

OPEN SESSION  
Howard County Board of Elections  
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway  
Columbia, Maryland 21045  
March 23, 2009

Persons Present:

Board: Ann M. Balcerzak, President  
Donna K. Thewes, Vice-President  
Raymond M. Rankin, Member  
Charles M. Coles, Jr., Alternate  
Donna L. Rice, Alternate  
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Attorney  
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Staff: Betty L. Nordaas, Election Director  
Guy C. Mickley, Deputy Director

Guests: Larry Carson, Baltimore Sun  
Marc Norman, HCCOG Representative

Ms. Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, it is noted that all members were present, constituting a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Thewes' motion to approve the following Minutes: Executive for January 14<sup>th</sup>, Open and Executive for January 26<sup>th</sup>, Open and Executive for February 23, 2009, respectfully, was seconded by Mr. Rankin and unanimously approved. SBE notices of Reason for Executive Convening, for January 14, January 26<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup> were signed by President.

**Addition/changes to Agenda:** Request to address the Board, from Marc Norman. President agreed to set aside five (5), minutes for Mr. Norman, who will reportedly arrive around 4:30 pm.

Correspondence: None

President called for Director to address Handouts.

**Director's Handouts:**

FY09 Tracking Report  
Delegate Meeting

**Director:**

- Ms. Nordaas in referencing the monthly Budget handout indicated there was nothing new other than tracking is going well, in terms of meeting budget for end of fiscal year.
- Director reported that along with Mr. Mickley, Deputy Director, she met with the County on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2010-Budget. Although there were required reductions, i.e. legal fees, Ms. Nordaas advised the Board that there would be sufficient monies in the 2010 Budget and overall she was quite satisfied. Projected relocation of HCBE not scheduled to take place before FY-2011.
- The Director and Deputy Director from Anne Arundel County met to review the HCBE processing from mail entry through various processing's. AACBE is currently in the process of reengineering their system and they were provided some of our internally developed documentation. This comes as recognition of the job being done in Howard County.

**President** questioned if this was something MAEO might want to share in a broader spectrum?

- Not speaking for the State, however Ms. Nordaas noted some processing documentation has been provided by SBE. However, when doing so, it has been processing documentation forms that apply to all twenty-four (24), jurisdictions. HCBE forms are tailored to local needs. In sharing local documentation, it is emphasized that what works in HC, may not work in other counties.

*[In preparing for the Boards March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting with Howard County Delegation in Annapolis, Ms. Nordaas prepared and presented "talking paper" on Senate/House election related Bills. As Elections Director, Ms. Nordaas will present pros, concern and recommendations, on Board behalf. Board Secretary provided copies for guests.]*

- The Board reviewed and expressed appreciation for the accuracy of "talking paper". Ms. Nordaas was asked to provide advance copies to the Delegation through Joan Oliver, Delegation Secretary.
- Senate Bill 1067, sponsored by Senator Kasemeyer, is an Emergency Bill addressing concerns of Election Law – Petition Signatures. Board Members cited circumstances, wherein voter's signatures might undergo changes. Their in-depth discussion resulted in a consensus for what would be presented to the Delegation.
- Ms. Nordaas reported she will be attending a SBE Board meeting, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM. An Agenda item of interest is Approval of Petition Instructions.

**President** noted for record that a Motions Hearing on the Greenberg-Gibbons Commercial suit will be held April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9:00 AM. Ms. Balcerzak recognized the presence of Mr. Norman and gave him an opportunity to address the Board for five (5), minutes.

Marc Norman thanked the Board, Director, Deputy Director and staff for their efforts, recognizing that both HCBE and HCCOG are currently “acting under the advice of Counsel”, and being present during Board discussion, expressed an appreciation of the effort made, after December 19, 2008 to comply with the law.

Ms. Balcerzak asked Attorney Molinaro to explain the model of professional association with organizations.

**Counsel:** Comparison was made between Board of Education Organization and the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO). Atty. Molinaro noted that MAEO is a unique organization, comprised of election managers, election employees and political appointees who; serve by being nominated by their political party and appointed by the Governor to serve on the Board. MAEO is a diverse organization with the goal of developing an efficient, non-partisan election system in which the public can have trust. The Board’s posting of their scheduled meeting with Legislators adds to the public’s trust.

**Board Secretary Report:**

- Reported on accepting invitation to Simulated Congressional Hearings -2009
- Board Minutes to be posted on County/State Websites
- Agenda to be posted within 5-days of regular Board Meetings
- Board Canvass Travel Expenses determined
- Canvass Minutes to be completed before April 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

**Action:** At a Special Executive Meeting, March 12, 2009, the Board voted to accept Special Counsel’s recommendation to advise Marc Norman, et al, of the re-examination results of signatures submitted by proponents challenging Council Bill 58-2008 and to analyze those in light of criteria set forth in Court of Appeals Decision Doe vs. Montgomery County Board of Elections, December 19, 2009,

The Board convened to Executive Session at 5:28 PM to view a presentation. The next meeting of the Howard County Board of Elections is scheduled for April 27, 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 Date: 7 July 2009  
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak Date: 7 July 2009  
Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President