

OPEN SESSION  
Howard County Board of Elections  
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway  
Columbia, Maryland 21045  
February 22, 2010

Persons Present:

Board: Ann M. Balcerzak, President  
Donna K. Thewes, Vice-President  
Raymond M. Rankin, Member  
Donna L. Rice, Substitute  
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Attorney\*  
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Staff: Guy C. Mickley, Deputy Director

Excused: Charles M. Coles, Jr., Substitute  
Betty L. Nordaas, Election Director

Guests: Angela A. Beltram  
Russ Swatek

Following the Pledge of Allegiance Ms. Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM. Members present, constituted a quorum.

Ms. Balcerzak noted for the record that Mr. Coles called asking to be excused, and that visitors, Angela Beltram and Russ Swatek wished to address the Board. Inasmuch as Atty. Molinaro was held up in traffic, the Agenda was rearranged allowing time for his arrival.\* A review of the January 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes and Motion to approve was called for.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Thewes' motion to approve the January 25, 2010 Minutes, with typo correction, was seconded by Mr. Rankin, unanimously approved and Minutes were signed.

**Addition/Changes to Agenda:**

- Three (3) to five (5) minutes for Citizen Input.
- Director's Report presented prior to President's Report.

**President** asked Mr. Mickley to present Report on behalf of Director.

**Director's (Deputy Director Reporting):**

Met with League of Women Voters 18<sup>th</sup> February and discussed the following:

- Polling Place Surveys – February 18 (currently budgeted).
- July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 Registration in certain Libraries.
- August 7<sup>th</sup> Registration in all HC Libraries (to be posted on LWV Website).
- High School Drive - April 28<sup>th</sup>

- Encouraged to solicit Junior Year Students versus seniors.
- League Members may attend Judge Training Classes.
- Briefly discussed the current Petition Bill
- **Their request to place Candidate Fliers in Early Voting sites was not answered.**
- FY10 Budget still on track – although the Optical Scan machines are included. If removed, budget would be reduced by approximately, \$400,000.00.
- Board President shared email re: Hartford County's Candidate Training Classes, conducted by Jared DeMarinis, SBE message was left.
- HCBE Training Room will be offered for Regional Training to possibly include; Carroll, Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Howard County. Awaiting a response.

**President** expressed an interest in the training and volunteered other Board Members.

Correspondence:

**Deputy Continued:** Petition Update – Advance determination was issued Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> to the Tax-Payers-Against-Give-a-ways (TAG).

- Ms. Angela Beltram introduced Russ Swatek, a TAG representative. Ms. Beltram noted and the Board concurred, that previous petition difficulties were complicated by County and State Regulations. A Class for Petition Training was suggested. The Board's continued attempt to have those matters addressed was explained.
- Mr. Swatek expressed concern over Board's failure address this matter sooner, which was affecting the Petition filing against Council Bill 52-2009.
- Ms. Balcerzak informed TAG representatives that, since January; the Board, in conjunction with Board counsel had been working to insure that Howard County's Petition Form was in compliance with the Howard County Code and the State's requirements (Copies of letters to State/County with Petition changes, developed by Board Counsel, were given to guests).

**Attorney's Report:**

- Federal Suit is on appeal to the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit of Appeal. Appellant's Brief was filed the end of January. The Board's Brief, which is being prepared by Atty Richman, is due the end of February. (Drafts to Director, President and Counsel have been provided).
- Arguments on the State Court Suit were brought before Judge McCrone, November 13, 2009. His Written Decision is still pending.
- Work on the Petition process with Director, Deputy Director and Atty. Jeff Darcie, who is new Counsel to SBE, is ongoing.

**President:**

- Scheduled participation of President and Vice President in program sponsored by NAACP High School students was cancelled due to snow. (If rescheduled both will attend).
- Board's responsibilities in preparing for Early Voting, including being sworn-in, which normally takes place the night before Election Day. Members were asked to mark their calendars; a working majority must be available to address issues requiring a "Board Determination".

**New Business: Board Secretary:**

Home addresses for Board Members sent to Dale Oberly to expedite receipt of W-2 Forms.

**Old Business:** None

The next meeting of the Howard County Board of Elections is scheduled for March 22, 2010 at 3:45 PM in the Howard County Board of Elections Boardroom. There being no further business, Ms. Thewes' motion to adjourn was seconded by Mr. Rankin and unanimously agreed upon. Meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian L. Dixon 22 March, 2010

Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak 22 March 2010

Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President