

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2022 – 10:00 AM
REGULAR MEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commissioners Chambers.

Board Members Present: Ophelia Wright, Chair; Tom Schoolfield, Secretary; Nelson Cole, Member; Thurman Hampton, Member; and Sarah Totten, Member.

Staff Members Present: Paula Seamster, Director.

ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Wright. Chair Wright welcomed the Board members and the guests that were present.

ITEM #2 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Hampton.

ITEM #3 – INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Co-Pastor Jody DeLancey of Resurrection Life Church in Eden.

ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Totten moved, seconded by Member Hampton to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #5 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Cole to approve the May 27, 2022 Canvass Meeting Minutes and June 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #6 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Director read the Public Comments policy.

Keynon Settle stated “Good morning everyone. I trusted that you all are doing well. My name is Keynon Settle, I use he/they pronounces and I stay on Lawsonville Avenue in Reidsville, NC. My purpose here today is to fulfill an obligation as an interim for Democracy NC which is a non-partisan, 501C3 voting rights organization. However there is a dual nature because as a member of the community it is best that I learn about the system that I will inherit so that I will be able to fulfill our promise of democracy. Democracy is something that is fragile. As easy as it is to rearrange the ‘i’ and the ‘t’ in the United States to create the word untied equates how easy it is to exchange our principles of democracy for chauvinism, bias, and party politics. Luckily, you all are our saving grace, you are working to tie these United States together again. This is my first in person meeting however I have been following along virtually and with the news and I am very pleased with the work that you all are doing. Since I am in college voting here is a little bit strenuous and with the mail-in ballots coming in by September or expected to come in by September 9th it is very convenience for us as youth, who are still in college, to still be able to participate in our democratic processes here at home, so kudos there. I admire you all’s effort to recruit people to work elections as well as disseminate information about primaries. The State is working for safeguarding a fair election, it’s called Senate Bill 916 and I would like to employ you all and everyone here to call and

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lobby your state senator and your state legislature to vote in favor of this bill. The bill is pretty much self-explanatory, safeguard fair elections, however it creates resources by demanding people pay restitution fines for intimidating elections or poll workers, people who are trying to vote, as well as disqualifying individuals who fail to certify elections. Thank you for this time and this space.”

Diane Parnell stated “Good morning, I’m Diane Parnell, I reside at 220 Woodlyn Drive in Reidsville and Madam Chair, Board Members, thank you for letting me come and speak with you today. I have two parts of a question. I have approached Ms. Seamster with a question of decorum at polling places. Is there any code of ethics or code of behavior for anyone working in the polls? I am saying we have had some issues there and I want to know how we stand as far as being able to let that person remain there and campaign for whoever they choose to campaign for. We should be held to a higher standard and I am asking you if there is anything from the NCBOE that determines how we should act when we are campaigning. You would think that just common sense would tell you that. That second question that I have is I understand the NCBOE is not allowing you to check the absentee ballots that are signed with the signatures that are on file. I’d like to know about that and more about why. Is there a reason that they are asking that you can’t check this. It is almost like a highway patrolman stopping you and not asking you for your identification. So if you have a signature on file why aren’t you able to check that signature against the ones that are coming in to make sure that that is the signature of the person that voted. Thank you for allowing me to speak.”

Chair Wright closed Public Comments.

ITEM #7 – ONE-STOP (EARLY) VOTING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Director stated that the One-Stop (Early) Voting Implementation Plan was included in the Board’s packet. We do plan to have 4 One-Stop (Early) Voting locations again during the 2022 General Election. The 4 locations will be: The Rockingham County Board of Elections Office located at 240 Cherokee Camp Road, Reidsville; the Eden Library located at 598 S. Pierce Street, Eden; Zion Baptist Church located at 807 Piedmont Street, Reidsville; and the Madison Mayodan Library located at 611 Burton Street, Madison. We are proposing that the hours of operation at the Board of Elections office will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday starting Thursday, October 20, 2022 through Friday, November 4, 2022 and then on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The other three locations hours of operation will be from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting Thursday, October 20, 2022 through Friday, November 4, 2022 and then on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She stated that there was a schedule in the Board’s packet and stated that final approval would be made by the Board to approve the proposed plan or to make changes to the proposal.

Chair Wright asked if the Board had any questions or comments on the One-Stop Implementation Plan that has been presented.

