

Minutes of the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Wednesday, December 18, 2013
4:00pm

Board Members in Attendance

Mr. Allen Dowdy, Chair
Ms. Adell Adams, Vice-Chair
Ms. Elaine DuBose
Mr. Samuel Selph
Mr. Herbert Sims

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Howard Jackson, Director
Ms. Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present to allow the meeting to proceed and that the meeting had been properly posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act requirements.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- The Board Members reviewed the minutes from November 21, 2013. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved 5-0.

Adoption of Agenda

- A motion was made to approve the meeting's agenda. Seconded. Approved 5-0.

Executive Session

- A motion was made to proceed into Executive Session to discuss personnel related issues. Seconded. Approved 5-0. The Board entered into Executive Session at 4:05 p.m.
- A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 5:18p.m. Seconded. Approved 5-0. The Board indicated that no action and no votes were taken during Executive Session.

Board Members Comments

- Mr. Samuel Selph, Board Member, addressed the public and stated that the uncounted ballots from the November 5, 2013 Election was unacceptable.
- Regarding the November 5, 2013 Election, the Board did everything they could to ensure a smooth operation. The Board was devastated that 1114 votes were not counted. The Board was promised that test systems and mechanisms were put in place to test the accuracy of the votes. The Board is disappointed and outraged because when people vote, they expect that their votes will be counted.

Director Comments

- Mr. Howard Jackson, Director, provided the Board Members with the following update:

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Upcoming Elections

- Town of Blythewood - March 11, 2014
- Primary – June 10, 2014

25 New Precincts

- January 1, 2014
- As of today, the office is having difficulty securing approximately 6 polling locations.
- All voters effected will receive new voter registration cards with the new precinct information

Richland School District One Election Reimbursement

- As of today, the reimbursement from the Richland School District One Election held on June 11, 2013, has not been received. County Council has advised the County Administrator to move forward to collect the reimbursement funds.

Attorney Steve Hamm Reports

- Current procedures and timetable for allocation, preparation, maintenance and tracking of voting machines and voting machine equipment, including PEBs, flash cards, and related contingency planning related to machines
- Procedures related to the issuance of absentee ballots, including mailing, distribution, and receipt of absentee ballots

Election Audits

- The office received clean pre-election and post-election audits from the State Election Commission for the December 3, 2013 City of Columbia Special Election. All votes cast were counted in the official election certification.

Board Chair Comments

- Mr. Allen Dowdy, Board Chair, responded to statements made recently in the media regarding allegations that Lillian McBride, Deputy Director of Voter Registration & Absentee Services, was responsible for a number of votes not being counted in the November 5, 2013 Election.
- The Board wanted to go on record as saying that that allegation that Lillian McBride was responsible for a number of votes not being counted was false.

Old Business

- None

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New Business

- Mr. Pete Kennedy questioned the Board as to whether or not the individual who was responsible for the missing votes in the November election, has been required to go through any additional training to ensure this does not happen again.
- Mr. Jackson responded that he does not comment on personnel matters.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Recorded by: Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant