

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Jose Miguel Araujo
 Secretary Michael Michel

Commissioners Ronald Castorina, John Flateau, Maria R. Guastella,
Bianka Perez, Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun,
Frederic M. Umane

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Cathy Gray
 Michael Benjamin
 Cathleen McFadden
 John D. Smith
 Anna-Maria Thomas
 Kate Doran, LWV
 Rachel Fauss, Citizens Union
 Peggy Farber, Citizens Union
 Katharine Loving, CFB
 Eddie Cuesta, Dominicanos USA
 Omar Suarez, DUSA
 Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

President Araujo called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M.

Commissioner Guastella moved to adopt the minutes for the October 28, 2014 meeting. President Araujo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan requested for the Board to be closed on Friday, November 28, 2014, the day after Thanksgiving, in lieu of Election Day, pursuant to the contract with CWA Local 1183, as per past practice. President Araujo moved to approve Mr. Ryan's request as per past practice. Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Secretary Michel requested to discuss a Queens personnel matter in Executive Session.

Mr. Ryan provided a preliminary report on the November 4, 2014 General Election. He reported that it was a great Election Day for the Board. The Board's pilot project attempting to speed up the process of uploading unofficial results on Election Night has been continued since the 2014 September Primary. In the Primary, AD Monitors helped transport a number of PMDs to be uploaded, but it did not increase the speed as much as expected. For the 2014 General Election, MIS and EDO staff developed

and implemented a new system of uploading unofficial results, but used tablets instead. Mr. Ryan noted that it is the same procedure uploading the results, but with a tablet. A total of 216 poll sites citywide were piloted. AD Monitors plugged a USB adapter device into their tablet and then uploaded the results from the PMD via the tablet. The tablet's screen went from yellow to green when the unofficial results were finished uploading. The new system used the Board's KIOSK's hotspot for wireless conductivity in the poll site. It was a successful pilot; a total of 719 PMDs were uploaded wirelessly. 213 out of the 216 poll sites' unofficial results were uploaded by 9:35 P.M. At one poll site there was difficulty connecting to a hotspot which then uploaded by 1:30 A.M. In the 2012 General, the last PMD was uploaded by 3:00 A.M. Mr. Ryan reported that a staff meeting is scheduled on Wednesday to discuss implementation of this project citywide in the future. Mr. Ryan noted that this pilot project was budget neutral because the Board already owned tablets. The USB adapters for the tablets were a low-end expense. Mr. Ryan added that the tablet's encryption was specifically designed to prevent hackers tampering with the unofficial results.

Mr. Ryan reported for informational purposes that Community Education Council 31 in Staten Island passed a resolution requesting that

the NYC Department of Education (DOE) designate Primary and General Election Days as student non-attendance days. The resolution was forwarded to the DOE Chancellor.

Mr. Ryan reported that he read the Letter to the Editor in the New York Daily News where a voter wrote that he did not receive notice from the Board that his poll site changed. Mr. Ryan looked up the voter's information, wrote him a letter, and included a copy of his annual Voter Information Notice. The voter wrote back to Mr. Ryan thanking him for a prompt response and noted that his mail was probably stolen by a Postal Worker who was recently arrested for hoarding 3 tons of mail in his zip code. Mr. Ryan added that any voter can call either the Board's Call Center or 311 for their poll site information, and/or use the Poll Site Locator on the Board's website.

President Araujo requested for Mr. O'Grady to report at the next Commissioners' Meeting on the Queens pilot project and possible implementation citywide.

President Araujo recognized Alan Flacks, a member of the public, who reported that he observed the Election Night Reporting pilot project in his poll site and also in the Board's Executive Office and it went well.

Commissioner Shamoun requested for information on Election Day issues such as ballot jams and over votes. Mr. Ryan reported that there was a total of 77 ballot jams on one (1) machine in Manhattan. ES&S will examine this machine and make any necessary technical adjustments for the future. There were some over votes which may have been related to a write-in column's damaged timing marks. This issue will be corrected in the official results calculation.

Mr. Ryan reported that Commissioner Shamoun recommended for the Board to conduct robocalls reaching out to possible new pools of poll workers where there were areas of shortfalls. The calls were to registered Democratic and Republican voters that had their telephone listed on their registration form. These calls were done by Borough Office request. Mr. Ryan noted that it was a very good idea and will be used again moving forward.

Commissioner Shamoun reported that he received Election Day feedback and most of the voters' concerns were poll site changes and ballot design. He noted that 2015 will be a quiet election year to address these issues further within the limits of the law. Mr. Ryan noted that there will be poll sites changes due to the United Spinal Association court decision concerning ADA compliance. The annual Voter Information Notice will be mailed to the voters which contains the location of their poll site. Ms. Sandow added that once a poll site is changed in the computer system, a notice to the voter is generated and mailed to the voter as well.

President Araujo moved to convene an Executive Session for purposes of litigation and personnel. Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the public meeting resumed and President Araujo reported the following action taken in Executive Session:

- I. The next Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for November 25, 2014 will commence at 1:00 P.M. Public notice will be posted on the Board's website;
- II. The Commissioners unanimously granted 210 hours Advance of Time for Jonathan Testaverde, a Voting Machine Technician

in the Brooklyn Office, retroactive to November 2, 2014, and to be paid back with his accruals upon his return. Mr. Testaverde has been employed with the Board since February 20, 2012;

- III. The Commissioners unanimously granted 420 hours Discretionary Advance of Time to Benjamin Andreach, a Clerk in the Queens Office, retroactive to November 9, 2014. Mr. Andreach has been employed with the Board since January 20, 2002.

President Araujo moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Umane seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.