

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 11, 2024 – 5:00 PM**  
**ABSENTEE MEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections Office, 240 Cherokee Camp Road, Reidsville.

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

Staff Members Present: Paula Seamster, Director; Kathy Clark, Senior Deputy Director; and Polly Makins, Deputy Director.

**ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wright.

Chair Wright welcomed the Board Members, those present for the meeting, and those watching via Zoom.

**ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM #3 – ABSENTEES**

The Director stated she had 18 absentee ballots, 16 CIV and 2 MIL for the Board to review, 14 CIV absentee ballots with photo IDs and 2 CIV absentee ballots with Photo ID Exception Forms and 2 MIL absentee ballots. She informed the Board that she had just found out that Military absentee ballots were not required to have a photo ID.

The Board began to review and open the 14 CIV absentee ballots with photo IDs that had been received into the office, date stamped when received, and the ballot envelope reviewed by staff to make sure the requirements were met for eligibility.

Member Schoolfield asked where the absentee ballots came from. The Director responded that the absentee ballots were delivered to the Board of Elections office after 5:00 p.m. but before 7:30 p.m. on Election Day by various post offices in Rockingham County.

**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Hampton to approve the 14 absentee ballots with photo IDs that were received. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Director inserted the 14 approved CIV absentee ballots into the DS200 machine.

The Board began to review and open the 2 CIV absentee ballots with photo ID exception forms that had been received into the office, date stamped when received, and the ballot envelope reviewed by staff to make sure the requirements were met for eligibility.

**Secretary Totten moved, seconded by Member Cole to approve the 2 CIV absentee ballots with the photo ID exception forms that were received. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Director inserted the 2 approved absentee ballots into the DS200 machine.

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The Director informed the Board Members and those present that a Democrat and a Republican Board member would need to transfer the regular paper ballot over to an official ballot for the 2 MIL absentee ballots. Member Cole and Secretary Totten transferred the information on one of the MIL absentee ballots and Member Schoolfield and Member Hampton transferred the information on the other MIL absentee ballot. The ballots were then verified by the other Board members.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to approve the 2 MIL absentee ballots. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM #4 - PROVISIONALS**

The Director stated she had 130 Provisional ballots and that she would go through each category individually.

3 each Provisional Ballots with Photo IDs not provided with a Photo ID Exception Form was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 3 provisional ballot envelopes and Photo ID exception forms.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to approve the 3 provisional ballots with Photo IDs not provided with a Photo ID exception form. The motion carried unanimously.**

2 each Provisional Ballots with Photo IDs not provided however returned to the Board of Elections office with a copy of Photo IDs. The Board reviewed the 2 provisional ballot envelopes and the copies of the photo IDs.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to approve the 2 provisional ballots with Photo IDs not provided and later returned to the Board of Elections office with a copy of a valid Photo ID. The motion carried unanimously.**

15 each Provisional Ballots Incorrect Party was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 15 provisional ballot envelopes. The Director stated that Party Affiliations had to be made no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2024.

Member Schoolfield stated that this was against the law. The Director responded that there was a deadline to change party affiliations.

**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Hampton to disapprove the 15 provisional ballots with Incorrect Party. The motion carried unanimously.**

39 each Provisional Ballots with Incorrect Precinct was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 39 provisional ballot envelopes. The Director stated that this was allowed and these should be counted.

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**Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to approve the 39 provisional ballots with Incorrect Precinct. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 each Provisional Ballot with Jurisdiction Dispute was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 1 provisional ballot envelope. The Director stated that this ballot should be approved.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to approve the 1 provisional ballot with Jurisdiction Dispute. The motion carried unanimously.**

57 each Provisional Ballots with No Record of Registration in Rockingham County were presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 57 provisional ballot envelopes.

**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Hampton to disapprove the 57 ballots with no record of registration in Rockingham County. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 each Provisional Ballot with No Record of Registration was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 1 provisional ballot envelope. The Director stated that this person was in fact registered to vote in Rockingham County, however, his last name was misspelled in the system and should be counted.

**Secretary Totten moved, seconded by Member Cole to approve the 1 provisional ballot with no record of registration. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 each Provisional Ballot with Previously Removed status was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 1 provisional ballot envelope. The Director stated that this provisional ballot should be disapproved because the voter lives in Guilford County.

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to disapprove the 1 provisional ballot previously removed. The motion carried unanimously.**

2 each Provisional Ballots with Previously Removed status was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 2 provisional ballot envelopes.

**Secretary Totten moved, seconded by Member Hampton to disapprove the 2 provisional ballots previously removed. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 each Provisional Ballot with Previously Removed status was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 1 provisional ballot envelope. The Director stated that this voter was removed, there was no previous voting record and confirmation card came back undeliverable.

**Secretary Totten moved, seconded by Member Hampton to disapprove the 1 provisional ballot previously removed. The motion carried unanimously.**

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1 each Provisional Ballot with an Unrecognized Address (GEOCODE issue) was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 1 provisional ballot envelope. The Director stated that this ballot should be approved, the voter was in the system with the same address with no geocode issue.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to approve the 1 provisional ballot with an unrecognized address (geocode issue). The motion carried unanimously.**

5 each Provisional Ballots with Unreported Move was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 5 provisional ballot envelopes.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to approve the 5 provisional ballots with unreported moves. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 each Provisional Ballot listed as Voter Already Voted was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 1 provisional ballot envelope. The Director stated that the voter's father actually voted during the last couple of days of early voting and was cancelled in the system but did not get transferred to the Election Day computers in time. She recommended that this ballot should be counted.

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Hampton to approve the 1 provisional ballot with voter already voted. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 each Provisional Ballot listed as Voter Already Voted was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the 1 provisional ballot envelope. The Director informed the Board that this voter did in fact vote during Early Voting and she provided a copy of the voter's ATV that had his signature on it. The Director stated that this ballot should be disapproved.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to disapprove the 1 provisional ballot with voter already voted. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Director inserted the 53 provisional ballots that had been approved by the Board. The DS200 voting machine would not accept one of the provisional ballots.

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to spoil the provisional ballot and to transfer the information to another ballot with the same ballot number on it. The motion carried unanimously.**

The ballot was inserted and accepted by the DS200 voting machine. The Director announced that there were now 54 provisional ballots in the DS200 machine, 1 from Early Voting and 53 from Election Day.

The Director closed out the Absentee DS200 voting machine.

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**ITEM #4 – ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:28 p.m. **Member Cole, seconded by Secretary Totten to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Paula P. Seamster, Director

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Ophelia Wright, Chair