

**MINUTES**  
**Wicomico County Board of Elections**  
**345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804**  
**Thursday, May 25, 2023**

**ATTENDEES:** Brad Bellacicco, Board President, Republican Member  
Sharon Morris, Democratic Member  
Joseph Collins, Republican Member  
Carsten Wendlandt, Republican Member  
Peter Golba, Board Attorney  
Dionne Church, Election Director  
Bill Blockston, Deputy Director  
Veronica Fox, Election Program Assistant

**ABSENT:** Katrina Purnell, Board Secretary, Democratic Member (excused)

**GUESTS:** Marita Barnes  
Jeff Barnes  
Jane Reagan

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Public notice was given and the agenda was posted at the Board of Elections office prior to the meeting.

At 9:00 a.m. Brad Bellacicco, Board President, called the meeting to order, and declared a quorum present. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer.

Brad Bellacicco, Board President, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2023 meeting of the Board of Elections. Carsten Wendlandt made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously.

Changes/additions to the Agenda: None

**ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (See Attached Copy)**

The search for an enhanced security camera system upgrade continues and should be completed next month.

We have a Contractual Election Program Assistant position open that we will be filling soon.

New board member paperwork is due June 5, 2023.

The 2023 Annual International Association of Government Officials (IGO) Conference will be held in Ft Worth, Texas June 22, 2023 – June 28, 2023. At the conference Dionne will be receiving a Certificate of Public Leadership. In addition, she will receive certification as a Certified Public Official (CPO) in Elections Administration from Pepperdine University.

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The IGO conference is in Dallas/Fort Worth this year in June. Director, Dionne Church will receive her Certificate of Public Leadership and Certificate of Public Official at this conference.

The Willards Election was May 9, 2023 and is now closed. The next election is Mardela Springs on August 7, 2023.

City of Salisbury election meetings are on-going. There was discussion of the new City resolutions regarding the city election and the relationship between municipalities and state election rules. Salisbury will have 5 polling places for their election, one in each district.

The 2023 budget was discussed. New invoices were just received and PO's will be closed out. Nothing unusual is expected.

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023 we had Voter Registration Volunteer training at the office for the League of Women Voters, and it was very successful. Our office will work with them and the Board of Education on recruiting students for the Page Program for the Presidential Election.

**BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Peter Golba, Board Attorney provided the Open Meeting Act Summary to the meeting. At least 1 Board Member is required to have the training but all members are eligible to attend.

The new board will receive copies of the Open Meeting Act, Election Bylaws and COMAR next month. Election Law will be updated later this year and then will be distributed to board members.

Mr. Golba provided for discussion his thoughts on the USPS date stamp and office time stamps on election mail.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The State biennial meeting will be held October 19, 2023 in person in Annapolis.

Bo McAllister, Clerk of Courts will swear in the Board members at the next Board meeting June 21, 2023 at 8:30am. The Board meeting will begin at 9:00am

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Election Director and other staff met with the Board of Education to review and recommend polling places. The same 13 schools from the previous election will continue to be polling places. Parkside, Beaver Run and Pinehurst have been requested for the Presidential Election for a total of 16 schools to be used as polling places. A walk through of the 3 new schools will be conducted in the upcoming months.

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In reviewing the MAEO conference, there were concerns over the new poll books and training the judges how to use them. Helpful sessions at MAEO included the audit process session, the Directors session on personnel, and the mail in and curbside voting discussion.

Ethics forms are completed. Brad Bellacicco and Joe Collins will complete the final form when their term ends.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

This is Brad Bellacicco and Joe Collins' last meeting as board members. Sharon Morris spoke for the Board that it was a pleasure to work with them as they all worked together in a non-partisan manner. They will be missed.

Joe Collins left the meeting at 10:07am.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Katrina Purnell joined the meeting via telephone.

Carsten Wendlandt made a motion to suspend the regular meeting and go into closed session in order to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously. Sharon Morris made a motion to begin the closed meeting, seconded by Carsten Wendlandt and passed unanimously. The closed session began at 10:10 a.m.

Following the closed session, Carsten Wendlandt made a motion to end the closed session and resume the regular meeting. This was seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously. The closed session ended at 10:37 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Brad Bellacicco announced that the next regular meeting will be Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Carsten Wendlandt to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously. The Board President adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Katrina*

Katrina Purnell, Board President

*6/22/2023*

Date

*Veronica Fox*

Veronica Fox, Election Program Assistant

*6-26-23*

Date