

# Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
*June 7, 2019*

Present:

**Board**

Joseph H. Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Richard B. Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

**Staff**

Jeri Cook, Election Director

A special meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on June 7, 2019 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 10:38 AM. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

**Addition/Changes to the Agenda**

No additions or corrections were offered.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Bulman moved approval of the agenda as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Old Business**

a. Board of Education Letter

The Board of Elections had previously written to the Board of Education requesting that they not schedule classes at the Easton High School and the St. Michaels Middle High School on election days. The Board of Education discussed our request at its May 15, 2019 meeting and some of its members and staff commented on our request. Mr. Bulman suggested that the Board of Elections send a supplemental letter to the Board of Education. He offered a draft form of supplemental letter for our Board Members to consider. Following considerable discussion, Mr. Black moved to send a letter to the Board of Education in the form submitted by

Mr. Bulman reworded to reflect that the letter will be signed by each Board of Elections member with copies sent to the same individuals as the previous letter. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. A copy of the approved letter is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

**New Business**

a. Election Judge Payroll for 2018 Elections

. Board Members and most election judges received corrected W-2 forms. After reviewing the corrected form, Ms. MacKinnon was concerned there may be other errors in the original W-2 forms and suggested that the Board investigate the matter further. Mr. Bulman agreed with Ms. MacKinnon and pointed out that in previous years his W-2 showed a higher figure in state wages than the Federal wages. The corrected W-2 only amended the Federal wages and not the state wages, thus resulting in the Federal wages being substantially higher than state wages. He reported his conversation with Ruth Drummer of the county finance office. Mr. Bulman reported that Ms. Drummer told him that the county was now using a service to prepare the W-2 forms and was not able to explain to him why there was no corrected entry for state wages. Among the concerns is that the Election Judges and Board Members may file an amended return only to find out later that another amended return will be needed. Preparation costs, late fees and interest may be imposed on some of those filing amended returns.

The Board discussed several possible steps to take. Mr. Black moved that Mr. Bulman be authorized to get clarification from county officials regarding the corrected W-2 forms and report back to the Board at its next meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Confirmation of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Elections will be Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 9:30 AM.

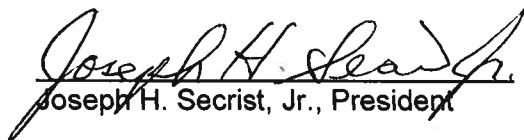
**Closed Session**

The Board did not meet in Closed Session.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Attested,

  
Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Bulman, Secretary



## TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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June 7, 2019

Talbot County Board of Education  
12 Magnolia Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
ATTN: Michael Garman, Board President  
Mary Wheeler, Board Vice President  
Otis Sampson, Board Member  
Juanita Hopkins, Board Member  
Emily Jackson, Board Member  
Susan DeLean-Botkin, Board Member  
April Motovidlak, Board Member  
Kelly Griffith, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Talbot County Board of Education:

The members of the Talbot County Board of Elections would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to questions at your last meeting regarding our request to cancel classes on Election Days at St. Michaels Middle High School and Easton High School.

We would like to provide the Talbot County Board of Education members with some follow up thoughts regarding our request. By law, we are charged with finding suitable polling locations and are to use public building where available. With that in mind, we have concluded that these two buildings are the best locations for the voting precincts where they are located.

Our request to cancel classes on Election Days is for the benefit of the electorate of Talbot County. The purpose for our request is to make the voting experience as easy as possible for them. Unfortunately, the experience in the past at these locations has been wanting. We find that some potential voters depart the polling place. They either do not vote or vote elsewhere. Even those who vote elsewhere may not be able to vote in all races where they are entitled to cast a ballot. This could affect the outcome of a race, even a Board of Education seat.

We are certain that as elected members of the Board of Education, you are aware that you represent all citizens of Talbot County. This entails the balancing of the interest of the school system with the overall interest of the citizens of Talbot County. You have the ability to provide a better election experience. The facilities you manage are county facilities. We ask that you take that into consideration when you act on our request.

While we understand that a calendar for the coming year has been developed, our use of the schools has been known for some time. Our interest in cancelling classes is not a new issue. We have raised this issue in the past. We are only asking that Talbot County Board of Education join with almost every other jurisdiction in Maryland in cancelling classes on Election Days.

With this letter, we renew our offer to meet in work session with the Board of Education members to discuss this matter further.

Very truly yours,

Joseph H. Secrist, Board President \_\_\_\_\_

Walter W. Black, Board Vice President \_\_\_\_\_

Richard B. Bulman, Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Susan J. MacKinnon, Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Wadella C. Thomas, Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Jeri M. Cook, Election Director \_\_\_\_\_

- cc:
- County Council
- Mayor, Town of Easton
- Mayor, Town of Queen Anne
- President, Town of Oxford
- President, Town of Trappe
- President, Town of St. Michael's
- League of Women Voters
- Democratic Central Committee, Chairman
- Republican Central Committee, Chairman
- State Board of Elections, Linda Lamone
- Delegate Christopher Adams
- Delegate John Mautz
- Senator Adelaide "Addie" Eckardt
- Star Democrat