

Howard County Board of Elections  
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway  
Columbia, MD 21045  
August 24, 2009

**CORRECTIONS APPROVED - NOVEMBER 16, 2009\***

**Present:**

Ann M. Balcerzak, President  
Donna K. Thewes, Vice-President  
Raymond M. Rankin, Member  
Charles M. Coles, Jr., Substitute  
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

**Absent:**

Donna L. Rice, Substitute (Illness)  
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Counsel (Vacation)  
Betty L. Nordaas, Director (Leave)

**Staff:** Guy C. Mickley, Deputy Director

**Visitor:** Jay Gerarden – Citizen from Anne Arundel County

Ms. Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Members present, constituted a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Balcerzak deferred to the end, approval of Minutes.

**Changes to Agenda:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**President:**

- Opened the Meeting giving honor to Jeff Nordaas, beloved son of our Director and her husband Arnie, while extending their support to the entire family.
- The visitor, Mr. Gerarden introduced himself and was welcomed by President
- Judicial update on case in Federal District Court (FDC), wherein challenges, raised by HC citizens against County Council zoning changes made over the years, that was dismissed. Federal District Court Judge Mott considered the issues to be State, since HCBE is the “Lead Plaintiff”. Attorney fees portion remained, allowing it to work through HC Court system.
- The remaining law suite under Judicial Appeal is one filed by Howard County Citizens for Open Government addressing Board’s Petition Decision.
- President asked and Donna Thewes and Ray Rankin agreed to draft Travel Guidelines for Board members. Copies of County and State guidelines will be used as guides.
- President called for Report from Deputy Director, Guy Mickley.

### **Directors Report (Deputy Director):**

- 2010 Budget – Two months into Budget and tracking well
- MAEO State Board asked Deputy to develop and Chair a Task Force for MAEO in light of 2010 Early Voting. Mr. Mickley noted his appointing Ms. Nordaas as Central Regional Manager.
- New Release of MDVoters was installed with only minute fixing being required.
- (FYI) Brian Murphy, Howard County Public Schools is seeking HCBE involvement in Community Connections Program (CCP). Participating students may or may not have detectible learning disabilities; HCBE would provide a safe environment for volunteer students to learn and practice working skills. Mr. Mickley to share HCBE's participation in CCP, with Director.
- New Sub Title 17 – Early Voting Guidelines: HC required having **three (3)** Voting centers, accommodating 80% of registered voters, in 5-mile radius of center. Three centers have been selected, accommodating 86.7% of registered voters; Ellicott City Senior Center, Florence Bain **Senior** Center and Ridgely's Run Community Center.
- Served by Public Transportation requirement: Ellicott City and Florence Bain Centers have Bus stops. Mr. Mickley and Leo Kowalczyk reached an agreement with Howard Transit to add a bus stop in front of **Ridgely's Run** Community Center during the September/October Early Voting period. All three Centers will cancel any normal activities during Early Voting to insure "ample parking" requirement.
- All contract requirements have been completed. In response to Mr. Rankin's question on **back-up locations**, Deputy cited Columbia 50+ Center, Elkridge Senior Center and Savage Fire Department Hall (only one required).
- Mr. Cole's voiced concern *as to* "why" Western Howard County could not have an Early Voting site. *Although the West Friendship Fire Hall location would meet the 80% requirement, the Ellicott City Library is more centrally located and more convenient for a greater number of voters.\**

**President:** Ms. Balcerzak in noting the Board's "why" questioning, expressed the need to **educate** voters about Voting Guidelines, *which* would give them a better understanding. Board member gave suggestions to Mr. Mickley *for* follow-up.\*

Mr. Mickley requested Board's approval of **Early Voting sites**, to be effective for 2010 Primary/General Elections. **Ms. Thewes motion for approval was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Old Business: Polling Place Changes/Updates:** Prior to approval of revised poll locations, those previously presented and approved at June 22, 2009 Meeting were discussed. President noted that Ms. Nordaas, in considering concerns raised at June 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, suggested reviewing proposed locations again. Mr. Rankin and Ms. Nordaas met and the Poll **locations** presented today for approval reflect the outcome of that meeting.

Mr. Rankin reserved support of 1<sup>st</sup> District, 7<sup>th</sup> Precinct changes. His reservations centered on the interpretation of Registration and Election Laws of Maryland, Title 10 §10-101(a) Designation of polling places - (2) “Each polling place shall: (ii) be located as conveniently as practicable for the majority of registered voters assigned to that polling place; and (iv) be in the precinct that it serves unless no suitable location for a polling place can be found within that precinct...”

Following lengthy discussion, Ms. Balcerzak suggested the Board seek an opinion from the State’s Attorney General. Board Secretary was asked to flag this matter for follow-up after 2010 Census.

The Board expressed support of 2010 Election polling locations. Mr. Mickley will submit them to the State Board of Elections. Upon SBE approval, **locations will** be posted on HCBE website.

**Attorney’s Report:** None

**Old Business:** Cost of new vs. current voting system was an Agenda item carried over from June 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting. No further discussion was required.

**Approval of Minutes:** Following review, and corrections of April 27, 2009 Open Minutes, June 22, 2009 Open/Executive Session Minutes and July 07, 2009 Open Minutes, motions to individually accept them were made, seconded and unanimously approved.

The Next meeting of the Howard County Board of Elections is scheduled for September 21, 2009 at 4:00 PM in the Howard County Board of Elections Boardroom.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously agreed upon. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian L. Dixon 19 Oct 2009

Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak 19 October 2009

Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President