

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
December 8, 2021

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held December 8, 2021 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings of November 17, November 24, November 30 and December 1, 2021, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman noted that the reference to Ms. Wadella in the third paragraph should be Ms. Thomas in the minutes of December 1, 2021. Ms. MacKinnon moved approval of the minutes with this correction. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked that a report from Mr. Mark Cahoon of the county staff be included on the agenda. Mr. Black moved approval of the agenda with this agenda item. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Due to vacancy in the position, there was no report from the Election Director.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan reported that the Election Board is on the agenda for the County Council meeting of December 21, 2021 to seek support for the Board's legislative proposal to close schools in the county on Election Days. She will present our legislative proposal and Board Members will also address the Council regarding the need for legislation to assure timely and acceptable use of school facilities for elections. Ms. Ryan is also seeking to add our legislative proposal to the Board of Education meeting agenda in January. At this time, we are included in the public comment portion of the agenda only.

Old Business

Report from Mark Cahoon

At this point, Mr. Mark Cahoon joined the meeting. He reported on the plans the county staff has developed for use of space in the former Cadmus building on Idlewild Avenue which includes space for the Board of Elections offices. The plans have not been formally presented to the County Council for consideration and, therefore, subject to its approval or modification. Mr. Cahoon responded to questions from Board Members.

Mr. Cahoon then presented proposed redistricting maps for the School Board election districts. There are only minor modifications to the district boundaries proposed. They are subject to approval by the County Council.

Following his reports, Mr. Cahoon departed the meeting.

a. Facility for Election Office

There was no additional information regarding the plans beyond those presented by Mr. Cahoon.

b. Budget FY2022

The staff previously provided reports on expenditures recorded by the county through November. Board Members had no questions.

c. Review of Invoices

The staff previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

d. County Bulletins

The staff provided copies of recent County Bulletins. There were no questions from Board Members.

e. Legislation

There was no additional information beyond that provided by Ms. Ryan in her report.

f. School Board Letter

Mr. Secrist noted that the Election Board has received a letter from the Superintendent of Talbot County Public Schools reporting that our request to use St. Michaels Middle/High School and Easton High School for the Primary Election on June 28, 2022 and the General Election on November 8, 2022 has been approved.

New Business

a. Budget FY2023

The county has asked that agencies provide their budget request for the next year by the end of December. Mr. Secrist will ask our new Election Director to begin preparation as soon as she arrives. To meet the county's schedule, we may need to schedule a special meeting of the Board.

Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the next regular meeting of the Board of Elections will be at 9:30 a.m. on January 19, 2022.

Closed Session

Mr. Black moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (1). Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Whereupon the Board went into closed session at 10:39 a.m. Present at this session were Board Members Mr. Secrist, Mr. Black, Ms. Thomas, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Bulman. Board Attorney Lyndsey Ryan was also present.

At 11:12 a.m. the Board returned to open session. President Secrist reported that the Board discussed specifics regarding a personnel appeal issue, a personnel filing issue

and a personnel action taken by the Election Director. The Board also approved the minutes of the Closed Meetings of November 17, November 24, November 30, and December 1, 2021.

Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Bulman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Attested,

Joseph H. Secrist Jr.
Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Bulman
Richard B. Bulman, Secretary