President thanked Mr. Rankin for attending the LAN testing)*
- League of Women Voters Evaluation: Copies of evaluation was distributed, the Board briefly discussed its contents and Mr. Mickley gave satisfactory answers to questions.

Attorney's Report: Mr. Molinaro explained the Board's involvement in review and recommendation to forward names of persons in violation of §16-201(a)(3) Offenses relating to voting. Review and recommendations will be conducted in Executive Session.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Ms. Balcerzak noted for the record that Mr. Molinaro, Board Counsel and Ms. Dixon, Board Secretary will be sworn-in members of the 2008 General Election Canvassing Board.
- The annual evaluation of Board Secretary, Ms. Dixon and review of Board Counsel's Contract, will take place in May and June, respectfully.
- Action for "double voters" - March 24th Agenda for Executive Session.

Action: The Board of Canvassers convened, February 25th, before the subject meeting of the HC Board of Elections for final Canvass certification. Canvassing Board Secretary, Raymond Rankin, will present Minutes of Absentee Ballot Canvassing, March 24th, for approval.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, adjournment was unanimously agreed upon. Session closed at 5:23 PM. The next regular meeting will be held March 24, 2008 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian L. Dixon 03/24/2008
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak 03/24/2008
Ann M. Balcerzak, President