

BOARD OF ELECTIONS FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Brady Mr. Krzyzanowski
 Mr. Kuhrt Mr. Lanouette
 Mr. Pasquale Mr. Sterling
 Mr. Thurrell Mrs. Williams-Mayo

Staff Present: Mrs. Manlove, State Election Commissioner
 Mr. Albence, Director
 Mr. Sholl, Deputy Director
 Mrs. Lippincott, Elections Unit Manager

Public Present: Judy Nakeo

1. Mr. Brady called the meeting to order at 7p.m.
2. Mr. Thurrell moved and Mr. Sterling seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2013, meeting. The motion passed. Mr. Pasquale abstained because he did not attend the February meeting.
3. Mr. Sholl updated the Board on the Department's financial situation. There is a \$5,500 shortfall in the Energy line due to elections this fiscal year, colder weather and incorrect thermostat settings. Drew has checked and adjusted all the thermostats in the warehouse. The Department will confer with OMB to transfer funds to cover the shortfall.
4. Mr. Sholl reported that the Voter Registration Unit is current on all work and informed the Board on the number of registered voters in New Castle County.
 - Apr 1, 2013: 384,560
 - Mar 1, 2013: 384,145
 - Nov 1, 2012: 388,862
5. Mr. Sholl reviewed statistics regarding turnout from the February 28, 2013, Appoquinimink and Colonial School District Referenda.
6. Mr. Sholl reported that activity on the Department's website is at expected levels for a non-election season. Site traffic should increase slightly with the upcoming school district referenda and school board elections.
7. Mr. Albence reported on the following upcoming elections:
 - April 2: Delaware City
 - April 9: Newark
 - Apr 12: William Penn High School Senior Class Officers
 - April 13: New Castle
 - April 27: Elsmere

- May 1: William Penn High School Student Council
 - May 2: St. Ann School Student Council
 - May 4: Townsend (tentative)
 - May 9: Appoquinimink School District Referendum
 - May 14: School Board Elections
 - Jun 4: Colonial School District Referendum
 - Jun 4: Bellefonte (tentative)
8. Mr. Albence updated the Board on recent and upcoming staff training opportunities.
9. Mr. Sholl stated that several bills have been introduced in Congress to “fix” Election Day problems. He does not expect Congress to pass any of them.
10. Mr. Sholl reported on the following legislation introduced in the General Assembly:
- HB 20: Constitutional amendment to remove stated reasons for absentee voting.
 - Some additional bills will be introduced in the near future.
11. Mr. Sholl reported that project to replace door lamp wires on all voting machines continues. This project is approximately 20% complete. He also reported that planning continues to expand the area dedicated to voter services in the warehouse. The architect should complete the drawings in the near future.
12. Mr. Sholl reported that the Department’s absentee server failed when being restarted following a planned power shutdown in the building. The Department is working with the vendor (Dominion Voting Systems) to correct the problem.
13. Mr. Sholl reported on the continued development of a statewide voter portal that would permit true online registration and automation of many absentee voting functions. Development and testing is continuing. The next steps include a security/vulnerability assessment and user group testing.
14. Mr. Albence reported that the Department is developing a Continuity of Operations plan under the guidance of DTI. The Department should complete the process in early 2014.
15. Commissioner Manlove reported as follows:
- Members of the General Assembly should be introducing legislation in the near future to:
 - Keep people from running for more than one office and/or as a candidate for more than one party.
 - Remove the five year waiting period for felons who have completed their sentences to register to vote.
 - Require schools to be closed on all election days.
 - Convene a bipartisan task force to create a bipartisan commission to review Delaware Title 15 (which covers elections)

- Require all that DMV transmit all address and signature information to Elections (which will increase accuracy and permit a move to “true” online voter registration).
 - The ERIC project will begin to produce more regular data output, as a full-time staff member has been hired.
16. Old Business: None
17. New Business:
- The Board discussed a letter from the Brandywine School District Board of Education indicating that a number of district schools would not be available for use as polling places for the 2014 election season and moving forward. The Department will send an appropriate response to the school board.
 - Mr. Sterling moved and Mr Pasquale seconded a motion to reschedule the June board meeting to Thursday, June 6, 2013. (This move will permit the board to certify the results of the June 4, 2013, Colonial School District Referendum.) Motion passed. (7 in favor; 1 opposed)
 - Next meeting: **Thursday, May 16, 2013** at the Department’s offices (will include certification of the results of the Tuesday, May 14, 2013 school board elections).
18. Board Removals & Birth Date Corrections:
- Mr. Kuhrt moved and Mr. Thurrell seconded the motion to:
 - Remove 89 people from the voter registration rolls because they moved out of state.
 - Remove 321 people from the voter registration rolls because they have verified that they no longer live in Delaware.
 - Correct the year of birth for 5 voters.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
19. Mr. Thurrell moved and Mrs. Williams-Mayo seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lanouette
Secretary



Embrace, Inspire and Challenge Every Student Every Day

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OLIVIA JOHNSON-HARRIS
President, Board of Education

MARK A. HOLODICK, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RALPH ACKERMAN
Vice President, Board of Education

March 26, 2013

Mr. Anthony Albence, Director
Department of Elections for New Castle County
820 N. French Street, Suite 400
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Mr. Albence,

The safety and security of our students, staff, and families is the number one responsibility of any school district. The Brandywine School District has evaluated all safety and security measures for our schools. We have already upgraded many of our schools and have scheduled the remainder of our buildings for upgrades.

As part of this process, we have examined all potential uses of our buildings, including uses that extend beyond traditional teaching and learning. One such example is the use of school buildings as polling places. Our determination is that many of our schools – and therefore our students and staff – are extremely vulnerable on off-cycle election days (i.e. non-federal elections) because schools are open and visitors are not required to go through the security measures we have in place on all other days. Unfortunately, our research has led us to the conclusion that we are not able to secure several of our buildings for that use. We do have some schools with gymnasiums that can be secured from the main school, and they would be still available for your use.

During this process, one of the suggestions we heard was to close school on these days, as we do with federal elections; however, this is not a feasible solution. Simply put, students need instructional time. With the federal Race to the Top, implementation of DOE new Core Standards, and expectations to close the achievement gap, schools and districts are under a great deal of pressure to succeed. Additional time off from school just is not in the best interest of the children.

Starting with the 2014 election, listed below will be the schools that can and cannot be used at election time. Because many churches, fire halls, and community centers in our community are currently not being used as polling places, we feel that you should have no problem finding suitable locations.

Not available as polling places

Concord High School	Harlan Elementary School
Talley Middle School	Lancashire Elementary School
Carrcroft Elementary School	Lombardy Elementary School
Forwood Elementary School	Maple Lane Elementary School
Hanby Elementary School	Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Available as polling places

Brandywine High School
Mount Pleasant High School
P.S. duPont Middle School
Springer Middle School

Respectfully,

Brandywine School District Board of Education

It is the directive of the Board of Education that the Brandywine School District shall not discriminate in its employment practices or its educational programs and activities of students on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, domicile, marital status, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any legally protected characteristic. All policies, regulations and practices of the District shall be guided by this directive.