



DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Chairman Bill Brian

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Member Margaret Griffin

Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens

Chief of Staff Kate Cosner

Deputy Director Samuel Gedman

Deputy Director Daniel Lassiter

Elections Administrator Rose Wolf

County attorney present: Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

Audience members present: Susan Pochapsky, Vivian McCoy, Michael Gray, Heather Huggett, Ilene McCarthy

Introductory matters

Chairman Brian called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the October 24, 2017 Board meeting. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

The Board reviewed the minutes presented by staff for the October 9th, 10th, 13th, 16th and 17th Board meetings. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the minutes presented by staff. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Director's report

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with a statistics and visualization report on absentee one-stop voting turnout through October 23, 2017. Mr. Bowens also informed the Board of inquiries related to issues accessing the Turner Law Building at NCCU during the absentee one-stop voting period and efforts by staff to work with officials from the university to ensure clarity on site access.

Old business: Memorandum of Understanding with Durham County administration

Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby indicated that the memorandum of understanding was in the office of the county manager awaiting signature.

New business

Review of absentee ballots

The Board reviewed 1,743 returned absentee ballot applications that had been submitted in time for this meeting. Ms. Griffin moved to approve all applications (including one-stop voting, a total of 1,743 absentee votes). The motion was seconded by Secretary Baxton and passed 3-0.

Mr. Bowens requested staff be permitted to conduct preparatory steps related to absentee ballots, including but not limited to, duplicating machine rejected ballots and optically scanning all ballots received. Ms. Griffin moved to approve staff to conduct preparatory steps prior to the counting of absentee ballots. The motion was seconded by Secretary Baxton and passed 3-0.

Preliminary consideration (Petition of Heather Huggett and Ilene McCarthy)

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a petition for a hearing to remove Linda Warren as Judge of precinct 23 submitted by Heather Huggett and Ilene McCarthy. Following discussion on applicable statutes/rules and presented evidence, Ms. Griffin moved to schedule a full hearing on the submitted petition. The motion was seconded by Secretary Baxton and passed 3-0.

The Board unanimously agreed to hold the hearing at the October 31, 2017 Board meeting.

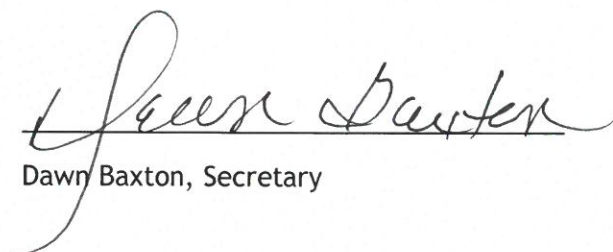
Public comment and questions

Susan Pochapsky requested a copy of the petition submitted by Heather Huggett and Ilene McCarthy. Chairman Brian provided her with a copy of the petition.

General discussion; adjournment

There was no general discussion at the Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:29 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passing 3-0.



Dawn Baxton, Secretary