

MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
August 30, 2017

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 30, 2017, in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax to receive the election materials necessary to canvass the returns and ascertain the results of the Special Election for At Large School Board Member held on August 29, 2017. Chairman Stephen M. Hunt, Vice Chairman Seth T. Stark, Secretary Katherine K. Hanley, General Registrar Cameron Glenn Sasnett, Election Manager Judy Flaig, and Clerk to the Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present. In addition, rovers and Office of Elections staff were present to conduct the Canvass.

Mr. Hunt called the Canvass to order at 9:00 a.m. and introduced the Board. Mr. Hunt then welcomed the Canvass workers. He thanked all the election officials for their outstanding effort in conducting a smooth and efficient election.

The Board and the General Registrar then unsealed Conference Room 315 containing the election materials. Keith Damon, representing candidate Chris Grisafe, observed the unsealing of the election materials. The provisional ballots were given to the General Registrar for research purposes.

Ms. Flaig reviewed the County's emergency evacuation plan for the Canvass. Any issues or problems regarding the Canvass should be brought to the Board. Staff reported that approximately 80 provisional ballots were cast.

At 12:00 p.m. the Electoral Board began the provisional part of the Canvass as required by Va. Code § 24.2-653 to allow voters casting provisional ballots in the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member to present any information that might prove they are qualified, registered voters in the precinct where they cast their provisional ballot. John Farrell was authorized to represent candidate Karen Keys-Gamarra. Keith Damon was authorized to represent candidate Chris Grisafe. **Two** voters presented information regarding their provisional ballots.

Mr. Hunt moved that the Board enter into a Closed Session for the purpose of considering whether each person who submitted a provisional vote at the election was qualified to do so. Other than appropriate staff and legal counsel of the Electoral Board, attendance at this meeting shall be permitted for the persons whose provisional votes are being considered with their legal counsel, if present, as well as one authorized representative of each political party or independent candidate, as specified in §24.2-653(B). The motion passed by a vote of 3-0 and the Board moved into Closed Session at 12:01 p.m.

The Canvass teams recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon. Conference Rooms 2 and 3 were then locked. At 1:00 p.m. the conference rooms were reopened, and the Canvass resumed.

At 1:18 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Mr. Hunt moved that the Fairfax County Electoral Board certify that in the Closed Session just concluded, the only matters discussed were the qualifications of provisional voters, as permitted by Virginia Code § 24.2-653,

and as identified in the motion to close the meeting pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

The Board recessed for lunch at 1:18 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

At 1:45 p.m. the Canvass concluded for all 243 precincts, as well as the Central Absentee Precincts (CAP). Staff reported that there will be 78 provisional ballots to adjudicate. Approximately 19 voters cast provisional ballots because they did not have an acceptable form of photo ID. Staff sent 1 request for additional research to the Division of Motor Vehicles.

At 1:53 p.m. Mr. Hunt recessed the Canvass. The Canvass will reconvene at approximately 12:00 p.m. on Friday, September 1, 2017.

Friday, September 1, 2017
Reconvened Canvass and Provisional Ballot Meeting

At 2:28 p.m. the Electoral Board reconvened the provisional part of the Canvass.

Mr. Hunt moved that the Board enter into a Closed Session to discuss specific personnel matters, as permitted by Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1), for the purpose of considering whether each person who submitted a provisional vote at the election was qualified to do so. Other than appropriate staff and legal counsel of the Electoral Board, attendance at this meeting shall be permitted for the persons whose provisional votes are being considered with their legal counsel, if present, as well as one authorized representative of each political party or independent candidate, as specified in §24.2-653(B). John Farrell was present to represent candidate Karen Keys-Gamarra. Without objection, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board entered into Closed Session at 2:32 p.m.

At 2:48 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Mr. Hunt moved that the Fairfax County Electoral Board certify that in the Closed Session just concluded, the only matters discussed were the qualifications of provisional voters, as permitted by Virginia Code § 24.2-653, and as identified in the motion to close the meeting pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hunt moved that **48** of the 80 Provisional Ballots entered as accepted on the Master Provisional Ballot Log for the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member, be **qualified** for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. The Provisional Ballot Log shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass for the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hunt moved that **32** of the 80 Provisional Ballots entered as rejected on the Master Provisional Ballot Log for the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member, be **disqualified** for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. The Provisional Ballot Log shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass of the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

The Board approved a total of **48** provisional ballots on Friday, September 1, 2017.

Mr. Farrell commented that the notice (attached and made a part of this record) sent on Friday, September 1, 2017, at 9:47 a.m. of the intent to inspect absentee applications at the Fairfax County Courthouse at 11:00 a.m. was not timely given and was not received by the authorized representatives of the candidates. Mr. Farrell stated that “an hour and 13 minutes is not adequate or reasonable by any standard.” He asked if Provisional Voter #45 was restored to the voter rolls, and Mr. Sasnett responded that he had instructed staff to add her back to the system. Due to the high number of absentee ballots that will be sent to military and overseas voters in November, Mr. Farrell suggested that the November training of the chiefs/assistant chiefs particularly emphasize the provisional ballot process, especially the importance of checking the provisional envelope for the voter’s signature.

The Board then opened and scanned the 48 qualified provisional ballots. The Board then completed the Statement of Results for the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member.

The Board then certified the election results for the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member, and signed the abstracts. All paperwork will be submitted to the Department of Elections by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 1, 2017.

Mr. Stark, with Mr. Hunt concurring, thanked Mr. Sasnett and staff for executing a well-planned election and canvass. Ms. Hanley agreed, and noted that despite the logistical challenge of the election being held on the second day of school, election officers worked diligently to provide an efficient, convenient process for voters. The Board recommended that any information gathered from rover notes or Chief notes, including pictures, of inadequate polling locations in the schools be forwarded to the School Board. Mr. Sasnett added his commendation of staff for mobilizing and carrying out a successful countywide election within two months of the June primary and during the timeframe that preparations are already underway for the November election.

Mr. Stark made a motion that there being no further business, the Board conclude the August 29, 2017, Special Election for At Large School Board Member. By a vote of 3-0, and without objection, the Board adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Attachments

Stephen M. Hunt, Chairman

Seth T. Stark, Vice Chairman

Katherine K. Hanley, Secretary

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