Secretary Schoolfield asked if this was the same schedule that was used during the last election. The Director responded that it was the same schedule. Secretary Schoolfield asked if there were requirements on the plan from the State Board. The Director responded yes sir and the requirements are located in the Board’s packets behind the proposed schedule. She added that the dates and times for the proposed plan are the requirements but the Board could add days to the plan

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or add hours to the Board of Elections office. The Director stated that the Board had the final say on the approval of the plan. Secretary Schoolfield stated that the restrictions are that the Board can add to them but it cannot take away from the restrictions. The Director responded that this was correct.

Chair Wright asked if the Board had any more comments or questions. There were none. Chair Wright asked the Director if she was asking the Board to approve the plan. The Director responded that she was asking for approval so that she could get it submitted to the State Board. She added that if it was a unanimous decision it would be sent straight into the State Board but if it is not a unanimous decision then the State Board will make a decision on what the hours and days will be.

Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Totten to approve the One-Stop (Early) Voting Implementation Plan for the 2022 General Election. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #8 – DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

2022 General Election Information

The Director gave the following information to the Board and informed the audience that the information was located on the Board of Elections website. She added that the items would be added to the County calendar so if individuals are signed up for notifications from the county they would receive the notifications via email.

- Friday, July 29, 2022 – The UOCAVA notice will be published on the Board of Elections website and this would also be sent out to the Sunshine List.
- Friday, September 9, 2022 – Absentee Mail-In Ballots will start to be mailed out
- Friday, October 14, 2022 - Voter Registration Deadline
- Thursday, October 20, 2022 - One-Stop (Early) Voting begins
- Saturday, November 5, 2022 – One- Stop (Early) Voting ends at 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 8, 2022 - 2022 General Election starts at 6:30 a.m. and the polls will close at 7:30 p.m. All 15 precincts will be open. Voting will not be done at the Rockingham County Board of Elections Office on Election Day!!!
- Friday, November 18, 2022 - County Canvass will be held at 11:00 a.m.
- Absentee Board Meetings will begin on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and will be held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections Office through Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Pre-Election Absentee Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and an Absentee Board Meeting will be held on Election Day at 5:00 p.m. Provisional/Absentee Board meetings will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2022 and Monday, November 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

- Tuesday, October 4, 2022 – Logic and Accuracy Testing is tentatively scheduled. More information will be sent out on the exact specifics as it gets closer to that date. This is open to the public however the Board of Elections would need to know how many plan to attend so arrangements can be made appropriate accommodations.
- Thursday, October 6, 2022 – Mock Election is scheduled

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The Director asked if there were any questions.

Chair Wright asked the Director to put all of these dates in writing.

2022 NC State Board of Elections Summer Conference

The Director stated that the 2022 NC State Board of Elections Summer Conference will be held on Tuesday, August 30th and Wednesday, August 31st. The State Board of Elections did change the summer conference from an on-site conference to a virtual conference. The Board agreed at its last meeting to hold the virtual Summer Conference at the Board of Elections Office. She added that as soon as she received the agenda she would send it out to the Board Members via email.

Chair Wright asked the Board if there were any questions or comments.

Secretary Schoolfield stated that at the last election, the primary, the Board of Elections went with a single ballot or two ballots and there were some issues with that and the Board discussed those issues and he wanted to know if Staff had made the decision to go back to multiple ballots or to stay with the two ballots. The Director responded that there would be one ballot because for the general election everything will be on one ballot, there will not be a Republican ballot and a Democrat ballot, but the ballot will be precinct specific. Secretary Schoolfield asked if there would be multiple ballots based on an individual's party. The Director responded no. Secretary Schoolfield stated that it would depend on the individual's location. The Director responded yes it would be for each location or voting precinct. She added that when an individual comes for One-Stop voting the individual will get their precinct ballot so there will be 15 different ballots, one for each precinct.

ITEM #9 – CLOSED SESSION

Secretary Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Hampton to go into closed session to observe Attorney/Client Privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) (Case 1:20-cv-01100 Amy Simpson v. Rockingham County Board of Elections, et al) and to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged and confidential (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1). The motion carried unanimously.

Member Hampton moved, seconded by Member Cole to go back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT

At 11:20 a.m. Member Totten moved, seconded by Member Cole to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula P. Seamster, Director

Ophelia Wright, Chair